

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**METRO INCLUSIVE HEALTH – SAINT PETERSBURG**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting of the Ryan White Care Council was called to order by Nolan Finn, Care Council Chair, at 1:32 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS | See attached attendance list. |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were two additions made to the agenda, under the Planning Council Support Staff report:   1. March Town Hall Announcement 2. Mural Project Report |
| MOMENT OF SILENCE | Vice Chair, Myles, requested a moment of silence to remember those we’ve lost and those who continue the fight to end HIV. |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | Members reviewed the minutes from February 2, 2022, and minor modifications were made to the dollar amount reported by Part A. Members were unable to vote as they were unable to meet in-person quorum. |
| CHAIR/VICE CHAIR’S REPORT | Vice-Chair, E.S. Myles, reported that the Care Council held a community town hall on February 22, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., by way of GoToMeeting. Myles expressed the desire to see more participation from the Care Council, to discuss what type of Care Council they and the community would like to see and be a part of. The next town hall will be held on March 22, 2022, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., by way of GoToMeeting. |
| RECIPIENT’S REPORT | Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, thanked Dorinda Seth for presenting at February’s Care Council meeting in his place. Arnold continued his report, announcing that 18+ contract renewals were completed in February and all contracts are in place for the new grant year. Part A is amid closing out the 21-22 fiscal year; providers have until March 18, 2022, to submit claims from February 2022. They will be working on financial closeout for next few months, explaining that a lot of work is involved in doing so.  The new grant year began on March 1, 2022, and the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) awaits receiving the total grant award, having currently received a partial award of $3,375,842. The continuing resolution in congress has delayed the award, although it is anticipated to be fulfilled in May 2022. At that time, Part A will be able to balance their budget to determine if there will be an increase, decrease, or status quo for the total award amount. Historically, the Recipient has operated on a budget of $10.3 – 10.5 million awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiatives funded by HRSA, for Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties, have received a partial grant award, concurrent with the Part A grant year, in the amount of $507,197.  He continued to report that Policy 2101 is in the approval process to allow for service eligibility renewals to move from every 6 months to every 12 months. At this time Part A awaits clarification from HRSA but hopes these changes will run concurrently with the Department of Health (DOH) for implementation to be as consistent as possible for Ryan White clients. He envisions the 12-month process will required the same eligibility protocols but will update the Care Council when more information is provided. Until clarification is received, the Recipient will not implement this change, but assured members that this is meant to relieve providers of the burden of eligibility renewals.  The writing team for the 2022-2026 integrated plan (IP), is updating the plan according to changes in the delivery of services. While the EMA’s IP is HRSA-sponsored, the area is working alongside the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as a joint effort, as the plan involves Part B and EHE plans in both Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. The writing team working diligently on the plan and will be bringing sections to the Care Council (CC), as it’s drafted, for review and input from CC before it is finalized. Sections have been assigned to each member of the writing team, with the first deadline on February 28, 2022. While the IP is due in December, the writing team hopes to have a completed draft by September 2022.  The Recipient continued, reporting that they are working with the Lead Agency in planning another case management training for areas 5, 6, and 14 as the last training, in October was a great success. They are working closely with the North Florida AIDS Education Training Center, as they have been instrumental in creating agendas and booking speakers. This training is tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2022, but a save the date will be distributed as details are received. Arnold requested that members submit any requests they may have to him to possibly be added to the agenda. Member, Kamaria Laffrey, noted that she is working with people who would like to discuss topics, with Case Managers (CM), and will bring these requests to Arnold or Lead Agency representative, Darius Lightsey, for consideration.  Planning Council Support (PCS) Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani noted that Section 2 of the IP was already submitted and will be brought to the CC once edits have been completed. Chair, Nolan Finn, asked if the IP is the same as the State’s IP and Arnold replied that they run parallel to one another, but are not the same.  Chair, Nolan Finn, asked how much of the recently closed award monies expect to be spent and Arnold replied that they will be close to 98-99% spent. |
