

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**RESOURCE PRIORITIZATION AND ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**EPIC CLEARWATER SUNCOAST HOSPICE GARDEN HOUSE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**

**11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dave Konnerth, at 11:05 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present In-Person: Lillie Bruton, Nolan Finn, Dave Konnerth, Joy Winheim, Elizabeth Rugg  Members Present Virtually/Conference Call: Priya Rajkumar, Marylin Merida  Members Absent: None.  Guests Present: David Cavalleri, Emily Hughart  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold, Rose Martinez  Lead Agency Staff Present: Yashika Everhart, Darius Lightsey  Health Council Staff Present: Lisa Nugent, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | None |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | **The minutes for September 10, 2020 were approved by acclamation (M: Winheim; S: Bruton).**  **The minutes for October 8, 2020 were approved by acclamation (M: Rugg; S: Winheim).**  **The minutes for December 10, 2020 were approved by acclamation (M: Bruton; S: Rajkumar).** |
| CARE COUNCIL REPORT | Planning Council Support staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani gave the Care Council 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. 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.  The Hillsborough 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.  Arnold then 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.  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.  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 Pinellas EHE awardees, led by Gwendolyn Reese, starting March 10, 2021.  Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (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 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.  Membership committee Chair, Tonicia Freeman-Foster, reported that the membership committee 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. |
| RECIPIENT UPDATE & EXPENDITURE REPORT | Recipient staff, Aubrey Arnold, began the Part A report by announcing the March 15, 2021 deadline for all claim submissions and noting that the presented expenditure report does not include February 2021 financials. Part A expects to spend-down 98% of their total award and pointed out that expenditures are on target for nearly every service provided, except for Local AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (LPAP) and Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA). These two service categories are now well-supported by other funding streams and Arnold noted that this may mean diverting approximately $400,000 from both to cover gaps in care and unmet need, such as Oral Health.  Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, inquired about how the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding was spent and Arnold and Part A staff Rose Martinez agreed to provide a report to the committee as soon as possible. Arnold noted that they received an additional $125,000 in September 2020, after receipt of initial award on April 1, 2020 possibly pointing to additional money in the next funding cycle.  PCS staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, asked if third-party mental health services such as TalkSpace and BetterHelp, are covered by Ryan White Mental Health funding. Arnold explained that reimbursement is provided solely to contracted providers. He added that the success of access to care via telehealth warrants modifiers for the e2Hillsborough database to track usage. |
| LEAD AGENCY UPDATE | Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart, thanked PCS staff for the Part B update and added that Part B is wrapping up their end up year financials, having only just received February invoices from providers. |
| COMMUNITY INPUT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS | Member, Joy Winheim, announced that Dining for Life will begin on April 29, 2021 with approximately 25 participating restaurants and directed members to DineTB.org for more information. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. |

: