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

**GOTO WEBINAR**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 | Attendees Present: Holly Beaver, Lisa Conder, Michelle McKinney, Marylin Merida, Amanda Miller, Christine Santos, Barbara Szelag, Bernard Washington  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | None |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | The committee reviewed the minutes for July 22, 2021 and did not make any changes. Now that the committee has become a work group, minutes will be taken and reviewed but will not need to be approved by a vote. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council met on September 1, 2021. At this meeting, the Care Council voted to suspend the bylaws, adopting Rules of Engagement instead for a period of one year. Under this new structure, committees have been collapsed and all committee work will now be happening at the Care Council. Katie informed members that WICY&F will now be meeting as a work group. Staff will continue to provide support to the group, preparing materials, taking attendance, and transcribing minutes, but the group will no longer be subject to some of the formalities of being a committee.  Katie asked the group how they would like to handle leadership going forward, as they would no longer need an elected Chair and Co-Chair. Lisa Conder stated she believed there still needed to be some leadership in place. Marylin Merida suggested rotating through the membership alphabetically, with members taking turns chairing the meeting each month. Everyone liked that idea and staff agreed to contact two members in advance of each meeting and ask whether they would like to take a turn serving as Chair. Members thanked former Chair, Holly Beaver, for her leadership and said she had done a great job leading the meetings.  The next Care Council meeting will be on October 6, 2021 at Metro Inclusive Health in Tampa. |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Lisa shared a story of witnessing an incident where a car stopped in the middle of the street and someone jumped out and ran away. Another car pulled over and tried to see what they could do to help. Lisa remarked that she found this inspiring, in a situation like this that someone could stop to ask, “how can I help?” rather than getting frustrated.  Holly shared a story from her work with an immigrant family who had a baby who was born on a bus and was not in care. Holly shared the team effort that it was to find a translator for this family and get them set up with case management and reported that they are now doing well.  Marylin remarked how it’s important to remember in this line of work that it’s not about the numbers but about the people and that it’s important to connect with people and let them know that their lives matter. |
| **REVIEW COMMITTEE WORK PLAN** | The group reviewed the work plan and made language changes wherever “Chair” was specifically listed. Items that were formerly the responsibility of the Chair will now be shared responsibilities of the whole group.  The group also discussed the possibility of hosting spring and fall events. Members believed it was too late to plan an event for the fall but agreed to start discussing a potential spring event at the next meeting. There is still uncertainty about the safety of holding in-person events, however, the last virtual event the committee hosted had very low turnout. Food is typically a big draw for people to attend the events, so the group discussed possibility offering gift cards to attendees if the event is virtual again. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Staff, Katie Scussel, mentioned Planning Council Staff is currently working on the Part A grant application and had recently received the data from the state from 2020. HIV incidence greatly decreased in 2020, more so than in the previous year. While this is positive, it is likely due to a decrease in testing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Katie mentioned that several WICY&F members mentioned less testing happening in 2020. Katie agreed to share the data with the group in the future.  Marylin remarked that she was concerned about the newly appointed Surgeon General of Florida and his lack of support for vaccines and mask-wearing as public health strategies for combatting COVID-19. Marylin said she was particularly concerned for children, who do not have protections in their schools and are still ineligible to be vaccinated.  Marylin also told the group that a Part D advisory group that she is part of is wanting to do focus groups with adults who were contracted HIV perinatally. Barbara Szelag told Marylin she could run a report on Part D clients and get back to her |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Katie mentioned that there will be an upcoming cultural humility training for Care Council members on October 12th and committee members and guests are also welcome to attend. The training will be facilitated by Gwendolyn Reese. Lisa added that Ms. Reese facilitated a training for the Pinellas Ending the HIV Epidemic Planning Council that she attended and that it was great. Lisa said she found the training very helpful, particularly as a White woman providing services in a largely Black community. Katie said she would forward the registration information to the group once it was available. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM. |