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

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 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 10:05 AM. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Holly Beaver, Alex Cario, Lisa Conder, Paula Delgado, Mary Frances Jones, Kamaria Laffrey, Michelle McKinney, Marylin Merida  Members Absent: Sheila Ruck, Barbara Szelag  Guests Present: Amanda Miller  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.  As an icebreaker, members shared where they would like to go once it is safe to travel again. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | The committee reviewed the minutes for October 29, 2020 and made one change to the attendance. The minutes were tabled as the committee is unable to vote virtually at this time. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | |  | | --- | | The Care Council met on January 7, 2021 on GoTo Webinar. The Care Council will be meeting virtually in February, however, a few committees will need to meet in person in March to pass mandatory business items. The Care Council is expected to have its first in-person meeting in April. The Women, Infants, Children, Youth and Families Committee and Committee Advisory Committee will be able to continue meeting virtually for at least a few more months, as these committees only have minutes to vote on. In the spring, the committees can reassess when they would like to meet in-person again, depending on how the vaccine roll out is going.  The Care Council meeting was adjourned early so that staff members from the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) could give a presentation. NMAC conducted focus groups with current and former Care Council members to help with issues around recruitment and retention. NMAC staff gave a number of recommendations which Care Council staff, as well as the Membership Committee, will be working to incorporate wherever feasible.  Members talked about the findings from the NMAC presentation and discussed issues with member retention. Marylin Merida noted that in her experience with the Care Council, clients who joined often felt lost and like they didn’t see how their voice could be heard and that there needs to be more support for new members. Staff will be looking at reworking the new member orientation to make it more comprehensive, as well as some other changes we may be able to make to work on making sure we are incorporating Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (MIPA). Kamaria Laffrey gave some background on MIPA and how we can work to use these principles.  The next Care Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 on GoToWebinar. | |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Holly Beaver, Chair noted that she’s thankful to see some of the changes already coming in how the pandemic is being handled with the new administration. The current count of people whose lives have been lost from COVID-19 is over 429,000. Holly is thankful as a nurse that more aggressive action is being taken to confront the virus. Marylin Merida added that she hopes this is a watershed moment in our history for seriously addressing racism and integrating anti-racist frameworks in all aspects of our lives. Kamaria thanked Holly and Marylin for expressing those thoughts and noted that it will take some time to process all of the fallout from the events of 2020. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Lisa Conder gave Kamaria a shout out for the article published about her in Women’s Health Magazine. Several other members chimed in to share how great the article was. Staff will send the link to the article in the next InfoShare.  Kamaria spoke on her work with the HIV justice coalition and some issues she is confronting advocating for sex workers living with HIV. In working to make legislative changes to HIV criminalization, sex workers are often left out of the conversation but criminalization laws often affect them the most.  In working with sex worker communities, Kamaria has learned of the needs for extended testing hours, mobile testing units, and places that offer free home testing kits. Kamaria has been working to try to link people to these resources but has only been able to find information for Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Kamaria noted that the situation is urgent right now as many are at risk of being arrested with increased law enforcement sting operations and increased activity around the Super Bowl. Amanda Miller added that she is part of an organization, Rahab’s Daughters, that works to rehabilitate people who have been victims of sex trafficking and that she can link Kamaria to them for resources. Kamaria thanked her and agreed to chat offline. Kamaria also clarified for the group that the sex worker community she is working with are women who have willingly chosen this line of work and that they are often confused with or lumped in with sex trafficking victims but that it’s important to make a distinction between these two groups because they both have different needs and vulnerabilities.  Amanda shared with the group that if anyone wants to report any suspicious activity that might be trafficking that they can call 211 and be directed to the taskforce that is working on this in the Tampa Bay Area. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Members discussed the COVID-19 vaccine roll out. Marylin noted that marginalized communities and communities of color that have been disproportionately hit by COVID face many barriers to getting the vaccine. For example, many vaccine sites are offering drive-through vaccines, but these sites are not accessible to people who don’t have a car.  Members also talked about vaccine hesitancy and countering any fears people have about the vaccine or mistrust in the medical establishment more broadly. Holly noted that she tries to do as much education as she can and to keep herself informed so that she is able to talk through people's fears.  Michelle McKinney shared that there has been some movement to help get people in Black communities vaccinated. There has been some work with churches helping seniors get registered and using church vans to transport those who do not have transportation. Michelle also spoke on hesitancy with seniors who were alive during the Tuskegee Study and have reasons to be skeptical.  Amanda shared Walgreens’ plans for vaccine distribution, once the supply of doses increases. Walgreens will allow people to register online for appointments and will also have a contact person available in stores to help people register. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM. |