



**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
GOTO MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022
1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting of the Ryan White Care Council was called to order by E.S. Myles, Vice Chair, at 1:31 p.m. Myles acknowledged that the Chair, Nolan Finn, was under the weather and would not be on the meeting. Myles sent Nolan his well wishes.
- ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS** See attached attendance list.
Myles acknowledged the resignation of Tonicia Freeman-Foster and asked everyone to thank her for her service to the Care Council.
- ICEBREAKER** Vice Chair, Myles, led an icebreaker by asking all participants to share one thing they are leaving behind in 2021.
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- MOMENT OF SILENCE** Vice Chair, Myles, requested a moment of silence to remember those we've lost and those who continue to fight the fight to end HIV.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Members reviewed the minutes from November 3, 2021, and did not have any comments or changes. Members were unable to vote as they were meeting virtually.
- CHAIR/VICE CHAIR'S REPORT** Vice Chair, E.S. Myles, recognized the work of member J. Carl Devine for his Kwanza event, as well as member Antonio Miles for hosting several successful recent events. Myles noted the reason he likes to highlight these events in his report is that they're grassroots efforts and take a lot of dedications and heart to make them successful.
- RECIPIENT'S REPORT** Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, introduced himself and began the Part A report by announcing that because of a recent HRSA policy change, the Part A and Part B programs are looking at updating the eligibility requirements so that clients can renew their eligibility once a year, rather than every six months. Aubrey

noted that the change is not finalized and that they are still working out the details and will be coordinating with the Florida Department of Health so that the policy is the same for Part A and Part B. Aubrey stated that the change is expected later in 2022 and that he will keep everyone updated.

Aubrey went on to mention that the Part A program is in the process of renewing all their contracts for fiscal year 2022. The new fiscal year begins March 1, 2022, and will run through February 28, 2023. Aubrey noted that the Part A program received news from their HRSA project officer that they will likely be starting the year with a partial grant award, which has been typical for the past several years. Part A asked for approximately \$10.8 million, which if they receive it, will be a \$500,000 increase from the previous year.

Aubrey noted that the new contracts include provisions for providers to be able to provide long acting injectables to their clients. There is a new treatment on the market called Cabenuva that must be provided in a clinic setting.

Aubrey finished his report by noting that the writing team for the new Integrated Plan had a productive kick-off planning session the previous day. The Integrated Plan will be due to HRSA in December. Lisa Nugent with Suncoast Health Council will be coordinating the project. Aubrey noted that this project is a community-wide project, and the writing team will be bringing sections to the Care Council for input and comments as they are written.

**LEAD AGENCY
REPORT**

Yashika Everhart gave the Part B report and stated that she did not have many additional updates, other than echoing Aubrey's report on upcoming changes to eligibility. Yashika also mentioned that open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act health care plans will be ending on January 15, so anyone still in need of coverage should reach out to their case managers and get appointments with ADAP staff as soon as possible if they need assistance enrolling in a plan.

Darius Lightsey continued the report noting that Part B is in the final quarter of their grant year, so they are working on spending down funds and talking to their providers to get ready for the start of their next grant year starting April 1, 2022.

**CARE COUNCIL
PLANNING
SUPPORT (PCS)
STAFF REPORT**

PCS staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, announced that Planning CHATT, a national group that provides trainings and technical assistance to planning councils, has opened up applications for ten planning councils to participate in a learning collaborative on recruitment and retention. Our area will need 3-5 people to attend the sessions, which will be 90 minutes each scheduled out over the next six months. Naomi will be sending out the information to our email list and anyone interested joining should get in touch with them.

Naomi also mentioned the upcoming Care Council orientation on January 11th and encouraged all members to attend. The orientation is required for new members and will be a good refresher for everyone. The meeting link was sent out the previous day and Naomi asked if anyone did not receive it to please get

in touch with staff.

