

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC)**

**VIRTUAL GOTOWEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Chair, Elizabeth Rugg at 1:34 P.M. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Elizabeth Rugg, Amanda Miller, Michelle Keyes  Members Absent: Kim Molnar, Terry Law, Peggy Wallace  Guests Present: Kristen Ziegler, Nicole Kish, Denise Mote  Recipient Staff Present: Dorinda Seth, Aubrey Arnold  Lead Agency Staff Present: Darius Lightsey  Health Council Staff Present: Lisa Nugent, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | None |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | All minutes were tabled until in-person meetings reconvene. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Planning Council Support (PCS) staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, provided the Care Council report. The Care Council met on June 2, 2021, at Metro Inclusive Health in Saint Petersburg. Action items included the approval of two new member applications; however, the Care Council did not have quorum so could not vote. Members also reviewed a Part A expenditure report as an informational item.  Hillsborough County Attorney, Katherine Benson, gave a presentation on the Sunshine Law and how it applies to the Care Council and its committees. Staff stated she had received notes from the presentation if anyone wanted to view them.  Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, shared that we are now in the second quarter of the Part A grant year, as well as the Ending the HIV Epidemic grant year. All reporting conditions for the grant award have been completed. Recipient staff and Planning Council staff recently completed a submitted the progress report for the Part A grant.  Part B reported that there are 26 clients that ADAP has identified that may qualify for Marketplace health plans. Now that the enrollment period for the Marketplace has been extended until August, ADAP counselors will be getting in touch with them to help enroll them in plans. Part B also made an announcement that University of South Florida Pediatrics will be using funding that the Biden Administration is allocating to barbershops to reach underserved populations. Staff asked if anyone from USF on the call had any other information about the initiative.  Anne Cronyn from the City of Tampa HOPWA announced that the City of Tampa has a block grant that will be released soon for $500,000 through Zoom Grants. There will be an upcoming technical assistance webinar.  The Care Council will not be meeting in July so the next meeting will be August 4th, 2021, at Metro Inclusive Health’s Saint Petersburg office. |
| **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & EXPANSION OF RYAN WHITE SYSTEM OF CARE** | 1. CVS Mental Health Article (Attachment) 2. CVS Offering In-Store Mental Health Counseling in Tampa Area (Attachment)   HSAC Chair, Elizabeth Rugg, began a discussion about mental health services and the potential for an expansion of the Ryan White system of care, referring to both articles sent to committee members to review. Recipient, Aubrey Arnold explained that Part A cannot contract with for-profit agencies, so the program cannot provide funding to CVS pharmacies for mental health services. Rugg replied that she is thinking of our providers contracting with CVS, as a sub-contractor, to double up the network of mental health providers. For example, not solely relying on services offered by Metro Inclusive Health, for example, but also what CVS can offer clients. Recipient, Dorinda Seth, confirmed that the program can’t have nonprofits turn around and contract with for-profit institutes or agencies, especially because they act as competition. Seth reminded the committee that Part A provides telehealth already. Rugg then questioned how Part A contracts with dental providers and Seth replied that they that are all subcontracted, as they didn’t want to be bothered with billing and reporting requirements, as it would create administrative burdens. She went on that as a provider at a non-profit, they wouldn’t apply for funding to then turn around and give it to someone else. In the case of oral health, no non-profit was willing to come to the table as was the case many years ago.  Arnold added that Part A has monthly Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) calls with the area’s Project Officer (PO) and would be happy to discuss this with Melody (PO) before going any further into these considerations. Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, expressed that he considered Rugg’s suggestion to be a great idea and is in favor of expanded services, but that he shares the same concerns that Seth shared. Lightsey questioned why a subcontractor want to give their funding away? He went on that the area already has contractors with Part A and Part B, who already provide this service with a telehealth option. Lightsey added that he could foresee a lot of pushback with and is unsure if Part B would have the ability to do so. Lightsey offered to ask the state office for guidance and reminded the committee that Part B did not do Request for Applications (RFA) this funding cycle, instead extending contracts for another year. Suncoast Health Council staff, Lisa Nugent inquired about the current capacity within mental health systems and noted that, in general if they are not a Ryan White (RW) client then it can take weeks to months to see someone. She went on to question if the current provider pool is sufficient or if there needs to be an expansion of providers. Rugg asked if a waiting list exists and Arnold replied that utilization over the past couple of years, in Pasco and Hernando Counties, have small allocations with one provider, who has expressed unmet need. However, this provider did not request additional funds last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that typically Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties general spend down all their allocated funding for mental health services. He went on that as far as unmet need, he’s not sure there is a great deal of it. Part A also funds substance misuse counseling but will have to look at this closer. With the anomaly of last year, Part A’s allocations have been sufficient thus far in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.  Lisa Nugent asked if any Case Managers (CM) have experience with how long it takes for a client to receive mental health or substance misuse services after they’ve been scheduled, with Rugg agreeing that many CM agencies keep information on unmet need, calling it uncompensated care. She wondered if they break unmet need into referrals for mental health as opposed to other services. Lightsey offered that Part B does not fund mental health. Arnold said that would be dependent on a utilization component to know how much unmet need there may or may not be but would investigate the numbers and report back. Guest and CM, Kristin Ziegler noted that Empath Partners in Care (EPIC) provides mental health services and sends referrals to their mental health counselor, but many may not have health insurance to cover the costs. Committee member, Michelle Keyes noted that Metro Inclusive Health is serving a lot more people than ever, but the need continues to grow.  Rugg then shared that she doesn’t see this as giving money to competitors because the award would still go to the non-profit, who would then, in turn, be paying a person or provider a fee as they would for any other expense, for mental health services. She went on to say that she would be inclined to go after mental health dollars and contract out to CVS to see if it would affect quality of care. Rugg doesn’t see it as forcing funded providers to give away funding, but rather to encourage and expand the system of care. She continued that a lot of telehealth occurred over the past year, and it worked very well. She would like to see CMs attend HSAC and give a formal report to tell us how telehealth changed their system of care. Nugent asked how long it takes for a client to see a counselor once referred to Mental Health (MH) services and both Ziegler and Keyes offered to inquire more at their agency.  Arnold added that providers offered many groups and individual substance misuse counseling in-person and virtually, ultimately increasing utilization of both services. Rugg felt that it would benefit measuring the data to see how effective telehealth was for substance use counseling: Did they remain adherent to care in comparison to those who saw providers in-person, for example? Arnold offered to request reportable outcomes from Quality Management (QM) to share at the next HSAC meeting. Keyes offered to see if Metro’s Behavioral Health Director would be available to speak at the next meeting. |
| **REVIEW OF IMPACT OF ADAP & ACA** | Lead Agency staff, Darius Lightsey, reported that Part B has a list of 35 people eligible to be screened for Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans and the most recent report noted there were some clients who did not want to enter an ACA plan. He went on to share that they are down to 19 eligible clients with the ACA enrollment period extended again. Part B is doubling efforts with CM agencies and Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart has spent a lot of time talking with supervisors and found that many times things are not communicated to CM, and they don’t have a good understanding of how to apply these situations. |
| **ANNOUNCEMENTS/**  **COMMUNITY CONCERNS** | Aubrey Arnold reported that there are over 1200 clients within the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) that are enrolled in ACA plans through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). Rugg asked if the open formulary with ADAP would impact health insurance services and Arnold replied that if that occurs that there would be less demand on local allocations for pharmacy if nothing else. He went on that utilization of Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) and local pharmacy, have decreased substantially over the past couple of years. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m. |