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

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

**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, Lisa Conder, Paula Delgado, Michelle McKinney, Marylin Merida, Sheila Ruck  Members Absent: Brandee Butler, Mary Frances Jones, Kamaria Laffrey, Barbara Szelag  Guests Present: Llordes Lorens  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 preferences for chocolate or vanilla, Coke or Pepsi, and whether they are morning or night people. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | The committee reviewed the minutes for January 28, 2021. The minutes were tabled as the committee is unable to vote virtually at this time. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | |  | | --- | | The Care Council met on February 3, 2021 on GoTo Webinar. The Care Council will be meeting virtually again in March and is expected to hold its first in-person meeting in April, as there are mandatory business items that must be voted on. The Planning and Evaluation Committee and Resource Prioritization and Allocations Recommendations Committee (RPARC) will have their first in-person meetings in March. All other committees, including WICY&F, will continue meeting virtually until further notice.  Planning Council Support Staff let members know that we are still waiting to receive a final report from the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). Staff can distribute the report to members when it is received.  The Part A Recipient reported that the 2020-2021 fiscal year ends at the end of February and the 2021-2022 year begins in March. The Part A program has received a partial award of $2,307,600, which is approximately one fifth of what is anticipated. The full award should be $10.5 million for the Tampa-St. Petersburg Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). The Part A program spent out approximately 95% of grant funds in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. There were some issues in the budgets, particularly with oral health, with clients not accessing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, the Recipient reported that they had a virtual site visit for the Ending the HIV Epidemic grant and reported that the site visit went well.  The Part B Lead Agency reminded everyone that the Biden Administration re-opened the Health Insurance Marketplace due to the pandemic, so that anyone needing insurance coverage could purchase it.  The only committees that met in January were the Planning and Evaluation Committee and Women, Infants, Children, Youth and Families Committee. | |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Marylin Merida noted that last month the committee acknowledged over 400,000 deaths from COVID and the count is now over 500,000. Marylin also added that even though there is a lot of hope with the vaccines, she is hoping people still take precautions seriously until when reach herd immunity. Holly Beaver added that we don’t know yet how long protection from the vaccine will last.  Marylin added that we all owe a great debt to nurses, doctors, and all clinical staff, as they have been in the trenches for the past year working through the pandemic. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Holly shared that her program has recently had two teenagers newly diagnosed in Pinellas County. She wondered if there will be an uptick in new cases since mass testing events have slowed down during the pandemic.  Holly also noted that there has been an uptick in babies born exposed to HIV and moms not receiving prenatal care within the last few months. Thankfully so far, these babies have been negative. Unfortunately, there were two cases of perinatal transmission in our area in 2020, one in Pinellas and one in Hillsborough. The mom in Pinellas was in regular prenatal care and there was a lot of effort to help, however, there were issues with medication adherence. The test was negative at birth so the baby seroconverted after delivery. Holly did not know any details about the case in Hillsborough.  National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day is March 10th. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Holly asked the group whether anyone has any clients who have been able to be vaccinated under 65, other than healthcare workers, but no one did. Paula Delgado said that Metro Inclusive Health is vaccinating all of their employees the upcoming week. Paula talked about overcoming her skepticism about the vaccine as she has seen people around her getting it. People in marginalized communities who lived through experiences like the Tuskegee Study have real reasons to be skeptical, which is why it’s important that everyone leads by example and helps show others that the vaccine is safe. Lourdes Llorens added that Metro will be offering the vaccine to clients who are 65 and older.  Paula also added that this is a time to care of your mental health. She shared that with everything going on within the past year, a lot of people have struggled with their mental health and it’s okay to drop certain commitments and acknowledge when you need help. Lisa Conder and Holly chimed in to thank her for the reminder and agree. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM. |