**HOUSING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PEOPLE
WITH HIV/AIDS
(HOPWA)
REPORT**

HOPWA representative and member, Anne Cronyn, announced that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has granted the waiver of the fair market rent limit for the HOPWA program. This means that agencies assisting clients in finding housing through the HOPWA program are no longer restricted by what HUD deems fair market rent.

Anne went on to announce that the HOPWA program received competitive funding in the amount of \$2.25 million over three years for additional rental assistance with intensive case management and better wrap around services, to keep people more stably housed. HOPWA will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for providers for this line of funding. Anne will have more updates when the timeline is finalized, and the RFP is ready to share.

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATIONS**

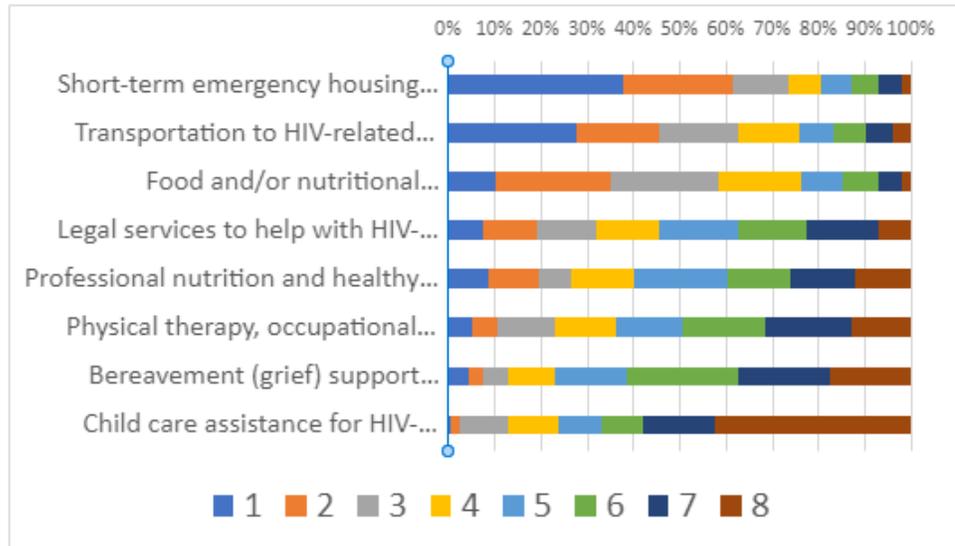
There were two membership applications on the table, Angela Kellogg and Barbara Hay, however, members were unable to vote due to the meeting being virtual.

**WOMEN,
INFANTS,
CHILDREN,
YOUTH &
FAMILIES
(WICY&F)
WORKGROUP
REPORT**

PCS staff, Katie Scussel, reported that WICY&F did not meet in November or December. WICY&F will meet on January 27, 2022, on GoToMeeting.

SERVICE PRIORITIES

PCS staff, Katie Scussel, presented the results of the Ryan White Needs Assessment for Budget Reallocations Survey. Katie explained that the survey was meant to capture the priorities for some of the supportive services that are not currently funded by Ryan White in our area. The results of the survey, showing the rank of each service category, are as follows:



PCS staff Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani presented the 2021-2022 Service Priorities, explaining that these priorities are normally developed by the Planning and Evaluation Committee, taking into consideration the results of the most recent Needs Assessment. This is the first time that the Care Council will be working on the Service Priorities, rather than the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Naomi advised that the Service Priorities document, as well as the results from the survey just presented, would be sent out via email so that members would have time to review all of the documents before the Service Priorities were discussed further in the next meeting.

Background

The West Central Florida Ryan White Care Council sets service priorities based on information in the 2019 Needs Assessment and other total service area (TSA) surveys.

Care Council is reminded that priority rankings do not necessarily correlate directly with funding allocations. Actual allocations are made by other sources of funding are considered in the process.

Action Required

THAT THE CARE COUNCIL DETERMINE THE FY 2021/2022 SERVICE PRIORITIES.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services | 17. Child Care Services |
| 2. AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance (local) | 18. Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals |
| 3. Emergency Financial Assistance* | 19. Medical Nutrition Therapy |
| 4. Medical Case Management | 20. Psychosocial Support Services |
| 5. Oral Health (dental) Care | 21. Substance Abuse Services-residential |
| 6. Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance | 22. Home Health Care |
| 7. Mental Health Services | 23. Home and Community Based Health Services |
| 8. Substance Abuse Services - outpatient | 24. Rehabilitation Services |
| 9. Health Education/Risk Reduction | 25. Linguistic Services (interpretation & translation) |
| 10. Case Management (non-medical) | 26. Hospice Services |
| 11. Housing Services | 27. Respite Care |
| 12. Treatment Adherence Counseling | 28. Referral Services |
| 13. Early Intervention Services | |
| 14. Medical Transportation Services | |
| 15. Legal Services | |
| 16. Outreach Services | |

*The Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) category will cover ADAP medications only, for those eligible clients who have been approved for ADAP and are still in the waiting period, which will serve as a “bridge” program in the manner it has historically.

Aubrey Arnold noted that Naomi did a great job explaining the Service Priorities and said he would like to add an overview of Part A expenditures, so members could see how much funding is going to each service.

Yashika Everhart added that though Part B is not necessarily required to follow the same priorities decided by the Care Council, that Part B has always followed in line with Part A and funded services in partnership with them. Yashika stated that Part B is excited about the process of the whole Care Council working together on adjusting the Service Priorities and thanked staff for presenting the information and the quick turnaround on the survey.

Aubrey presented a spreadsheet of Part A expenditures, highlighting in particular how the emergency pharmacy funds have been significantly underutilized in the past year. \$40,000 from AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance was reallocated to Oral Health in 2021, as well as \$100,000 reduced from Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) and distributed to other categories, for a total of \$140,000. A portion of this funding will likely be redistributed into other services in the upcoming funding year. Aubrey discussed funding for Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services (OAHS) and noted there is potential for increased costs in the upcoming year with the roll out of long acting injectables. Aubrey

also pointed out the disparity between the two more rural Part A counties of Pasco and Hernando for mental health and substance misuse services and noted that he hopes to increase funding in those areas.

Vincent Kaborycha, member, thanked Aubrey for drawing attention to the needs in Pasco and Hernando and said that he has been advocating for increased services in these areas for many years. Aubrey went on to say that he recognizes the disparity between these two counties, compared to Pinellas and Hillsborough, and wants to give attention to that, as well as giving more attention to the services we have been unable to fund, reflected in the recent Needs Assessment survey. He noted that one positive is that the two counties receiving Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) grants, Hillsborough, and Pinellas, have been able to use EHE funds for emergency housing, so there are some new resources in the area for housing.

Anne Cronyn noted that the City of Tampa had an inquiry about Ryan White funds for down payment assistance for a home purchase. Anne asked Aubrey if he had heard of that. Aubrey said that he had not, that Ryan White is able to pay utilities and rental assistance in the short term, but that they cannot provide down payment assistance or any payments on a mortgage. Dorinda Seth added that that was accurate, because any assistance on a mortgage is seen as cash payment to a client, which is not allowable. Dorinda went on to say that it is a shame, as with the current housing market, mortgage payments are often much more affordable than current rent prices. Anne added that there is some mortgage assistance through HOPWA but that it is limited and available on a short-term basis. These services are being administered by Metro Inclusive Health and EPIC.

**PUBLIC POLICY
REPORT/
COMMUNITY
INPUT
PREVENTION
ACTIVITIES/
QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

None

Member, Teriko Perkins, thanked everyone who came out for Midway Specialty Care's World AIDS Day (WAD) event, Drag for The Cure. Teriko said it was an awesome event and the support was amazing. On February 6th, in celebration of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Midway is doing a drag pageant at Southern Nights in Ybor City. There will be rapid HIV testing, linkage to care, and PrEP education. The flyer will be sent out in the next InfoShare.

Member, Antonio Miles, announced Positively U's bimonthly giveaway of clothing and food items. It will be Thursday, January 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Antonio also reported that their Miracle on Waters event before Christmas was a success with great turnout. Positively U did free HIV and STI testing and gave out hams, turkeys, and non-perishable food items.

Darius Lightsey thanked everyone who supported the World AIDS Day event last month at Enoch Davis Center in St. Pete, as well as the Ujima Men's

Conference. Darius also mentioned that there will be a Pinellas EHE meeting this month on January 27th at 11:00 a.m. A save-the-date flyer has already gone out and Chris Walker will be sending out additional information.

Darius went on to ask the Vice Chair if he may raise a concern, as part of community input. Darius stated that in November he raised a concern that a staff member of Suncoast Health Council, an agency contracted to provide services to the Care Council, had joined the Care Council and was voting. Darius said that he feels it's a conflict of interest for any staff of Suncoast Health Council to be a voting member. The original staff member that joined, Elizabeth Rugg, has resigned, however, Barbara Hay, one of the new applicants on the table to be voted in, is also staff of Suncoast Health Council. Darius said he also found it questionable that some members received an email advocating for the membership of Barbara Hay. Darius said his concerns were not with the person specifically but with anyone from Suncoast Health Council joining the Care Council, but that ultimately it was up to members to decide, as they are the ones that will vote on Barbara Hay's membership.

J. Carl Devine, Member stated that he also sees it as a conflict and that the Care Council members as a group need to look at whether they want people working for the Care Council voting with the Care Council. J. Carl said he believed the name should be withdrawn.

Elizabeth Rugg, Executive Director of Suncoast Health Council, then spoke up to clarify that while Barbara Hay is a staff member of Suncoast Health Council, that she does not work in Planning Council Support. She is the program manager of the Insurance Services Program (ISP), a funded Ryan White service, and has nothing to do with Planning Council Support. Elizabeth went on to say that she feels that it is inappropriate to say that someone is in conflict, just because they work for her, and that every time a funded provider agency votes on service priorities or funding allocations, that they are in conflict and voting in their own best interest. Elizabeth said for the sake of transparency, there needs to be a bigger conversation about conflict of interest among provider members. Elizabeth went on to say that she joined the Care Council because she was a chair of a subcommittee and was offered membership when the Rules of Engagement were adopted, and the subcommittees were dissolved. Elizabeth said she had served as chair of Health Services Advisory Committee for several years, having received approval from the Recipient to do so. Elizabeth said that while she was a member, the funding for Planning Council Support was not in conflict because it never comes before Care Council for voting. Elizabeth concluded that if Barbara Hay were to become a member, she would have no more conflict than any other provider on Care Council. She also said that the letters that went out were not meant to advocate for Barbara Hay but to give background on how she became a member, why she resigned, and to explain that the conflict over her membership should not delay the process of Barbara Hay being able to become a member simply because she's a member of Elizabeth's staff.

Lisa Nugent, Planning Director of Suncoast Health Council, then joined the conversation to explain that she supervises Care Council staff, Naomi and Katie.

Lisa also stated that she is responsible for reviewing all of the HRSA guidelines related to the planning council and strictly from that standpoint, that there is no conflict.

Darius stated that there is no other entity besides Suncoast Health Council that provides administrative services to the Care Council and that that is his point and why he believes no one from Suncoast Health Council should be a voting member. Elizabeth stated again that Barbara has nothing to do with Planning Council Support. Darius stated again that she works for Suncoast Health Council and that she takes direction from Lisa, who takes direction from Elizabeth. Both Lisa and Elizabeth clarified that Barbara does not take any direction from Lisa and Lisa stated that she is not and has never been a supervisor of Barbara Hay. Darius said that he doesn't know that or trust that.