| LEAD AGENCY REPORT | Lead Agency representative, Yashika Everhart, reported that Part B is working on contract renewals to be routed and executed, but they do not anticipate any issues with meeting the April 1, 2022, deadline, and assured members that services will continue consistently. Echoing the Recipient, Everhart noted that Medical Case Managers (MCM) will be provided with an AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) update for accessible best practices. Although Part B was unable to submit their expenditure report in time for the CC meeting, this financial report will be presented at the next CC meeting.  Chair, Nolan Finn, asked if the Part B funding year has been closed out and Everhart responded that there is a deadline, but it is not a hard deadline as Part A and Part B operate under separate guidelines. Providers can submit their financials up to 15 days after the funding year (FY) start date of April 1, 2022. Although technically March 31 is the deadline, Part B allows providers more time to submit what may not have been available at that time.  Finn then requested EHE updates and Part B representative, Darius Lightsey, shared that Pinellas EHE has worked closely with Part A and Hillsborough County’s EHE initiatives. They are working on finalizing agreements with providers as well as new reporting requirements from the state office for CDC-funded initiatives. He encouraged all EHE providers to utilize office hours with EHE coordinators, Chris Walker, and Nicole Houston, for any questions or to provide updates to the EHE newsletter. Lightsey then announced that the EHE website has successfully engaged with the community and can be accessed at www.pinellasehe.org. They are putting together advertisements with iHeartRadio for Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day (March 10) to get the community involved in the conversation to attest to the work being done by Pinellas EHE. Carryover funds, from year 1, have been awarded in the amount of $188,00 and he is proud of his team. The next HRSA/CDC combined EHE planning meeting will be held on March 3, 2022, and the CC should expect more information from Kim Molnar. PCS Staff, Katie Scussel, added that the link to this meeting has been sent out in the CC infoshare as well.  Remaining on topic, Molnar went on to inform attendees that a save the date for the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) spring meeting has been distributed. Member, Kim Molnar, added that this meeting will be held April 6, 2022 – April 8, 2022, with a refined schedule to be sent out soon. She continued that the HIV section will also host a series of webinars, the week before, on topics that typically would be presented at the FCPN meeting. The AIDS Institute (TAI) aim to make the spring meeting a working meeting, so they're going to provide all the updates a week before the very last week in March on the key section updates. |
| **HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) REPORT** | HOPWA representative and member, Anne Cronyn, reported that they are in the middle of year 2 (of 3) HOPWA entitlement funds, HOPWA providers and waiting lists have been shared in the last CC infoshare (see links provided at the end of the minutes). The application for competitive HOPWA funds that start July 1, 2022, from The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is in process as they are currently working on budget items with them and await next steps. These funds are used to provide tenant-based rental assistance and other housing-related services.  HOPWA has launched two large new housing programs with Hillsborough and the City of Tampa for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) that can cover anyone in the county with 12 months past due rent as well as 3 months forward. The link to apply for these funds have been sent out as well (see links at the end of the minutes). City limits of Tampa general funds are used for rental and movement assistance programs that cover people trying to get a new lease or renewal. With the increase in rent, in the area, these funds can provide security deposit and rental assistance residents with up to 140% of the median income to cover more than what is provided by HUD-based programs. Chair, Nolan Finn, asked if these are new monies and Cronyn replied that ERAP dollars are treasury funds with an influx of monies distributed on an ongoing basis. The City of Tampa’s program is new and dedicated money for the purpose of acknowledging raising rent prices in the area. Finn added that he is concerned as to how these rent increases will affect people as leases expire. |
