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

**GOTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Kamaria Laffrey at 10:03 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Attendees Present: Holly Beaver, Lisa Conder, Paula Delgado, Geneva Galloway, Mary Jones, Kamaria Laffrey, Michelle Mckinney, Marylin Merida, Barbara Szelag, Bernard Washington  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | None |
| **REVIEW OF MINUTES** | The committee reviewed the minutes for October 28, 2021 and did not make any changes. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council met on January 5, 2022. The meeting was virtual, due to the latest surge in COVID cases, so there were no voting items.  The Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, reported that due to a recent policy clarification notice from HRSA, the Part A program is looking to change the requirement for clients to renew their eligibility to once a year, rather than once every six months. This change will be made in collaboration with Part B. The change is not yet finalized but will be expected later in 2022.  Aubrey went on to report that the Part A program is in the process of renewing contracts for the upcoming fiscal year. While the program has only received a partial award so far, we have asked for $10.8 million which, if awarded, would be a $500,000 increase from the previous year. Aubrey added that the new provider contracts contain provisions for providers to be able to provide Cabenuva, a new long-acting injectable now on the market that needs to be administered within a clinic setting.  Finally, Aubrey noted that our area will be working on the next Integrated Plan and will be submitting it to HRSA at the end of the year. The project is being led by Lisa Nugent at Suncoast Health Council and the writing team met and had a successful planning kick off session.  Planning Council Support Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, announced that Planning CHATT, a national organization that provides technical assistance to planning councils, has launched a learning collaborative for ten planning councils across the nation to engage with each other and learn best practices for member recruitment and retention. The Care Council will be applying to participate.  Anne Cronyn with the HOPWA program announced that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved the City of Tampa’s request for a waiver of the fair market rent limit. This means that agencies assisting clients in finding housing through the HOPWA program are no longer restricted by what HUD deems fair market rent  Staff, Katie Scussel and Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, presented the Ryan White Services Needs Assessment Survey results. (These survey results were also presented to WICY&F later in the meeting.)  Finally, as a result of a member application that was currently on the table, members had a discussion about the number of providers on the council, issues of conflict of interest, and wanting to increase the number community members that do not work for funded provider agencies.  Marylin Merida thanked Katie for the summary and said that the conversation, though lively and uncomfortable at times, was needed in order for the Care Council to grow.  Kamaria Laffrey circled back to the Integrated Plan and asked about the plans for community involvement, asking that people living with HIV be involved in the writing process on the front end, rather than approving the plan after it’s already been written. |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Michelle McKinney read aloud Maya Angelou’s poem, “Still I Rise.” Michelle explained that she felt the poem was relevant as we all continue to persevere and engage in this work, despite all of the difficulties we have faced with COVID. Marylin  Geneva Galloway spoke on Positively U’s Empowerment Hour support group that meets every Wednesday on Zoom. She said that in the previous night’s call, a few people on the call spoke about being in a dark place because COVID, deaths of loved ones that have happened recently, and other day-to-day struggles. Geneva reminded the group that this is an important time to really check in on clients and make sure they are okay because many are struggling right now. Michelle thanked Geneva for that reminder and agreed that sometimes we do need to go that extra mile to check in on clients and patients to let them know we care. |
| **SPRING EVENT** | Michelle suggested possibly doing an event for Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day, which is on March 10th. Michelle also said she thought the idea from last meeting to do an outdoor event was a good idea. Michelle suggested Perry Harvey Park in Tampa as a possible location.  Geneva said she works remotely from another state but would love to help in any way she can from a distance. Kamaria asked Geneva if anyone locally from the Tampa Positively U office could be looped into planning as well. Marylin and Lisa Conder also agreed to help.  Kamaria suggested adding language to the invite letting people know we would be taking COVID precautions. Barbara Szelag also suggested asking people to wear masks, even though we’re outside, and everyone agreed.  Michelle suggested the group continue to communicate over email about logistics, including food. Staff, Katie, offered to help and asked everyone to keep her in the loop and let her know if we need to organize any other meetings between the group to get details nailed down. |
| **HIV AND BONE HEALTH** | Staff, Katie Scussel, shared a brief update on the HIV and bone health health educator curriculum that was recently launched by Suncoast Health Council and American Bone Health. Katie gave an overview of some of the risks factors that affect bone health for people living with HIV and the treatment and prevention strategies. Katie also mentioned that ABC Action News recently did a news story on the program featuring a Metro Case Manager and that the video was up on the Care Council Facebook page for anyone to check out. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | 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 services that ranked the highest were short term emergency housing, transportation to HIV-related appointments, food and/or nutritional assistance, and legal services to help with HIV-related issues.  Kamaria asked if there were ever surveys put out case managers and peer navigators to assess the needs of people not engaged in care. Staff, Katie, said that was an interesting idea and that she was not aware of any such survey. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENT** | Michelle announced that February 7th is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and she is working with the Health Department, Ybor Youth Clinic, and Tampa Family to plan an event on February 11th at the Tampa Inn, a motel near Busch Gardens. There will be free HIV and STI testing, COVID vaccines, and other health screenings. There will also be free food. Michelle asked anyone to reach out if anyone wants to participate.  Kamaria made an announcement that in her work on HIV and criminalization, an issue that is coming up is that case managers working with people living with HIV don’t always know the signs to look out for when someone is being threatened with criminalization. Kamaria said she is looking to set up a listening session with case managers to create community support plans, which would be a document to provide to clients to help them prepare for any disruption, such as being arrested. The document could include things like who to contact, who can pick up children from daycare, etc. Kamaria said she is hoping to speak with case managers that are living with HIV to help her make a first draft of this document.  Holly Beaver jumped in to say she thinks this document is a great idea, that she has a patient who was recently arrested and her HIV status is on her arrest information and she wants it removed. Holly said it would be great to have an advocate to go to to help with these issues. Kamaria said she would follow up with Holly on that.  Marylin also added that she thought it was a great idea to be proactive and have a safety plan in place.  Kamaria also mentioned that the SERO Project is doing an introductory webinar to the inaugural HIV Is Not A Crime Awareness Day. Kamaria put the information in the chat for the group said she would share the registration information with staff to distribute. Kamaria mentioned that the date of the awareness day was picked in tandem with National Black HIV Awareness Day to highlight the fact that Black people are disproportionately impacted by HIV criminalization laws. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM. |