Elizabeth then said it is not a matter of pushing a staff person from Suncoast Health Council onto the Care Council, it's a matter of having someone on Care Council that can represent the interests of clients who are enrolled in and waitlisted for the Insurance Services Program (ISP). J. Carl asked if Barbara would represent the interests better than the case managers and Elizabeth said that Barbara knows the insurance industry and the needs of the clients.

Member Marylin Merida then joined the conversation to say that historically, from her perspective, the process has always privileged certain people in that much of the people around the table receive direct funding from Part A or Part B and that the conversation should be around how we reconcile that. Marylin said that there needs to be a better process when funding is up for a vote, for those members who are in conflict to state their conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the vote.

Aubrey Arnold agreed with Marylin, saying that the Care Council has always been top heavy in terms of having a lot of providers at the table, that there's nothing to prohibit that, but that it's also a matter of perception and that his wish and objective is that we have more involvement from the community that is unaffiliated and non-aligned. We need less providers at the table and more community members who are not interested in contracts or that have vested interest in funding.

Yashika Everhart agreed with Aubrey and said that the process does privilege providers overall across the state, including at Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN), and that that is the way that the system is set up. Yashika suggested, as a path to move forward, that if Elizabeth Rugg feels that Barbara Hay is the best suited candidate that knows the needs of ISP clients that perhaps we can partner with an ISP client who can learn alongside Barbara and gain some of the knowledge of the system. Yashika said that she would love to see a lot more consumers at the table, in addition to staff, but that we need to figure out something so that it doesn't appear that we have a lot of leadership at the table but no participation from people living with HIV. Yashika said that overall, there needs to be less hesitancy and more willingness to change so that we can see the Care Council grow.

Marylin agreed with Yashika and said that the only way she believes we are going to consistently engage consumers is if we rethink the structure and start offering incentives. Marylin said that clients are the experts, and they are the only ones at the table that are not being paid to be there, so we need to find a way to compensate them.

Elizabeth agreed with Marylin but said that after the discussion that day, she would be withdrawing Barbara's application to the Care Council to protect her employee because she believes it would be an unwelcoming environment for her.

Marylin asked where we go from here and Aubrey said he believes we need to go back to the Rules of Engagement to look at membership and recruitment and rethink how we do things. J. Carl asked if some of the unexpended funds discussed earlier in the meeting could be used to compensate clients and Aubrey explained that unfortunately HRSA limits what we are able to use these funds for. While we can compensate clients for travel and childcare expenses, we aren't able to fund incentives beyond that. Aubrey agreed that these forms of compensation are not really working and it's unfortunate we are limited in this way. Marylin said that she has seen some successful models, but that the funding did not come from Part A or Part B. Lisa Nugent added that the opportunity with Planning CHATT that Naomi mentioned earlier in the meeting may give us some opportunity to see what some other planning councils are doing across the country and be at the forefront of making some of these changes.

Myles asked if as a group we could work on putting something together to bring the community into the Care Council, whether that means a special committee or a town hall meeting, to iron out plans to really act on making these changes and increasing community involvement. Naomi said that that is something we can put together and wrapped up the discussion by highlighting some future opportunities to get more involved with recruitment, such as the Planning CHATT learning collaborative, and encouraging members to bring any of their ideas to staff. Naomi thanked Myles for doing an incredible job leading the meeting.

Myles concluded by saying that he was thankful we arrived where we did at the end of the discussion. He said that as a person who is both living with HIV and is also a provider, that there have been times he has not felt comfortable at this table and that he is excited to be having this conversation. Myles encouraged everyone who wants to see these changes being made to get involved, to show up, and to throw in as much energy as they can.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:37 p.m.

Note: A recording of the meeting is available by request

For further details about this Care Council meeting, please visit thecarecouncil.org to access meeting minutes and handouts.

**LIST OF
HANDOUTS AND
ATTACHMENTS**

1. January 5, 2022, Agenda
2. November 3, 2021, Minutes
- 3. Background: Service Priorities 2021-2022**
- 4. Membership Applications (x3)**
5. January 2022 Calendar

**WEBSITE
ARTICLES CITED**

None.

