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

**GOTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 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 Barbara Szelag at 10:05 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Attendees Present: Holly Beaver, Alex Cario, Paula Delgado, Michelle McKinney, Marylin Merida, Amanda Miller, Christine Santos, Barbara Szelag  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **REVIEW OF MINUTES** | The group reviewed the minutes for February 24, 2022 and did not make any changes. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council met on March 2, 2022. The meeting was hybrid, with some members attending in-person. There were two action items on the table: a new membership application and the service priorities. Unfortunately, there were not enough members attending to make quorum, so no action items were voted on.  The Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, reported that the Part A program is in the process of closing out the 2021-2022 fiscal year and all claims through February 2022 must be in by March 18th. The program is still operating under a partial award of a little over $3 million and expects to receive the full award in April.  The Part A program is working with colleagues at the Florida Department of Health, as well as the five other EMAs across the state of Florida, to interpret the policy notice allowing recipients to move from a six-month eligibility process to twelve months. We are seeking clarification from HRSA on some details. The change will be made in concurrence with the Department of Health, to keep things consistent for clients.  Aubrey also shared that the writing team for the 2022-2026 Integrated Plan has been meeting and submitted some drafts for the first sections at the end of February. There will be more to come as Care Council members will be asked to review and give feedback on the plan.  For the Part B Lead Agency Report, Yashika Everhart reported that the program is currently working on contract renewals to be executed in the new fiscal year starting on April 1st. Yashika also mentioned the save-the-date for the upcoming Medical Case Management Training on May 20th.  Representatives from the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) attended the meeting and presented updates on their ELEVATE and ESCALATE programs, two new training programs one of which is designed to empower people living with HIV to participate in the planning process and the other which is designed to combat stigma within community-based organizations and providers. Members are either able to sign up for these training programs independently or NMAC could conduct customized training for our area. Members will be discussing these opportunities further to see how they would like to proceed with NMAC. |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Marylin Merida stated that she is feeling inspired by Ketanji Brown Jackson, her presence and eloquence when addressing questions and inquiries about her work. Marylin said that she had spoken that morning on the importance of staying focused and preserving, which Marylin found relevant to this field. Barbara followed saying she believes our Supreme Court will be better with her on it and recommended people watch the recordings of the hearings if they have not already done so, because she is graceful, smart, and beautiful to watch. |
| **WICY&F WORK PLAN** | The group reviewed the updated WICY&F work plan. Staff explained that Kamaria Laffrey and Marylin Merida had worked to update the plan, so that a portion could be included in the area’s Integrated Plan that is currently being written. A draft was presented at the February WICY&F meeting and Kamaria and Marylin worked to edit it and bring a more finalized document to the group. Marylin asked for any additional input. Barbara said she had reviewed it and said it looked good. There were no additional comments. |
| **SPRING EVENT RECAP** | Michelle Mckinney gave an update on the spring event held earlier that month on March 10th for Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day at Perry Harvey Park in Tampa. Michelle reported that there wasn’t a lot of attendance but that there were some people who came by on foot. The weather that day may have also impacted attendance as the event was cut short due to rain.  Michelle thanked Help Us Help U for completing the paperwork necessary to secure the park. Marylin thanked Michelle for taking the lead on the event and that she regretted that she was unable to make it that day. Staff, Katie, also noted that she was impressed how it all came together and thought it was a success.  The group discussed hosting another event in fall, possibly in St. Pete, since the spring event was held in Tampa. The group will begin planning at a future meeting. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | There were no additional women or youth concerns or updates. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENT** | Michelle McKinney announced a save-the-date for a National HIV Testing Day event on Friday, June 24th at Walgreens on the corner of 22nd and Hillsborough Avenue. More information will be available at a later date.  Marylin asked if all Ryan White Care Council meetings would now be in person. Katie responded that we’re going to continue hybrid meetings as long as possible, as long as the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners allows it. We do need in-person attendance in order to vote but plan to continue a virtual option to increase accessibility for those who are unable to attend. Katie also noted that the upcoming April meeting conflicts with the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) meeting, so it is looking like we will be unable to make quorum. The meeting is likely to be fully virtual, but it has not yet been decided. There should be an update coming out the following week. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM. |