

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**EPIC SUNCOAST HOSPICE GARDEN HOUSE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021**

**9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Sheryl Hoolsema, at 9:37 a.m. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present In-Person: Nolan Finn, Sheryl Hoolsema, Elizabeth Rugg  Members Present by Call-In: Marylin Merida, Kirsty Gutierrez  Members Absent: None.  Guests Present: Emily Hughart, David Cavalleri  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold, Rose Martinez  Lead Agency Staff Present: Yashika Everhart, Darius Lightsey  Health Council Staff Present: Lisa Nugent, Katie Scussel, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | None. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | The meeting minutes for March 11, 2021 were tabled due to a lack of in-person quorum. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Planning Council Support staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani gave the Care Council report:  Recipient, Aubrey Arnold informed the Care Council that the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) received the Part A award for the new funding year (FY) 2021-2022, in the amount of $10,353,255. The EMA has received their final scoring criteria for the current Part A award, with no findings or weaknesses cited, for a 96% final score. He noted that he is puzzled when looking at all pieces, that cuts occurred within the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) in supplemental funding. All other funding is flat, as is historically the case, and all contracts are in place for this year. Part A is in the process of closing the FY 2020 grant, prepping final numbers, and financial reports for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The EMA has spent out over 98% of the total grant award, despite all issues faced due to the pandemic.  As additional information, Arnold shared that the full grant award for Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative (EHE) FY 2021-2022 was received for a total $1,667,000. Of this funding $667,000 is additional (60% to Hillsborough County and 40% to Pinellas County) and Part A will be working with partnerships in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties for allocation recommendations. The hope to add supportive housing and mental health services in both counties, ramp up Early Intervention Services (EIS), and boost mental health services. A procurement opportunity will be announced within the coming month. A virtual site visit, with HRAS in January, went well and were commended on the work that the EHE is doing in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Arnold has been asked to share their successes, via a quarterly EHE webinar, on March 17, 2021. No significant findings or corrective action was required; however, 4 recommendations were made.  Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, reported that Pinellas County’s EHE initiative is still in year 1 of 5 of the funding periods, which runs from August to July each year. All unexpended funds will be rolled to year 2. They are amid the internal budget process for the Department of Health (DOH), settling on the upcoming Part B budget as well as EHE’s budget. The next quarterly EHE Advisory Council meeting will be held virtually on April 29, 2021 – registration information will be shared soon.  Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) Representative and Care Council member, Kayon Henderson, reported that HOPWA has an additional $800,000 for HIV housing. Their grant with DOH has been a challenge as the two-year grant agreement for 2 years was received, but the 2019-2020 reimbursements have yet to arrive. Henderson expressed concern over the need to provide more housing relief to individuals in need, but with no timeline for reimbursement in place. She noted that services in 2020 were not 100% reimbursed as DOH felt that HOPWA didn’t do enough to advertise the available funding. It is because of this that HOPWA is skeptical about taking additional funding to bridge gaps if they are not certain that they will be reimbursed to sustain programming. Hillsborough County hopes to find more housing to offer, but contracts keep increasing prices once they know that the City of Tampa is willing to pay. They are currently looking for housing in Ybor’s industrial district to house 100-300 people at once.  Henderson continued and noted a slight increase in HOPWA funds, with three-year agreement in place. They do not expect to advertise procurement for new services for another 3 years unless additional funding is received. They are currently using administration funds to have applications for the city and county processed and have been successfully hitting the mark of processing approximately 1,000 applications per week. They are currently focused on those who are 50% below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) and will be moving on to those 80% below the FPL.  Care Council member, J. Carl Devine, asked why it’s so difficult for smaller organizations to receive HOPWA funding and Henderson replied that they advertised and requested smaller organizations sit on procurement committees. She went on that HOPWA must consider the families and cannot rely on an agency to continue to receive funding and avoid disrupting services, thus they execute 3-year contracts. Henderson continued that all size agencies are encouraged to apply – they are more concerned with providing housing in all 4 counties they serve and not the size of the agency providing services. Devine responded with frustration over the lack of advertisement of the request for applications (RFA) and then asked how many minority-owned agencies are funded by HOPWA and Henderson explained that only 501(c)(3) non-profits are eligible, thus applying agencies cannot be owned.  Planning Council Support (PCS) staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani presented and reviewed the Tampa – Saint Petersburg Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) 2020 HIV Care Continuum Report and the Tampa – Saint Petersburg EMA 2020 – 2021 Epidemiology Report. Both of which, were voted on and adopted by the Care Council.  Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) Co-Chair, Lillie Bruton, presented and reviewed the Part A expenditure report with a preface that the expenditures reviewed at that time are quite different from the actual expenditures as Part A is almost spent-out at this time. No attendees asked questions about the report.  The meeting ran over time as Bernice K. McCoy, MPH, Associate Director of Social Medicine Programs in the Division of Emergency Medicine at Tampa General Hospital presented Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA) Exchange Tampa to Care Council members to share their plans for Tampa. |
| **2020 TAMPA – SAINT PETERSBURG ELIGIBLE METROPOLITAN AREA (EMA) NEEDS ASSESSMENT** | Planning Council Support (PCS) support staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, briefly reviewed the 2020 Needs Assessment with committee members, but had to table a thorough discussion and vote due to a lack of in-person quorum. The 2020 Needs Assessment summarizes all the components included in the West Central Florida Ryan White Care Council needs assessment process during the last year. This Needs Assessment includes the Epidemiology and Care Continuum reports, reviewed by P&E at their March 2021 committee meeting. The Committee will revisit the Needs Assessment at their May 13, 2021 meeting in the hopes of voting to forward the report on to the Care Council for adoption. |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/**  **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Committee Co-Chair and Empath Partners in Care (EPIC) representative, Sheryl Hoolsema reminded members that Dining Out for Life will be held on April 29, 2021 and advised those interested to visit www.dinetb.org for a comprehensive list of participating restaurants.  Committee member and Care Council Chair, Nolan Finn, reminded members that the Spring Florida Comprehensive Planning Network’s (FCPN) meeting will be held on April 27 and 28, 2021.  *\* Staff Post-Note: following this committee meeting, the FCPN announced that they have cancelled and postponed the Spring 2021 meeting to a later date. This date will be announced once finalized. \** |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. |
| **SUNSHINE LAW** | **PLEASE REMEMBER:** Florida's **SUNSHINE LAW** requires that meetings are noticed and open to the public, and that minutes are taken at each meeting. For the Care Council, this means that meetings are advertised in advance and members of the public are welcome to attend and participate in public comment. Notes are taken to make sure a record of the meeting is made so anyone can read what action was taken.    The **SUNSHINE LAW** does not allow members of the same council or committee to talk to each other outside of a publicly noticed meeting about matters that might come before the Council for a vote. For the Care Council, this means that every member of the Council must decide how to vote on their own and must make sure not to discuss upcoming agenda items or other council matters with other council members. |