

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

GOTOWEBINAR

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting of the Ryan White Care Council was called to order by Nolan Finn, Chair, at 1:30 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS | See attached attendance list. |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | Chair, Nolan Finn, requested the addition of an in-person meeting discussion, to take place prior to the Public Policy report. |
| MOMENT OF SILENCE | Chair, Nolan Finn asked members to take a moment to give honor and recognition to those that we have lost to HIV, those struggling with HIV, and those who are currently unaware of their serostatus. |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | No adoption of minutes took place as actionable business can no longer be conducted virtually, due to the Florida Sunshine Law; however, members reviewed the minutes for their November 4, 2020 and January 6, 2021 Care Council meeting, nevertheless.  No changes or modifications were requested. |
| CHAIR/VICE CHAIR’S REPORT | Chair, Nolan Finn, noted that Vice-Chair, Myles (Edward) Myles, would not be present. Finn went on to thank all who participated in the January 6, 2021 leadership training as he feels that the initial feedback received from the National Minority HIV/AIDS Council (NMAC) was insightful. |
| RECIPIENT’S REPORT | Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, informed Care Council members that the Funding Year (FY) 2020-2021 is ending at the end of February 2021. FY 2021-2022 begins on March 1, 2021 with a partial award of $2,307,619 (approximately 1/5 of anticipated $10.5 million total award) received. These monies will fund the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) and general Part A services. The full award notice is expected within the next couple of months, but all service contracts have already been renewed with allocations established. He went on to note that the continuum of care will remain intact until the full award is received, and minor reallocation adjustments may be needed depending on the final grant award. Historically, the Tampa-Saint Petersburg Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) has received partial awards. Arnold informed members that Hillsborough County received their first Part A grant award (initially called *Title 1*) in 1992, thus the EMA is going into the 29th year of funding that has been vital to the community.  Although the last year has been extremely challenging for many reasons, financials are currently under review and Part A anticipates expending over 95% of their total funding award. Some funding lines, such as Oral Health, have had challenges spending down their funds due to clients’ inability to access services during the pandemic. An updated expenditure report will be presented to the Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) at their next meeting.  Part A has finished their year one site review for Ending the HIV Epidemic with positive comments received related to the area’s Early Intervention Services (EIS) and Health Education and Risk Reduction (HERR). Participants in the site review included Chrissy Abrahms-Woodland, Chief of the HIV Metropolitan Programs with Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA). They discussed interactions with clients engaged in Ryan White services and held a dialogue with other stakeholders and community organizations regarding planning coordination. A report will be shared with the Care Council, once received.  Arnold noted that although vaccines are being rolled out for high-risk populations, many are still waiting to hear when they will be able to access the vaccine. Thus, Arnold emphasized the need for in-person quorum for any actionable business, although meetings will allow for participants to join in virtually or by way of conference line. This is necessary to remain in compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law.  Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, then asked Arnold if unexpended funds will be eligible as carryover funds and was assured that this request is possible if the condition of the grant award to be at least 95% expended, for Part A, is met. |
| LEAD AGENCY REPORT | Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart, began Part B’s update reminding participants that they are moving into their last quarter of the funding year and will have expenditure reports available as soon as possible. Everhart went on to note that President Biden has decided to re-open enrollment to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace beginning February 15 – May 15, 2021 for those who were unable to enroll during the usual enrollment period. Those who were unable to obtain proper documentation for their marketplace application were assisted in paying their insurance premiums by way of the Insurance Services Program (ISP). This allows for the client to be back in the Ryan White system until the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) can enroll them in ADAP Premium Plus.  Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, continued the lead agency’s reports by addressing a question posed by Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, last month regarding the prioritization of vaccinating People with HIV (PWH). Lightsey shared that Dr. Beal, the medical director for the HIV/AIDS section, recommends that PWH be vaccinated as soon as possible, but not official documentation confirms this information.  Planning Council Support Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, passed along a question asked in the chat box, by Elizabeth Rugg, to Aubrey Arnold. Rugg asked if hardship, considering COVID-19, could be requested to avoid in-person meetings whilst still conducting business. She added that the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners have decided to request such from the Governor. Arnold was unable to speak to this but offered to investigate this situation further.  Finn asked Darius Lightsey if any hardship status was in effect for Pinellas County and was told that nothing of its kind was in place. Finn added that upon asking this, at the state level, he was told that the Sunshine Law itself would have to be changed. Donna Sabatino, from The AIDS Institute (TAI), shared that they have brought this topic to their contracted lobbying firm in Tallahassee and were advised that this would need to be dealt with at a local government level. Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, reminded members that the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (HCBOCC) will require that we meet an in-person quorum to conduct business and remain in compliance with the Sunshine Law. Meetings will be offered at a hybrid level (virtual or by conference call), but we are to follow HCBOCC protocol. |
