

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**METRO INCLUSIVE HEALTH – TAMPA**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 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, Chair, at 1:33 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS | See attached attendance list.  For the icebreaker, Myles said that often when we see people we ask, “how are you?” but that most people say, “okay,” even if we are not being honest. He asked people around the room to share how they were doing, and that they could say they were “in progress,” if they wanted to say that they were struggling, because it’s okay to not be okay. |
| 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, those still fighting, and the people that we serve in this community. |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | Members reviewed the minutes from May 4, 2022 but could not vote due to lack of quorum. One change was requested to the attendance. |
| CHAIR/VICE CHAIR’S REPORT | Chair, Nolan Finn, acknowledged that it was Planning Council Support (PCS) Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani’s, last Care Council meeting, as they had resigned from their position. Nolan wished Naomi the best and thanked them for all they had done for the Care Council.  Nolan then reminded members to take the survey from David Cavalleri for the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM).  Nolan went on to discuss the ending of his term as Chair in August. He explained that we will be holding elections for the new Chair and Vice Chair at the August meeting, so anyone who wants to run for either position should start thinking about it.  Finally, Nolan noted that he had received an email from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) about the recent outbreak in cases of Monkeypox. He noted that men who have sex with men are more likely to transmit this virus, as well as Meningococcal disease, as was discussed in the last meeting, so please be cautious about these illnesses. |
| RECIPIENT’S REPORT | Part A Recipient staff, Dorinda Seth, started her report by saying that Part A is still working with the Florida Department of Health on a standardized self-attestation for client eligibility, as well as a new Notice of Eligibility form, that will be adopted not only by Part B statewide but also all other Part A’s across the state.  Dorinda went on to report that the program had received its Notice of Grant Award that morning. The Part A program received $10,674,255, which is a $321,877 increase from the previous year, or a 3.1% increase. Dorinda stated that there are few other Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs), at least in the state of Florida, that spent out 95% of their awards, which our area did. She wonders if that could be part of the reason why our award has continued to go up. With that, Dorinda concluded her report and said she was happy to share the great news. |
| LEAD AGENCY REPORT | Lead Agency staff, Yashika Everhart, reported that, as Dorinda said, the State is currently working on eligibility attestation. Yashika also reported that all case managers should now have access to the new Ryan White Eligibility Portal. The portal will not be taking place of CAREWare; it will be specifically for eligibility purposes, as a one-stop shop. Yashika said if anyone does not have access to the portal, to send her an email, and she will put them in touch with the proper contact in Tallahassee.  Yashika went on to say that there were no updates with ADAP. Pinellas County ADAP does not see clients in-person, but there are phone appointments available to enroll in the program. Yashika then noted that they were coming off the heels of the most recent case management training that was held on Friday, May 20th. The training was a success and a lot of information was provided. Yashika recognized the team, including herself, Darius Lightsey, Aubrey Arnold, Dorinda Seth, and the North Florida AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC).  Yashika finished her report by saying thank you to Naomi for all of their hard work and that they would be missed. |
| **HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) REPORT** | Anne Cronyn from the City of Tampa reported that in October, HOPWA will be starting year three of the three-year agreements that are currently in place with HOPWA service providers. Anne then reported that the program had recently received its funding announcement from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and received a 5% increase, from approximately $4.3 million to $4.6 million. Some agencies will see increases in their budgets this year. Anne explained that HUD is going through what is called HOPWA modernization. When HOPWA was first created, it was based on the number of cumulative HIV and AIDS cases in a geographic or service area. This process became outdated with time, as HUD realized that as they counted cumulative cases, unfortunately, some of the earlier cases were among people who were no longer living and therefore no longer needed services. HUD is now modernizing the formula so that they are only looking at new, active cases, rather than cumulative cases. Because Tampa-St. Petersburg is an area of growing new cases, we have received additional funds every year for the last few years. Anne then explained that the City of Tampa is required to allocate HOPWA funding to each county according to the numbers of cases in each county. Cases in Hillsborough have increased by about 1% and cases in Pinellas have decreased by about 1%, so agencies will see funding changed accordingly. Anne then said that once the budget is finalized, award letters will be sent to existing agencies so that they know what funds to expect for year three.  