| **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT: VIDEO PROJECT** | Planning Council Support Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, shared that an ad hoc project-based committee was held on February 9, 2022, for the recruitment and engagement project that DoubleTake Studios brought to CC in February 2022. Three CC members attended and DoubleTake Studios representative, Terri Hall, took note of all feedback received, such as adding recordings of CC members, to the video project. Updates will be provided as they are received. Finn asked about next steps and Ardjomand-Kermani reported that the hard deadline is the end of June 2022. They will show the next version when receive and any additional planning will take place outside of CC. |
| CARE COUNCIL PLANNING SUPPORT (PCS) STAFF REPORT | 1. West Central Florida Ryan White Care Council Workplan (WCFRWCCW)    1. PCS Staff provided the CC with the WCFRWCCW for informational purposes, so they can consider the deliverables required, by HRSA, in future CC structure planning. 2. 2022 Needs Assessment Update    1. PCS Staff provided the written report for the Needs Assessment results, shared in February 2022, so members can read survey results in a narrative form. Staff went on to note that conducting surveys and writing reports are duties assigned to PCS staff. 3. Membership Report    1. PCS Staff displayed membership demographics and reported that more members are needed in the following categories: men, Latinx persons, representatives from Manatee and Polk Counties, those in the 20-29, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+ age range. These demographics used to be shared by the former Membership Committee and are currently tracked by PCS staff.    2. Although a new membership application is on the table, this application will be rolled to the next CC meeting as in-person quorum was not met. 4. Mural Project    1. Staff shared that a mural project is in the works, with local artist Melanie Posner, as part of the Recruitment and Engagement project that Suncoast Health Council (SHC) is working on. Posner has a large social media presence and has agreed to share the process on her social media throughout the development of the project. The team is seeking locations for the mural but is holding design concept focus groups with youth and the Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families (WICY&F) work group in the meantime. Although this project is not under the purview of the CC, community input is important and CC members are encouraged to participate in the process. Murals are a common aesthetic in the Tampa Bay area and SHC anticipates that the mural and the artist will attract the attention of youth, the greater community, and the media. A QR code (an initialism for quick response code) will be a part of the mural, to direct individuals to the Care Council website for more information to get involved. Participants in the youth focus group (March 24) will receive a $50 Amazon gift card as an incentive. 5. March Town Hall    1. The next CC community town hall will be held on March 22, virtually, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., in focus group format, per request by the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) for feedback to be shared at their spring meeting. Participants will receive a $50 Amazon gift Card as an incentive for participating. 6. Cultural Competency Series    1. Continuing the series of cultural sensitivity trainings, ALSO Youth will be presenting a virtual workshop focused on gender and sexual orientation on March 22, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. |
| WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES (WICY&F) WORKGROUP REPORT | PCS Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that WICY&F met on February 24, 2022, with great attendance and a successful design conceptualization session with artist, Melanie Posner.  The workgroup has been working hard on their workplan and has contributed to the Integrated Plan process. She went on to share that the group continued their discussion regarding their event on March 10, 2022, for Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day.  The next WICY&F workgroup will be held on March 24, 2022, virtually. |