| CARE COUNCIL PLANNING STAFF REPORT | Planning Council Support (PCS) staff, Katie Scussel, thanked members for participating in the last meeting’s leadership development training, led by the National Minority HIV/AIDS Council (NMAC). She added that the final report has not yet been received, but that internal conversations regarding NMAC’s recommendations are already underway. These recommendations will be reviewed at the next Membership Committee meeting and then brough to Care Council. One immediate change, based on these recommendations, is that PCS staff will send out direct links to virtual meeting records after each meeting concludes.  PCS staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, went on to review the month’s meeting schedule, noting that there will not be a reason to hold an in-person Care Council meeting until March 2021, as no committee-level business will be conducted in February 2021. They pointed out that the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) committee will have to meet in-person at their March 2021 meeting to review and vote on the funding year’s epidemiology and care continuum reports. Ardjomand-Kermani took a moment to explain that the epidemiology report tells what our area’s new and total cases of HIV are as well as revealing populations most affected by HIV, based on intersecting identities. They went on to explain that the care continuum informs the area as to how many people are engaged in the Ryan White program and virally suppressed. |
| COMMITTEE REPORTS | 1. **Standards, Issues, and Operations Committee (SIOC) – Nolan Finn, Care Council Chair**   SIOC did not meet in January 2021.   1. **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) – Katie Scussel, Planning Council Support Staff**   CAC met on January 28, 2021 by way of GoToWebinar at 1:30 p.m.  Two members were present, but one was unable to connect to audio, so the meeting was brief. They discussed what meetings will look like moving forward, with the expectation that they will keep meetings virtual for the foreseeable future due to a lack of actionable business items. They suggested a format that conducts business in the first half of the meeting and hold a town hall for the second half, so individuals with issues can call-in for their concerns to be addressed.  CAC will meet again on February 25, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. by way of GoToWebinar.    **C. Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) – Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, Staff**  HSAC did not meet in January 2021 but will reconvene February 18, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. by way of GoToWebinar.  **D. Membership, Nominations, Recruitment & Training Committee – Tonicia Freeman-Foster, Chair**  Membership did not meet in January 2021 but will meet again virtually on February 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.  **E. Planning & Evaluation Committee (P&E) – Member, Nolan Finn**  P&E did not meet in January 2021 but will reconvene on February 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. by way of GoToWebinar.  **F. Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations (RPARC) – Lillie Bruton, Co-Chair**  RPARC did not meet in January 2021 but will meet next on February 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. by way of GoToWebinar.   1. Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) – David Cavalleri, Quality Management consultant   Cavalleri noticed participants that the AAM reports are shared as an informational item, attached in handouts, to be reviewed at their leisure. He explained that this is mandated by HRSA as an annual process review of how money is being spent based on the EMA’s priorities. This report is first sent to RPARC and then on to Care Council, with responses offered by the Recipient, based on recommendations made. This process is conducted every year to ensure that the Recipient is listening to Ryan White clients as to how monies should be spent.  **G. Women, Infants, Children, Youth, & Families (WICY&F) – Lisa Condor, Member**  WICY&F met on January 28, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. by way of GoToWebinar. The Committee met quorum with 9 members and 1 staff present.  Members primarily discussed the disparities regarding the disproportionate access to vaccines for many vulnerable communities, general lack of trust of the medical system, and the effects of the Superbowl on human trafficking.  WICY&F will reconvene on February 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via GoToWebinar. |
| ENDING THE EPIDEMIC (EHE) UPDATES | 1. Hillsborough County   Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, began the Hillsborough County EHE update by informing attendees that their virtual review was conducted on January 26-27, 2021 with the Healthcare Services department, contracted service provider Metro Inclusive Health, and other community partners like The AIDS Institute in attendance. A forum was held for clients to discuss their views and observations of the Health Education and Risk Reduction and Early Intervention Services (EIS) programs. Officials present for the site review included the EHE Project Officer, Chrissy Abrahms-Woodland (Division Chief of Ryan White Metropolitan HIV/AIDS programs), and the Eastern Division Branch Chief. All officials commended the county on their efficiency, despite challenges posed by the pandemic, as well as their program model that includes a community planning coordinator that ensures integration with and alignment with other existing prevention and linkage programs.  Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, requested Arnold’s thought about EHE funding going forward and was told that small increases in funding are anticipated. If this is indeed the case then the partnership, who meet monthly, will have to determine how additional monies will be spent. Considerations will have to be made, for example, do new and unmet needs like mental health and substance [misuse] receive funding or should current services be expanded?   1. Pinellas County   Lead Agency Staff, Darius Lightsey, began the Pinellas County EHE report with a commendation of the work being done by EHE coordinators, Chris Walker and Nicole Houston. The County’s EHE planning council meet quarterly and in the most recent meeting all nine (9) awardees were asked to briefly discuss their goals and initiatives and answer any clarifying questions. The have received commendation from the National Institute of Health for their robust community engagement. Lightsey shared that he has been involved in interviews with Queen B of 95.7fm, who is an advocate for HIV prevention and Ending the HIV Epidemic.  Chris Walker added that EHE coordinators are finalizing plans to best support and track the progress of their funded EHE partners. Nicole Houston continued that the next step in their plan is to set up all EHE partners with an initial independent meeting to discuss any necessary technical assistance in meeting partner objectives. Houston noted that six of the nine (6/9) awardees are grassroots community organizations, speaking to their success in community engagement.  Lightsey shared that Pinellas’ EHE initiative is not holding each currently funded partner to a 5-year contract, but rather they will be evaluated annually to determine if goals and objectives are being reached. They will determine their partners accordingly and adjust, each year, if necessary. |
| IN-PERSON QUORUM DISCUSSION | Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, began the discussion by asking members if they felt monthly meetings are necessary, when no action is conducted. Some members suggested meeting quarterly, while others reminded members that no business has been conducted since October 2020, but that all virtual meetings since have been robust and changing the meeting schedule may disrupt retention of current and recruitment of new members. Member, Kamaria Laffrey, mentioned that we are currently unaware of what the National Minority HIV/AIDS Council (NMAC) schedule will be for the ELEVATE curriculum, once initiated. Member alternate, Michelle Keyes, added that meeting less will mean more information all at once which can become overwhelming, especially for people who are new to the Care Council and Ryan White services. Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, suggested that meetings conduct business every other month and provide a speaker or educational training for others. Member, J. Carl Devine, echoed the need for continuity to keep the community involved and engaged.  Planning Council Support (PCS) staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, reminded members that committee and Council chairs are always able to cancel meetings as they see fit, as has been done historically. They went on that all meetings can remain virtual unless business must be conducted, in which case quorum must be met. Similarly, a Standards, Issues, and Operations Committee (SIOC) can always be called to conduct emergent business, and is open to the public, but that a vote would still be required from the Care Council.  Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) representative, Kayon Henderson, expressed concern that their agency is unable to report on housing due to the length of the meetings and being short-staffed, on their end. PCS staff and Finn agreed that a housing-specific agenda item will be added prior to committee reports going forward. |
| PUBLIC POLICY REPORT / COMMUNITY INPUT | None. |
| PREVENTION ACTIVITIES / QUALITY MANAGEMENT (QM) | Quality Management (QM) consultant, David Cavalleri, reported that the program’s performance measures were reported at the December 2020 QM workgroup meeting and that he is amid wrapping up all monitoring.  Michelle Keyes, on behalf of Care Council Vice-Chair, Myles (Edward) Myles, announced that Metro Inclusive Health’s Ybor office is participating in Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA) Tampa, every Tuesday from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in partnership with the University of South Florida (USF) Health. Testing and syringe exchange services will be provided, and hygiene bags will be distributed as incentives to exchange used needles. This initiative will take place throughout Hillsborough County, as part of the Opioid Taskforce’s efforts. Keyes added that this ordinance was recently passed for Pinellas County as well. |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | Member, J. Carl Devine, announced that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will be celebrated on February 6, 2021 at Saint Petersburg’s Out of The Closet location from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Although this national awareness day is officially on February 7, they do not want to compete with the Superbowl. All who attend and purchase something from Out of The Closet will receive 25% off all purchases from food trucks that will be in attendance.  Sam Quintero, Janssen representative, reminded participants of his willingness to provide appropriate education sessions such as U=U, HIV Basics, Resistance and Adherence, and Mental Health. |
| ADJOURNMENT | There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:08 p.m. |
| Note: A recording of the meeting is available for review at the Suncoast Health Council. | For further details about this Care Council meeting, please visit thecarecouncil.org to access meeting minutes and handouts. |
| LIST OF HANDOUTS | 1. February 3, 2021 Agenda 2. January 6, 2021 Minutes 3. Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) Part A 2019-2020 Final Report 4. AAM Part A 2019-2020 Recipient Response Final Report 5. February 2021 Calendar |

