**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Holly Beaver, Chair, at 10:07 AM. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Holly Beaver, Brandee Butler, Lisa Conder, Paula Delgado, Mary Frances Jones, Kamaria Laffrey, Sheila Ruck, Bernard Washington  Members Absent: Alex Cario, Barbara Szelag, Kamaria Laffrey  Guests Present: Deniz Curler, Janet Kitchen, Michelle McKinney, Kristin Ziegler  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | **The minutes for June 25, 2020 were approved (M: Delgado, S: Jones).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | |  | | --- | | The Care Council met on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 through GoTo Webinar and had quorum. Chair, Nolan Finn, explained that every three years our area nominates a Patient Care Representative and an Alternate to sit on the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN). The Care Council is now taking nominations and will be voting on the representatives at the September meeting.  Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, announced that we received the scoring for the Part A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2020-2021 funding year and the application received a 99 out of 100 with no weaknesses cited. Steven Young, the Part A Chief at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)’s Division of HIV/AIDS Programs retired last September. The interim Bureau Chief, Chrissy Abrams-Woodland, has now accepted the job permanently.  The Recipient’s office went through the scoring process for the Ending the HIV Epidemic grant for Hillsborough County and selected subrecipients for the funds. They will also be working with The AIDS Institute to guide the integration among various planning groups. Contracts for the service providers for Early Intervention Services and Health Education and Risk Reduction are expected to be in place by August.  Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey reported that with the Department of Health (DOH)’s fiscal year beginning in July, Darius reported that Lead Agency staff has been busy certifying funds. Additionally, many DOH staff have been recruited for contract tracing for COVID-19.  The Community Advisory Committee met in June and discussed the Client Satisfaction Survey, which has had a very low response rate. The committee discussed efforts to increase response rate. The survey is now offered online through Survey Monkey.  The Membership Committee is planning a Virtual Open House Meeting to introduce community members to the Care Council and subcommittees. The committee will be presenting an abbreviated version of the orientation PowerPoint and are hoping to engage with people who are at home right now and looking for ways to get involved.  The Planning and Evaluation Committee brought the revised Minimum Standards of Care (MSOC) to the Care Council for a vote. The vote was postponed so that the committee could make additional updates to include accommodations for telehealth.  The Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) presented a summary of the allocations the Part A program made using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. The funding is available for service providers through February 2021 to assist clients with additional hardships due to COVID-19.  Quality Management consultant, David Cavalleri, presented the June 2020 System-Wide HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) Performance Measures, noting that there have been a few decreases in the measures due to COVID-19. Retention in Medical Care dropped from 88.7% to 79.8%, Viral Load Monitoring from 97.8% to 94.8%, Risk Counseling from 93.4% to 84.9%, and Syphilis Screening from 82% to 73%. David noted that Viral Suppression remains at 85%, which is in line with national numbers.  Finally, Kamaria Laffrey announced that she had made the difficult decision to resign from the role as Care Council Vice Chair. Citing the current climate with COVID-19, racial tensions, and recent personal experiences, Kamaria stated that she has felt the need to reprioritize her time. She stated that she plans to stay involved and to continue serving as a voting member through the rest of her term. | |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Holly Beaver, Chair, noted that there have been some promising steps made towards a vaccine for the coronavirus.  Members discussed the bright sides of seeing clients through telehealth. Several members reported that it has made services more accessible and has helped get some clients reengaged who otherwise were not engaged.  Mary Frances Jones reminded everyone to keep all those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in their thoughts. Many people have not been adequately protected from exposures at work and also do not have adequate sick leave. Holly mentioned she has two clients who are positive and is waiting to see how they do. Mary reminded everyone of Positively U’s support line, which has been helpful for people living with HIV to express their fears around COVID-19. |
| **VIRTUAL EVENT** | Members continued their discussion from the previous month on hosting a virtual event for clients through Zoom. The event will be on September 24, 2020 at 3:15 PM. Members discussed sending out a care package in advance, possibly with craft materials so participants could do a craft together. Members also discussed inviting a speaker to speak on reducing stress and self-care during social distancing.  Janet Kitchen shared that prior to the pandemic, Positively U ran a group for women called ACT (Action Changes Thinking). Janet is considering restarting the group and giving the women tablets to participate in virtual meetings. Janet agreed to invite the women to the WICY&F event. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Members reported a rise in new HIV diagnoses in youth, now that testing is ramping back up. With testing slowed down, members are expecting to see a rise in double cases where two partners test positive. Members are also expecting to see a rise in other STI’s.  Members discussed that clients are having a harder time getting labs done and seeing longer delays in getting results with labs backed up with COVID tests. One member reported that some of the local hospitals are in short supply of antiretrovirals that are being used in COVID trials and OBs have had to fight to get their laboring patients their medications while in the hospital. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Holly Beaver, Chair, reminded everyone to stay safe. With schools starting to open up, we may see increasing infection rates through the fall.  There were no further community concerns or announcements. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM. |