Care Council Members	Attendance
Nolan Finn (<i>Chair</i>)	<i>EX</i>
(Myles) Edward Myles (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	Virtual
Rachel Brown	Virtual
Lillie Bruton	Virtual
Joel Carrier	Virtual
Lisa Conder	Virtual
Anne Cronyn	Virtual
J Carl Devine	Virtual
Sheryl Hoolsema	
Vincent Kaborycha	Virtual
Nicole Kish	Virtual
Kamaria Laffrey	Virtual
Jeffrey Lluberes	Virtual
Michelle McKinney	Virtual
Marylin Merida	Virtual
Antonio Miles	Virtual
Kim Molnar	Virtual
Amanda Miller	Virtual
Teriko Perkins	Virtual
Peggy Wallace	
Charles Ware	
Associate Members	Attendance
Recipient Staff	Attendance
Aubrey Arnold	Virtual
Dorinda Seth	Virtual
Maria Teresa Jaureguizar	Virtual
Lead Agency Staff	Attendance
Darius Lightsey	Virtual
Yashika Everhart	Virtual

Health Council Staff	Attendance
Lisa Nugent	Virtual
Katie Scussel	Virtual
Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani	Virtual
Regular Guests	Attendance
Dave Konnerth	
Jim Roth	
Emily Hughart	Virtual
David Cavalleri	
Kirsty Gutierrez	
Angela Kellogg	
Michelle Keyes	Virtual
Denise Mote	
Mike Neuges	Virtual
Sam Quintero	Virtual
Elizabeth Rugg	Virtual
Donna Sabatino	
Chris Walker	Virtual
Miyisha Wall	Virtual
Guests	Attendance
Michael Alonso	
Jasmine Alvarado	
Katherine Barbera	
Conrad Barzarea	
Catherine Benson	
Frances Benton	
Shakayla Birch	
Dawn Branley	
Zack Brown	
Taryn Buckley	
Sarah Bulla	
Jose Camino	
Joshua Cardwell	
Michael Carlton	
Astrid Carrasquillo	
Mike Catala	
Gregory Clark	
Everis Clarke	
Donna Corpuz	
Diamond Cunningham	
Scott Dartange	
Luis Delgado	
Amber DiPietro	
Michael Dunn	
Darlene Duran	

Lolita Emanuel-Brown	
Brittany Frederick	
Karlie Gallagher	
Geneva Galloway	
Beth Gotti	
Tashann Grant	
Pierre Guttenberg	
Khalil Hall	
Laurie Hardy	Virtual
Indica Harris	
Tequila Harris	
Lovell Harp	
Barbara Hay	Virtual
Shayla Hobbs	
Michael Holder	
Chris Holland	
Sherri Hoover	
Nicole Houston	
Karen Hoyle	
Marilyn Jones	
Vicki Kenyon	
Janet Kitchen	
Josh Kratz	
Topher Larkin	
Grace Levy-Clarke	
Andrew Maldonado	
Olinda Manjenje	
Bernice McCoy	
Kenisha McCoy	
Andrew McFarbme	
Sean McIntosh	
Mark Mischan	
Carmen Millie Montanez	
Lauren Miller	
Jamie Morano	
Sheyla Nobles	
James Ogedegbe	
Vicky Oliver	
Steve Palermo	
Indira Palomino	Virtual
Terrell Parker	
Guttenberg Pierre	
Juliana Pinero	
Dee Prendergast	
Hope Sharon Proell	
Ashley Quidaciolu	
Dedra Richardson	
Kelly Roy	Virtual

Allison Ruby	
Sheila Ruck	
Christine Santos	
Michelle Scavnicky	
Dartange Scott	
Garrett Sears	
Ashley Smith	
Ashley Snug	
Kristi Thomas	
DeAnne Turner	
Diego Villalba	
Crystal Waddy	
Taylor Witkowski	
Bernard Washington	Virtual
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, February 2, 2022.

Nolan Finn, Chair: _____