**ATTENDANCE LIST: FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

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| **Care Council Members** | **Attendance** |
| Nolan Finn *(Chair)* | X |
| (Myles) Edward Myles *(Vice-Chair)* | ALT |
| Joel Carrier | X |
| Lisa Conder | X |
| Paula Delgado | X |
| J Carl Devine | X |
| Kayon Henderson | X |
| Vincent Kaborycha |  |
| Kamaria Laffrey | X |
| Jeffrey Lluberes | X |
| Michelle McKinney |  |
| Amanda Miller | ALT |
| Kimberly Molnar | X |
| Peggy Wallace | X |
| Charles Ware | X |
|  |  |
| **Associate Members** | **Attendance** |
| Nicole Kish |  |
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| **Recipient Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Aubrey Arnold | X |
| Dorinda Seth |  |
| Maria Teresa Jaureguizar | X |
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| **Lead Agency Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Darius Lightsey | X |
| Yashika Everhart | X |
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| **Health Council Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Lisa Nugent | X |
| Katie Scussel | X |
| Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani | X |
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| **Regular Guests** | **Attendance** |
| Jim Roth | X |
| Dave Konnerth |  |
| Elizabeth Rugg |  |
| Emily Hughart | X |
| David Cavalleri | X |
| Tonicia Freeman-Foster | X |
| Kirsty Gutierrez |  |
| Allison Rapp |  |
| Lillie Bruton | X |
| Crystal Waddy |  |
| Angela Kellogg | X |
| Michelle Keyes | X |
| Sam Quintero | X |
| Donna Sabatino | X |
| Antonio Miles | X |
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| **Guests** | **Attendance** |
| Michael Alonso | X |
| Jasmine Alvarado |  |
| Katherine Barbera |  |
| Conrad Barzarea |  |
| Shakayla Birch |  |
| Dawn Branley |  |
| Taryn Buckley |  |
| Jose Camino |  |
| Joshua Cardwell |  |
| Michael Carlton |  |
| Mike Catala |  |
| Gregory Clark |  |
| Everis Clarke |  |
| Donna Corpuz |  |
| Anne Cronyn | X |
| Diamond Cunningham |  |
| Scott Dartange |  |
| Michael Dunn |  |
| Darlene Duran |  |
| Lolita Emanuel-Brown |  |
| Brittany Frederick |  |
| Karlie Gallagher |  |
| Geneva Galloway |  |
| Beth Gotti |  |
| Tashann Grant |  |
| Khalil Hall |  |
| Indica Harris |  |
| Chris Holland | X |
| Lovell Harp |  |
| Shayla Hobbs |  |
| Michael Holder |  |
| Sherri Hoover |  |
| Nicole Houston | X |
| Karen Hoyle |  |
| Marylin Jones | X |
| Vicki Kenyon |  |
| Janet Kitchen |  |
| Topher Larkin |  |
| Grace Levy-Clarke |  |
| Andrew Maldonado |  |
| Olinda Manjenje |  |
| Andrew McFarbme |  |
| Sean McIntosh |  |
| Mark Mischan |  |
| Carmen Millie Montanez |  |
| Lauren Miller |  |
| Jamie Morano |  |
| Denise Mote | X |
| Michael Neuges |  |
| Sheyla Nobles |  |
| James Ogedegbe |  |
| Vicky Oliver |  |
| Sebastian Osorio |  |
| Steve Palermo |  |
| Terrell Parker |  |
| Guttenberg Pierre |  |
| Juliana Pinero |  |
| Dee Prendergast |  |
| Hope Sharon Proell |  |
| Ashley Quidaciolu |  |
| Dedra Richardson |  |
| Shaquira Robinson |  |
| Allison Ruby |  |
| Sheila Ruck |  |
| Christine Santos |  |
| Michelle Scavnicky |  |
| Dartange Scott |  |
| Garrett Sears |  |
| Ashley Smith |  |
| Ashley Snug |  |
| Diego Villalba |  |
| Chris Walker | X |
| Bernard Washington |  |
| Ronald Weston |  |

*ALT= Alternate present EX = Excused*

I, Chair Nolan Finn, do certify that these minutes have been approved by me and the members of the Care Council on this day, March 3, 2021

Nolan Finn, Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_