| COMMUNITY INPUT | Guest, Terrell Parker, from the National Minority HIV/AIDS Council (NMAC) summarized NMAC’s participation with the CC thus far. Listening sessions were held in November and December 2019 and results were reported in early 2020. He went on to announce that NMAC was then awarded two cooperative agreements from HRSA: ELEVATE (Engage Leadership through Employment, Validation, and Advancing Transformation & Equity) for People Living with HIV and ESCALATE (Ending Stigma through Collaboration and Lifting All to Empowerment) programs.  ELEVATE’s primary focus is engaging people with HIV, while ESCALATE’s primary focus is engaging providers, and people who work within the Ryan White system. Listening sessions held in 2019 were for the purpose of informing NMAC’s programs as they were still in the development phase at that time. Since then, NMAC has fully implemented both projects. NMAC’s initial agreement was Care Council would be one of the first cohorts to participate in these programs once they were operating.  Lauren Miller from NMAC, then presented information regarding NMAC’s ESCALATE program. This three-part curriculum is a leadership program intended to support the participation, inclusion of people living with HIV, and the health care workforce by providing technically and culturally responsive services. This includes the leadership and planning bodies, Community Advisory Boards, its Clinical Management Teams and Boards of Directors as well as positions, such as community health workers. This program has already shown to be successful with one participant promoted to director of his organization 30 days after completing the program. This program is instrumental in providing voice from people living with HIV to really come to the table and be able to provide, not only their experiences, but to provide meaningful involvement as well.  The ESCALATE program provides coaching for 6-9 months, as they realized through their building leaders of color program, the importance of ensuring that people have support as they go out to do this transformative work in their community. Upon graduation, participants, receive an action plan focused on either delivering services, planning, services, or improving services. Some participants have begun planning support groups to start non-profit organizations within their community. NMAC provides virtual training webinars, along with applications to participate, that can be accessed through TargetHIV (see links at end of minutes). Individuals or teams of people can participate in the program. Member, Kamaria Laffrey, commended NMAC for amplifying Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (MIPA). Miller went on to say that this is an opportunity for the entire Care Council, but that they’d have to commit to a 30-hour training (6 hours over 5 days).  Terrell Parker added that NMAC’s primary focus is for people with HIV on, the ESCALATE side, primarily working with organizations to decrease stigma. NMAC representative Christopher Paisano, from the Navajo Nation in Arizona, then continued that the ESCALATE program provides a sense of how stigma in us is part of a systems’ issue. One of the things about ESCALATE is that they start from a point of base knowledge and how medical mistrust has created these systems. In areas where stigma is particularly strong, such as in Alabama, they have brought organizations to a neutral place outside of the workplace, so that they're able to freely to talk about how they experience and address stigma.  Terrell Parker went on to say that the biggest difference from ELEVATE is that you can't participate as an individual on the ESCALATE side, you must be a part of the team. The team must have a relationship with a community organization that's funded by Ryan White and must partner with persons with HIV on teams, because the work must be collaborative. |
| SERVICE PRIORITIES | PCS Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, noted that the Service Priorities will be tabled until the next CC meeting as in-person quorum was not met. They addressed the document, within the meeting packet, that provides service category definitions to be used to inform the prioritization of services. They reminded CC members that prioritized services do not necessarily correlate with funding, but rather it is used to inform the funding process. |
| FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING NETWORK (FCPN) UPDATE | Chair, Nolan Finn, reported that the upcoming FCPN meeting will be held on April 6 – 8, 2022, with representation from areas 5, 6, and 14 total service area (TSA). The TSA has four positions on the FCPN: Patient Care Representative and alternate, and Prevention representative and alternate. Currently, Finn is the Patient Care Representative and is need of an alternate to help make decisions for the state HIV section office. These positions are voted in by the Care Council, while the Prevention Representative and alternate are voted in by the HIV Planning Partnership. Finn called for volunteers and member, Joel Carrier, volunteered to serve as his alternate. The official vote will take place at the next CC meeting, as in-person quorum was not met. He noted that the March 22, 2022, town hall meeting will be utilized to collect community input to be reported at the FCPN meeting and encouraged members present to attend. |
