

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

GOTOWEBINAR

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 1:35 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS | See attached attendance list. |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | Chair, Nolan Finn, announced a reoccurring addition of A Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) report, following the Planning Support Staff (PCS) report. |
| MOMENT OF SILENCE | Vice-Chair, Edward Myles, 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 | The adoption of minutes was tabled until the April 2021 in-person Care Council meeting. |
| CHAIR/VICE CHAIR’S REPORT | Vice-Chair, Myles (Edward) Myles, began the report with an announcement that materials for several upcoming events, hosted in the Tampa Bay Area, will be distributed by PCS staff.  Chair, Nolan Finn, emphasized the important of the April Care Council meeting as it will be the first meeting, since 2020, to be held in-person. To remain in compliance with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) deliverables timeline, an in-person quorum will be required to pass business that will be on the agenda at that time. Finn went on to note that an e-mail was sent out by the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) pertaining to their upcoming United States Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA). Although they may push back their 2021 conference date, they will be hosting the 2022 conference in Puerto Rico. |
| RECIPIENT’S REPORT | Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, informed Care Council members that the Funding Year (FY) 2020-2021 ended February 28, 2021. FY 2021-2022 began on March 1, 2021 with a partial award of $2,307,619 received. Part A still awaits their full notice of award for the 2021 funding year (FY), but expects no decrease in funding.  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. Chair, Nolan Finn, inquired if an updated expenditure report will be presented to the Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) at their next meeting and Arnold confirmed this to be the intention, but that a final close-out report will not be available until a later time. Arnold noted that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is waiving the 95% spend-out for 2020 for areas struggling with expending their award due to challenges posed by COVID-19. He requested that all providers make sure to bill-out all expenses from the last FY, before submitting new claims.  The Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE) grant, which runs concurrent with the Part A funding cycle, has received a partial award of $240,000 to start the new funding year (FY). They hope for an increase from the first year’s $1,000,000 award and do not expect a decrease. All contracts are in place for the new FY and were sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for renewal at their February 17, 2021 meeting. Reminding the Care Council of the successful site review in January 2021, Arnold announced that the EtHE project officer (PO) has requested that he present the local project and successes at an upcoming HRSA webinar on March 17, 2021.  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 at the upcoming April 2021 Care Council meeting (to be hosted by Metro Inclusive Health’s Saint Petersburg office) for business to be actionable. This is necessary to remain in compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law. When possible, meetings will allow for participants to join in virtually or by way of conference line. He went on to clarify that this requirement is legislative and not a local determination and offered to speak directly to anyone with questions. Following a brief conversation with the Hillsborough County attorney, Catherine Benson, Arnold was told that there are no new updates regarding the Sunshine Law. Benson has offered to participate in an upcoming Care Council meeting with a presentation to address any questions members may have.  Concluding his report, Arnold announced that Part A is working on a couple of new projects, internally. One such project is to reduce paper files and documents as much as possible and rather rely on electronic databases as appropriate. |
| LEAD AGENCY REPORT | Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart, began Part B’s update reminding participants that the new fiscal year begins April 1, 2021. They are currently working internally on renewals and information for new contracts. Everhart went on to inform attendees that Tallahassee has allowed a year extension on current provider contracts, but a new request for applications (RFA) will be announced later this year. Enrollment to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace is still open, for those who were unable to enroll during the usual period. The Pinellas AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) has available appointments and Everhart requested that anyone in need of services ask their case manager to contact their office for assistance. In response to a question posed by RPARC Co-Chair, Lillie Bruton, Everhart assured participants that ADAP is continuing to hold appointments virtually. Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, requested a financial report at the March RPARC meeting, but was told that this was not possible at this time as they are still working on close-out billing. |
| CARE COUNCIL PLANNING STAFF REPORT | Planning Council Support staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, reiterated the importance of making an in-person quorum at the April 2021 Care Council meeting, as business will be on the agenda. They went on to note that the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee will be meeting in-person, with an option to call-in, at their March 11, 2021 meeting to review and vote on the Care Continuum and Epidemiology Report. Since much of RPARC is made up similar membership, this committee may meet in-person for convenience.  Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, inquired as to whether RSVPs will be secured ahead of time to ensure an in-person quorum and Ardjomand-Kermani confirmed that this would be formally requested in the packet distributed a week prior to the meeting. Finn spoke to the group’s responsibility to make quorum to transact business and requested that anyone unable to attend (in-person) send their alternate.  Care Council member, Kayon Henderson, asked if the Metro Inclusive Health Saint Petersburg Office is confirmed for the April meeting or if there is any chance it will be moved, and Finn responded with affirmation. |
| HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) REPORT | HOPWA representative and Care Council member, Kayon Henderson, reported submitting paperwork to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and receiving approval for HOPWA funding. They were able to assist 650 individuals with housing and spent $4.2 million for funding year (FY) 2019. Although services have been active since November 2020, they only recently received their total award notice for $4.3 million. Although they lost one former agency, Metro Inclusive Health is now a newly funded agency to jump on board to provide new support services. They will be providing short-term mortgage, rental, and utility assistance with coverage in all four counties with 13 total contracts.  HOPWA has been working alongside Hillsborough HOPE since early in the pandemic and is looking into working with Pinellas HOPE. HOPWA has partnered with Catholic Charities in Hillsborough County to mimic Tampa’s Have of Hope for more resources and shelter beds. They are currently looking for transitional housing, utilities, permanent and temporary rental assistance for about 300 people. All three previously identified locations have fallen through, but they are in the last phase of contracting with Catholic Charities. They have offered some rental programs in the past, but are now gearing up to work with Audrey Siegler, with the County, to oversee the department of treasury of funds. The city of Tampa and Hillsborough County received $12 million and $32 million, respectively. Joining forces for the first time, they hope to put $40 million on the streets to help people who cannot make rent for a full 15 months of assistance. This will be paid assistance to clients for 3 months at a time and can include back rent. This would include city of Tampa and Hillsborough County water services. This new program does not pay mortgage, so the city of Tampa is looking for other funding sources and hope for about $700,000 in mortgage assistance.  HOPWA is attempting to partner with HIV services agencies that provide housing with a housing counseling agency. They have many people on a voucher program and are looking for innovative ways to get people off the voucher program so waiting lists turnover more quickly and more people end up homeowners. Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, asked how funds will be accessed by eligible members of the general population and Henderson replied that if all current funds are spent down by September 2021, then there is a possibility for additional funding. They are currently using administration funds to have applications for the city and county processed, with the intention of processing approximately 1,000 applications per week. She went on to note that they expect the website to be released mid-March. Henderson added that this round of funding does not rely on tenants to apply, but landlords as well who are encouraged to apply on their tenants’ behalf to speed-up the process and relieve the burden on their tenants. |
