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

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Holly Beaver, Chair, at 10:07 AM. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Holly Beaver, Alex Cario, Lisa Conder, Deniz Curler, Mary Frances Jones, Kamaria Laffrey, Michelle McKinney, Marylin Merida, Sheila Ruck, Barbara Szelag, Bernard Washington  Members Absent: Brandee Butler, Paula Delgado  Guests Present: None  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 July 23, 2020 were approved (M: Merida, S: McKinney).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | |  | | --- | | The Care Council met on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 through GoTo Webinar. There was one action item, which was the recommendation of a new member for voting membership.  Nolan Finn, Chair, announced that the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) is in need of a new Patient Care Representative and Alternate. Nolan was nominated to continue to serve as Patient Care Representative and Paula Delgado was nominated to serve as alternate.  Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, announced that the Part A program’s current project officer at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Michael Carrigan, has been promoted. We will be getting a new project officer soon. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for 2021-2022 was released in June and is due in October. Staff is currently working on a draft, which will be available for members to review before it is submitted to HRSA. Ending the HIV Epidemic funds have been allocated to Health Education and Risk Reduction with contracts starting in September. Aubrey also reminded everyone that the National Ryan White Conference would be held virtually the following week and encouraged everyone to attend.  Part B Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart, announced that the Pinellas Ending the HIV Epidemic planning group had another meeting in July focusing on community partners, including both large and small community organizations.  The Care Council took nominations for a new Vice Chair. Kim Molnar and Edward Myles were both nominated. The Care Council will have their Vice Chair Election at the September meeting.  The Planning and Evaluation Committee is continuing to revise the Minimum Standards of Care and will be presenting a final version at the September Care Council meeting.  The Resource Prioritization and Allocations Recommendations Committee will be reviewing financial reports at their next meeting.  The Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families Committee is hosting a virtual even on September 24th at 3:15 PM on Zoom. A flyer will be released soon.  The next Care Council meeting will be on September 2, 2020 through GoTo Webinar. | |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Holly Beaver, Chair, began the moment of inspiration by acknowledging the expected arrival of Hurricane Laura and expressing her hope that all those in the path will be safe and protected.  Marylin Merida, Member, spoke on state sanctioned violence against Black and brown people and acknowledged how concerning and traumatizing the news has been for many people lately. Kamaria Laffrey, echoed Marylin’s sentiment and encouraged everyone to support and lift up those who are on the front lines. Even if you are unable to protest or be directly involved, there are many ways to support the movement for racial justice. Kamaria noted how she draws inspiration from her daughter and reminded everyone to take notice of how youth are responding to these times and how they are seeing us respond.  Mary Jones, Member, let everyone know she was thinking of all of the kids who have to go back to school during this time and reminded everyone to stay focused on safety. |
| **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. Alex Cario will create the Zoom link. Members discussed developing a flyer based on the one that was used last year. Kamaria agreed to make the flyer.  Member decided against making care packages to send ahead time, in an effort to simplify. Instead, the committee will be raffling some gift cards. Michelle McKinney offered to donate jewelry to give as prizes. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Members reporting seeing an increase in pregnancies among youth and discussed possible causes related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Holly noted that she is currently following five patients who are pregnant and living with HIV, which is a normal amount for her.  Members also reported seeing an uptick in clients seeking mental health services. Members discussed that while it’s true that clients are struggling with their mental health right now for reasons related to the pandemic, it also seems that more people are seeking out these services because they now have expanded access through telehealth. Youth in particular have been especially engaged in these services.  Members discussed issues with youth and disclosure and the need for better education around PrEP, bringing up situations in which people think their partner is just on PrEP when they are actually taking medication for HIV. Members talked about the reasons not to disclose through Facebook messenger or dating apps. Kamaria offered information on how criminalization laws affect how people disclose. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Kamaria was contacted by Let’s Be HIV Educated (LetsBHIVE). They are leading a group in Orlando teaching participants skills around disclosure and reducing stigma. There is a $100 incentive for those who complete the program. Kamaria will send more information to staff to distribute.  Kamaria also announced that she had been sent some information on a postpartum retention tool for helping people stay in care. The tool is currently being piloted. Kamaria will also send out further information for anyone who is interested.  The committee will not meet in September because they will be hosting their event instead. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM. |