| **PUBLIC POLICY REPORT** | None. |
| **PREVENTION ACTIVITIES/**  **QUALITY MANAGEMENT (QM)** | Chair, Nolan Finn, noted that the QM workgroup would meet in the upcoming weeks and all reported dates will be shared with the CC. |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | PCS Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, reminded members to keep an eye on their e-mail for event reminders, as they approach (See staff report). |
| ADJOURNMENT | There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:36 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. March 2, 2022, Agenda 2. November 3, 2021, Minutes 3. January 5, 2022, Minutes 4. February 2, 2022, Minutes 5. West Central Florida Ryan White Care Council Workplan 6. 2022 EMA Needs Assessment Report 7. Background: Service Priorities 8. Background: New Membership Application 9. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Service Category Definitions 10. March 2022 Calendar |
| WEBSITES CITED | 1. ESCALATE: <https://www.nmac.org/programs/thecenter/escalate/> 2. ELEVATE: <https://targethiv.org/elevate> 3. The AIDS Institute: <https://theaidsinstitute.org/> 4. Tampa Housing Authority:   <https://www.thafl.com/Departments/Assisted-Housing/HOPWA.aspx>   1. Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS:   <https://www.tampa.gov/housing-and-community-development/programs/housing-opportunties-for-persons-with-aids>   1. Melanie Posner’s Website: <https://www.melanieposner.com/> |

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| **Care Council Members** | **Attendance** |
| Nolan Finn *(Chair)* | In-Person |
| (Myles) Edward Myles *(Vice-Chair)* | In-Person |
| Rachel Brown | In-Person |
| Lillie Bruton | Virtual |
| Joel Carrier | Virtual |
| Lisa Conder | Virtual |
| Anne Cronyn | Virtual |
| J Carl Devine |  |
| Sheryl Hoolsema |  |
| Vincent Kaborycha |  |
| Nicole Kish | Virtual |
| Kamaria Laffrey | Virtual |
| Jeffrey Lluberes | Virtual |
| Michelle McKinney | Virtual |
| Marylin Merida | Virtual |
| Antonio Miles | In-Person |
| Naketa Mohammed |  |
| Kim Molnar | Virtual |
| Amanda Miller | In-Person |
| Teriko Perkins | Virtual |
| Peggy Wallace |  |
| Charles Ware |  |
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| **Associate Members** | **Attendance** |
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| **Recipient Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Aubrey Arnold | In-Person |
| Dorinda Seth | Virtual |
| Maria Teresa Jaureguizar | Virtual |
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| **Lead Agency Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Darius Lightsey | In-Person |
| Yashika Everhart | Virtual |
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| **Health Council Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Lisa Nugent | Virtual |
| Katie Scussel | In-Person |
| Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani | In-Person |
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| **Regular Guests** | **Attendance** |
| Dave Konnerth |  |
| Jim Roth | Virtual |
| Emily Hughart | Virtual |
| David Cavalleri | Virtual |
| Nicole Houston | Virtual |
| Angela Kellogg | In-Person |
| Michelle Keyes |  |
| Denise Mote | Virtual |
| Mike Neuges | Virtual |
| Sam Quintero | In-Person |
| Elizabeth Rugg | Virtual |
| Donna Sabatino |  |
| Chris Walker | Virtual |
| Miyisha Wall | Virtual |
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| **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 |  |
| Terri Hall |  |
| Laurie Hardy |  |
| Indica Harris |  |
| Tequila Harris | Virtual |
| Lovell Harp |  |
| Barbara Hay |  |
| Shayla Hobbs |  |
| Michael Holder |  |
| Chris Holland |  |
| Sherri Hoover |  |
| Karen Hoyle |  |
| Marylin Jones |  |
| Vicki Kenyon |  |
| Janet Kitchen |  |
| Josh Kratz |  |
| Roberta Lambert | Virtual |
| Topher Larkin |  |
| Grace Levy-Clarke |  |
| Andrew Maldonado |  |
| Olinda Manjenje |  |
| Bernice McCoy |  |
| Kenisha McCoy |  |
| Andrew McFarbme |  |
| Sean McIntosh |  |
| Mark Mischan |  |
| Carmen Millie Montanez |  |
| Lauren Miller | Virtual |
| Jamie Morano |  |
| Dionne Nixon | Virtual |
| Sheyla Nobles |  |
| James Ogedegbe |  |
| Vicky Oliver |  |
| Christopher Paisano | Virtual |
| Steve Palermo |  |
| Indira Palomino | Virtual |
| Terrell Parker | Virtual |
| Guttenberg Pierre |  |
| Juliana Pinero |  |
| Dee Prendergast |  |
| Hope Sharon Proell |  |
| Ashley Quidaciolu |  |
| Dedra Richardson |  |
| Kelly Roy |  |
| Solita Royal | 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 |  |
| Max Wilson | In-Person |
| 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, May 4, 2022.

Nolan Finn, Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_