| COMMITTEE REPORTS | 1. **Standards, Issues, and Operations Committee (SIOC) – Myles (Edward) Myles, Care Council Vice-Chair**   SIOC did not meet in February 2021.   1. **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) – Katie Scussel, Planning Council Support Staff**   CAC met on February 25, 2021 by way of GoToWebinar at 1:30 p.m.; however, only Part B staff Darius Lightsey attended, thus the meeting was concluded early.  CAC will meet again on March 25, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. by way of GoToWebinar.    **C. Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) – Elizabeth Rugg, Chair**  HSAC met on February 18, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. by way of GoToWebinar.  Rugg reported that quorum was met, and the committee received updates, from The AIDS Institute (TAI) from committee Co-Chair Kim Molnar. Molnar reported that the state is considering ways to eliminate or reduce the annual cost of a medical marijuana identification card ($75), with an approved motion to recommend a sliding scale process. They await approval and comment from the office of medical marijuana use especially as it relates to the piece of legislation regarding the copay accumulator. Rugg noted that this is an important issue as clients are paying out of pocket to meet their deductibles.  HSAC will meet next on April 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., location to be announced later.  **D. Membership, Nominations, Recruitment & Training Committee – Tonicia Freeman-Foster, Chair**  Committee Chair, Tonicia Freeman-Foster, reported that the membership committee met virtually on February 15, 2021 and discussed issues with recruitment; specifically issues with cultural humility and the need for Care Council member training prior to pursuing more recruitment efforts. They continue to wait for the final report from the National Minority HIV/AIDS Council (NMAC) so the committee has decided to seek other leadership training in the interim to ensure that the Care Council is as inclusive as possible and equipped with the skills to do so.  Membership will meet again virtually on March 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.  **E. Planning & Evaluation Committee (P&E) – Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, Planning Council Support Staff**  P&E met February 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. by way of GoToWebinar.  Planning Council Support (PCS) staff member, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, reported that members focused their discussion on the need to meet in-person on March 11, 2021 to vote on upcoming action items: 2020-2021 Epidemiology Report and the 2020 Care Continuum Report. All members committee to attending if they are in good health.  P&E will meet again on March 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at EPIC’s Suncoast Hospice location in the Garden House.  **F. Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations (RPARC) – Lillie Bruton, Co-Chair**  Committee Co-Chair, Lillie Bruton, reported that RPARC did not meet in February 2021, but will meet next on March 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. as a hybrid meeting, at which time expenditure reports will be reviewed.  **G. Women, Infants, Children, Youth, & Families (WICY&F) – Paula Delgado, Co-Chair**  WICY&F met on February 25, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. by way of GoToWebinar. The Committee met quorum with 6 members, 1 staff, and 2 guests present.  Members discussed difficulties with accessing COVID-19 vaccines and the potential for an uptick in new cases of HIV as outreach has slowed down. Members also noted that 1 case of perinatal transmission has been reported for both Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties.  Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, inquired about the historically hosted spring Mother’s Day event and Delgado was unable to answer, for certain, at this time.  WICY&F will reconvene on March 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via GoToWebinar. |
| ENDING THE EPIDEMIC (EHE) UPDATES | 1. Hillsborough County   Recipient staff, Aubrey Arnold, had nothing additional to report.   1. Pinellas County   Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, reported that Pinellas is in the process of setting up agreements and will begin a series of cultural equity trainings with all EHE awardees, led by Gwendolyn Reese, starting March 10, 2021. Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, suggested that perhaps the Care Council could partner with Pinellas’ EHE for these trainings, which was positively received. Lightsey went on to report that they had recently participated in a community event with EHE awardee Abundant Life in February 2021, as part of their faith initiative. |
| PUBLIC POLICY REPORT / COMMUNITY INPUT | Care Council member, J. Carl Devine, presented the AIDS Healthcare Foundation’s (AHF) opposition to bills SB-13061 (Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Savings) and HB-10432 (Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Savings) sponsored by Senator Rodriguez. These bills will have a negative fiscal impact on all Ryan White clinics and policies as it will change the reimbursement model for 340-B3. Finn requested that these bills and statements be shared with all members through the infoshare.  *1 Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Savings; Citing this act as the "Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Savings Optimization Act"; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to select a single pharmacy benefit administrator through a competitive procurement process to administer all pharmacy benefits for Medicaid recipients enrolled in managed care plans; requiring the agency to complete the procurement process and select the pharmacy benefit administrator by a specified date; prohibiting managed care organizations from providing pharmacy benefits for their enrolled members, etc.*  *2 Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Savings; Requires AHCA to select single pharmacy benefit administrator through competitive procurement process by specified date; provides contract requirements; requires agency to calculate amount* *equal to specified percentage of managed care organization's net underwriting gain for certain contract year & reduce organization's contract term payment by such amount.*  *3 Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid to sell outpatient drugs at discounted prices to health care organizations that care for many uninsured and low-income patients. These organizations include community health centers, children’s hospitals, hemophilia treatment centers, critical access hospitals (CAHs), sole community hospitals (SCHs), rural referral centers (RRCs), and public and nonprofit disproportionate share hospitals (DSH) that serve low-income and indigent populations.*  *The program allows 340B hospitals to stretch limited federal resources to reduce the price of outpatient pharmaceuticals for patients and expand health services to the patients and communities they serve. Hospitals use 340B savings to provide free care for uninsured patients, offer free vaccines, provide services in mental health clinics, and implement medication management and community health programs.*  *According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which is responsible for administering the 340B program, enrolled hospitals and other covered entities can achieve average savings of 25 to 50% in pharmaceutical purchases. Despite increased oversight from HRSA and the program’s proven record of decreasing government spending and expanding access to patient care, some want to scale it back or significantly reduce the benefits that eligible hospitals and their patients receive from the program.* |
| PREVENTION ACTIVITIES / QUALITY MANAGEMENT (QM) | Quality Management Consultant, David Cavalleri, announced the next virtual QM Workgroup meeting on Friday March 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. He noted that he will start pulling data for quality performance measures to present. Cavalleri added that responses to the Client Satisfaction Survey went from 45 to 800 surveys by the end of February 2021, thanking all providers who assisted. |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | Positively U representative, Antonio Miles, announced that Evolve Tampa Bay, who support Black and Brown same-gender-loving men, will be hosting a sex positive end on March 20 and April 12, 2021. More details will be disseminated by PCS staff. |
| ADJOURNMENT | There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:34 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. March 3, 2021 Agenda 2. March 2021 Calendar |

