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

**GOTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Marylin Merida at 10:03 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Attendees Present: Holly Beaver, Alex Cario, Lisa Conder, Paula Delgado, Terri Hall, Mary Jones, Kamaria Laffrey, Michelle Mckinney, Marylin Merida, Amanda Miller, Melanie Posner, Elizabeth Rugg, Christine Santos, Barbara Szelag, Bernard Washington  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, Lisa Nugent, Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | The Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families (WICY&F) work group work plan was added to the agenda. |
| **REVIEW OF MINUTES** | The group reviewed the minutes for January 27, 2022, and made one change to the list of attendees. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council met on February 2, 2022. The meeting was virtual, due to the latest surge in COVID cases, so there were no voting items. The Care Council is planning to meet in-person in March, the following week, so we will hopefully be catching up on voting items from the last couple months.  Vice Chair, E.S. Myles, reported that the Care Council had held a town hall meeting in January. The town halls are a new thing the Care Council is doing, it’s a separate, more casual meeting happening outside the regular Care Council meetings as a space to discuss any issues going on with Care Council or in the Ryan White system as a whole. The town halls can also be a way for new people to participate to get acquainted with the Care Council or for people to get questions answered. Staff stated that the Care Council will continue to hold these town hall meetings and that their purpose will probably continue to evolve over time.  For the Part A Recipient’s report, Dorinda Seth reported that the Part A received a partial grant award of $3,375,842. These partial grant awards are typical and the program is expected to receive its full grant amount within the next couple months. Dorinda also reported that all agreements have been renewed and while there is still approximately $640,000 allocated to AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and the Local Pharmacy Assistance, there was a significant amount of unexpended funding in those budget lines last year, so the Part A program is expected to shift some of those funds to other services once the full award is received.  Dorinda also gave an update on the possible upcoming change to allow clients to update their eligibility once a year, rather than every six months. There was a recent statewide meeting to address the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) policy notice, as the notice had been unclear and created many different interpretations from different areas around the state. The program will be waiting until there is more concurrence from all parties before making the change.  For the Part B Lead Agency report, Yashika Everhart reported that Part B’s fiscal year closes March 31, 2022 and they have requested that any currently funded agencies submit budget changes as soon as possible so needed adjustments can be made. Yashika also noted that Part B has recently procured a partnership with Magellan, for uninsured pharmacy services for clients. This new partnership will not terminate or change anything with their current relationship with CVS. This will serve as an additional outlet or resource for clients to be able to access medication. Yashika also announced that the State of Florida has a new section interim administrator for the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Ms. Brandi Knight. The position was previously held by Laura Reeves.  Planning Council staff showed a preview of a new Care Council recruitment video. Suncoast Health Council is conducting a new Care Council recruitment and engagement campaign. This project is through a funding stream from the Florida Department of Health that is separate from Ryan White funding, so there is more freedom and flexibility in how the funding can be used. Suncoast Health Council is using this funding to drive more interest in the Care Council and get more recognition in the community. As part of this project, Terri Hall with Doubletake Studios prepared a video that was previewed at Care Council. The video generated a lot of feedback and discussion that took up most of the rest of the Care Council meeting with many members weighing in on how to represent the community the Care Council is hoping to attract. A select few members ended up meeting for a separate ad hoc committee meeting to continue discussing some changes people would like to see before the video is finalized. |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Marylin stated that she’s heartbroken with what is going on internationally with Ukraine being invaded and the expectation that it will be bloody and brutal, as all wars are. She went on to say she doesn’t understand why human beings can’t use our intellectual capacity to work things out and that she is thinking about Ukrainians and Russians and asked that everyone take a minute to reflect on that. Marylin then asked if anyone else wanted to add anything.  Kamaria Laffrey thanked Marylin for that reflection and said she had been up since very early that morning thinking about that situation. Kamaria also announced that Positive Women’s Network is recognizing Black women’s contributions and leadership in HIV. They are celebrating different women living with HIV throughout history and today every day on their social media. Kamaria said she would share a link to the announcement with everyone. |
| **CARE COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT MURAL CONTENT/MESSAGING** | Terri Hall from Doubletake Studios introduced the mural project and guided the group through a “Six Hats” exercise. A man named Edward de Bono created the “Six Hats” exercise where you wear six different colored hats to start working on alternative thinking.  To start, Terri put on a blue hat, which represented management, and discussed the challenge with the project. She discussed the need for input on what would make a good visual representation for the mural.  Next, Terri put on the white hat, to establish the facts of the project. Terri stated that we have determined a good fit for the mural artist, Melanie Posner, who was present on the call. Melanie introduced herself and said she is a local artist and muralist and has done a lot of public work for the city, passion projects, and is part of the LGBTQ scene. Melanie said she is excited to be part of this process with everyone. Terri went on to say that we have a tentative site for the mural, on 28th Street near the Pinellas Trail. The site is adjacent to the Fairgrounds and part of the Warehouse Arts District. Terri also clarified that one of the challenges is that the mural cannot be construed as an advertisement. It should be something that’s artistic and hopefully evokes a positive response, but should not be read as an ad.  Terri then put on the red hat, which she said represents emotion, and asked everyone their reactions to the project. Holly Beaver said she really liked the idea, that she’s seen some powerful artwork that has drawn her in and caused her to reflect on the lives of those living with HIV and that she is excited to see this put together. Lisa Conder said she also loved the idea of using art but had a question about how to make it not an advertisement, but have it still represent the Care Council and inform people about the Care Council. Terri answered that one idea was to incorporate a QR code, so that people could be connected to the Care Council website.  Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, then added that we are also going to be doing a focus group listening session with some youth groups, such as with the Ybor Youth Clinic, so that we can get some youth input on what they’d like to see.  Marylin added that she loves the idea of using art to tell stories and reflected on the early days of the epidemic when people used rugs and how they were so powerful.  Terri then put on the black hat, which represents caution, and asked if anyone saw any potential problems, suggesting graffiti as an example. Elizabeth Rugg mentioned complaints to city hall about the subject matter. Terri responded that that is always a possibility with art, no what matter what, that it can evoke a negative response. Lisa asked again about the potential for the mural to be seen as an ad and Terri added more information, clarifying she had spoken to the city and didn’t think it would be an issue, particularly because we are a non-profit and not advertising for a business.  Terri put on a yellow hat and spoke about the optimism about the project, potential benefits and feasibility. Marylin commented that she thought the obvious benefit was visibility, evoking a response and telling a story. Melanie Posner, the mural artist, asked Marylin what that story looks like and what imagery comes to mind. Terri cut in to say that that question is the last hat, which is green. Alex Cario said that she wasn’t sure what exactly the mural would show but that a lot of times when talking to youth, something that comes up is that HIV doesn’t have a specific face, sexual orientation, or gender identity so she would like to see something that’s inclusive of the whole community, everyone living with HIV, all ages, genders, and sexualities. Marylin agreed and said that’s what she wanted to say as well.  Alex offered that she works with the Ybor Youth Clinic, through USF, and see if they have any particular ideas. Naomi thanked Alex and said we’re already in touch with Andrew Lim with USF and he is helping arrange focus groups as well.  Terri asked what other thoughts people had on what they would want to see in the art. Paula Delgado added themes of empowerment, struggle, community, support, and family. Lisa Conder added she would like it to reach the people we are trying to get on the council, the people most impacted by HIV, to let them know their voice is important and that they have power.  Terri thanked everyone for participating and for all their thoughts and comments. Melanie thanked everyone as well and said she had taken lots of notes and really appreciated everyone’s input. |
| **WICY&F WORK PLAN FOR INTEGRATED PLAN** | Kamaria Laffrey started the discussion by saying she and Marylin had worked to make some updates to the work plan, updating a lot of the language to be more reflective of how the group was evolving as a work group, instead of a committee, and also updating language to be inclusive of other gender identities, including trans women. Attendees talked about using the word affirming, instead of inclusive, because affirming means really making people feel safe in being who they are. Kamaria also discussed adding in identifying individuals who are not only just underrepresented but also unserved and underserved. In the end of the paragraph on the committee purpose, Kamaria touched on the sentence about the work group acting as a voice of the WICY&F committee, both for voting and non-voting members of the Care Council, and hopefully also encouraging non-voting members to join the Care Council.  Marylin went over some additional changes, including getting rid of the word consumer and replacing it with people living with HIV, and adding more about providing information and membership so that people living with HIV will have a comprehensive understanding of HIV needs assessment activities and service delivery systems in order to increase empowerment.  Lisa said she loved that it was being updated to be more inclusive and thanked Kamaria and Marylin for working on it. Katie recognized the hard work that Kamaria and Marylin had put into the document and thanked them.  Kamaria asked on the timeline for voting and Naomi clarified that because the group is no longer a committee that they don’t need to vote. Katie added that the group can take ownership of the document and keep it as a living document that they are free to update when they see fit.  Kamaria asked, since the document calls on service providers to be culturally affirming, do service providers ever look at these work plans? Katie added that something she’s thinking about is that since we’ve suspended the bylaws and have been operating under the Rules of Engagement (ROE), that the ROE was purposefully very brief and not very detailed but that we are going to be transitioning to something else soon, whether that’s going back to the old bylaws or something else new entirely, so what has been produced with this work plan we can bring to the Care Council and help guide the new process. Naomi added that it also provides a lot of language and structure for explaining how there’s collaboration from WICY&F along with the Care Council and that that collaboration is what we’re adding into the integrated plan.  For next steps, Marylin said they would look at some of the feedback they had received and submit a cleaned-up document to the writing team for the integrated plan and also develop a brief written narrative about WICY&F. Katie said she would share the document with the group for any additional comments. |
| **SPRING EVENT** | The group then transitioned to talking about the spring event for Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day on March 10th. Katie shared from updates from Michelle McKinney, that were received via email. Michelle has secured a permit for the event at Perry Harvey Park in Tampa. Lisa was able to use Help Us Help U’s insurance policy for the permit. Michelle, in one of her recent email, asked for ideas, saying she wanted to bring some games, have tables set up, and keep it casual and fun.  Naomi asked if the group had planned for a speaker. Lisa volunteered that Help Us Help U has hired a new nutritionist that might be a possibility. Marylin said her thinking was that, as it Women and Girl’s day, that maybe they could have a local woman living with HIV share something.  Michelle then joined the call from her cell phone and was at Perry Harvey Park for a different event. The group talked about having someone from the committee speak, possibly reading a poem or sharing something inspirational. Michelle showed the group the park through her camera. She also updated the group that she would be getting a flyer made by Andrew at the health department, and would be taking RSVPs. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | There were no additional women or youth concerns or updates. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENT** | Kamaria announced that that day, February 24th, there was a Collectively Speaking event sponsored by Positive Women’s Network, People Living with HIV Caucus, the Sero Project, and other partners talking about the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Response. It will be on Facebook Live at 1:00 p.m. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM. |