**ATTENDANCE LIST: MARCH 3, 2021**

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| **Care Council Members** | **Attendance** |
| Nolan Finn *(Chair)* | X |
| (Myles) Edward Myles *(Vice-Chair)* | X |
| Joel Carrier | X |
| Lisa Conder |  |
| Paula Delgado | X |
| J Carl Devine | X |
| Kayon Henderson | X |
| Vincent Kaborycha |  |
| Kamaria Laffrey | X |
| Jeffrey Lluberes | X |
| Michelle McKinney | X |
| Amanda Miller | X |
| Kimberly Molnar | X |
| Peggy Wallace |  |
| Charles Ware |  |
|  |  |
| **Associate Members** | **Attendance** |
| Nicole Kish |  |
|  |  |
| **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 |  |
| Dave Konnerth |  |
| Elizabeth Rugg | X |
| Emily Hughart |  |
| David Cavalleri | X |
| Tonicia Freeman-Foster | X |
| Kirsty Gutierrez |  |
| Allison Rapp |  |
| Lillie Bruton | X |
| Crystal Waddy | X |
| Angela Kellogg |  |
| Michelle Keyes |  |
| Sam Quintero | X |
| Donna Sabatino |  |
| Antonio Miles | X |
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| **Guests** | **Attendance** |
| Michael Alonso |  |
| 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 |  |
| Pierre Guttenberg | X |
| Khalil Hall |  |
| Indica Harris |  |
| Chris Holland |  |
| Lovell Harp |  |
| Shayla Hobbs |  |
| Michael Holder |  |
| Sherri Hoover |  |
| Nicole Houston | X |
| Karen Hoyle |  |
| Marylin Jones |  |
| 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 | X |
| 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, April 7, 2021.

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