Anne then went on to report that the City of Tampa applied for HOPWA competitive funds from HUD. The City of Tampa was awarded a three-year grant of about $2.25 million, which will be required to be used for innovative tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) with wraparound services in Hillsborough County, including supportive housing, intensive case management, and resource identification, which means helping people actually find housing. These services will begin on July 1st and the City of Tampa is in the process of assessing which existing HOPWA providers will be implementing that program.  Anne then commented that she read in the May meeting minutes that Aubrey Arnold had asked a question about whether the HOPWA competitive funds would cover security deposit assistance. She said that, unfortunately, she had not received any guidance from HUD that that could be covered and that she would update the group if she received any additional information. She then explained that if any clients need this type of assistance within the city limits of Tampa, that there is a state-funded program that will assist with security deposits and utility deposits through the agency Solita’s House.  Chair, Nolan Finn, asked whether it is more advantageous to be homeless within city limits of Tampa, rather than the surrounding areas, as there appears to be more resources available. Anne answered that it’s a two-sided coin—though there are more services available, the waiting lists are long and the rent prices also tend to be higher within city limits, compared to other parts of Hillsborough County. |
| CARE COUNCIL PLANNING SUPPORT (PCS) STAFF REPORT | 1. Town Hall Update  Planning Council Support (PCS) Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, began their report with an update on the most recent Town Hall meeting. The Chair, Nolan Finn, was the only person who attended. We discussed the upcoming election in August, which Nolan reported on earlier in the meeting.  **2. New Member Applications**  **3. Member Removals (x2)**  Naomi reported that there was a new membership application and two member removals on the agenda, however, the Care Council could not vote due to lack of quorum.  4. 2022 – 2026 Integrated Plan Section II: Community Engagement and Planning Process  Naomi then explained that the reason section II of the Integrated Plan was included in the packet a second time was to make sure we could address any questions or comments anyone had. Naomi asked if anyone had any comments at a future time to please send them to PCS staff, Katie Scussel.  Naomi thanked everyone for having them for the past five years. They said that they will miss everyone but that they will not be a stranger. They said that they plan to attend Care Council meetings, as their schedule permits, and that they are interested in possibly joining in the future. Naomi then announced that they had been nominated as one of the Grand Marshalls for St. Pete Pride, which was a huge honor, and that it would be the best goodbye present if anyone was willing to vote for them.  PCS staff, Katie Scussel, thanked Naomi for being a pleasure to work with. Katie then reminded everyone that if you are eligible for mileage reimbursement, to please go ahead and submit those forms. We have money specifically allocated to assist people with those costs, and with gas prices so high right now and many people travelling a great distance to come to in-person meetings, we would like to be able to help.  Katie then circled back to the Town Hall meetings, which have been poorly attended for the last two months. Katie stated that while we would like to continue them, we will have to look at a different approach if we continue to not have attendance. Katie asked that anyone who would like to see these meetings continue to please attend the next one and we can discuss more about what to do with these meetings going forward.  Finally, Katie thanked Bernice McCoy for making it to the meeting, even though we could not vote on her membership application.  Nolan suggested perhaps conducting a survey of members to gather feedback about the Town Halls. |
| WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES (WICY&F) WORKGROUP REPORT | Member, Lisa Conder, reported that WICY&F met on Thursday, May 26th at 10:00 AM on GoTo Meeting. Attendees talked about the recent mass shootings and shared some resources on mental health and trauma. They also discussed a potential fall event and having mental health be a possible theme, with self-care activities, relaxation techniques, and a guest speaker on mental health. The planning for the event will continue at the next meeting.  The next WICY&F workgroup meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 23rd on GoTo Meeting. |
| COMMUNITY INPUT | There was no community input. |
| **CARE CONTINUUM** | PCS Staff, Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani, presented the 2021 HIV/AIDS Care Continuum for the Tampa-St. Petersburg EMA. Naomi began the report by explaining that the report this year was purposefully written with more plain language, so that it would be accessible and digestible. Naomi explained that the Care Continuum is a model that outlines steps that people with HIV go through from HIV diagnosis to, ideally, viral suppression. On the Care Continuum, diagnosed includes all people who are 13 and older who are diagnosed with HIV. Receipt of care refers to all people with HIV who had viral load lab results within the calendar year. Retained in care refers to all people with HIV with two or more viral load lab results, at least three months apart, within the calendar year. Viral load suppression refers to people with a suppressed viral load (<200 copies/mL) at the most recent viral load test, within the calendar year. Naomi reviewed the overall care continuum numbers for the EMA, as well as the breakdown by race, noting improvements in outcomes between 2017 and 2020 across all genders and racial and ethnic groups.  The Care Council was unable to vote to approve the Care Continuum, due to lack of quorum.  Member, Marylin Merida, requested some changes to the descriptions under the graphs, so that the bullets aligned with the numbers presented in the graphs. Marylin explained that the way the graphs were presented, it was easy to miss some of the positive changes that have been seen in the EMA over the last 3 years. Kamaria Laffrey, Member, asked if Care Continuum numbers were broken down by age. Naomi said that that information was not included in this report, but that more information by age would be presented in the Epidemiology Report, which Katie Scussel would be presenting the following month.  Chair, Nolan Finn, asked if the change in eligibility to a once yearly recertification process would affect the Care Continuum, if clients are only coming in once a year to recertify. Angela Kellogg explained that the change should make it easier for clients to see a medical provider in the appropriate frequency, without the barrier of the Notice of Eligibility. Medical visits will not decrease, what will decrease is the administrative piece that’s needed when clients are recertifying every six months. |
| **PUBLIC POLICY REPORT** | Marylin Merida commented that gun violence is a public health issue, and we need to do something about it. It’s all of our issue—our brothers and sisters and our children are dying, and we all have skin in this game. Nolan thanked Marylin for her comments and agreed. Lisa Conder spoke up to agree with Marylin and stressed the importance of taking action. Naomi shared some mental health resources in the chat. Kamaria reminded everyone to make sure that their voter registration is up-to-date. She shared that if people want to contact legislators but don’t want to call them, you can text RESIST to 50409 and it’s a bot that generates a letter to your representatives. |
| **PREVENTION ACTIVITIES/**  **QUALITY MANAGEMENT (QM)** | There were no prevention activities or quality management updates shared. |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | Kamaria Laffrey announced that the National Ryan White Conference will be virtual this year and is free to attend. She encouraged people to register. The dates are August 23rd through 26th. Kamaria also announced that Positive Living, a conference for people living with HIV held in North Florida in Fort Walton Beach, will be September 9th through 11th. Registration closes on August 14th. If people want to apply for presentations or workshops, those applications close June 15th. United States Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) will be in Puerto Rico this year, on October 8th through 11th, and June 3rd is the last day to apply for a scholarship to attend. The Florida HIV Justice Coalition is doing an HIV Criminalization Education Summit on October 20th. Kamaria stated that this is not a lobbying event, it’s for educational purposes to discuss current bill language and the coalition’s history. Kamaria said they would like to get more stakeholders to the table, so she will continue to discuss the event at upcoming meetings.  Naomi reminded everyone that the July meeting will be virtual, but to please try to attend the August meeting in-person and to RSVP ahead of time. |
| ADJOURNMENT | There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 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. June 1, 2022 Agenda 2. May 4, 2022 Minutes 3. 2022-2026 Integrated Plan Section II: Community Engagement and Planning Process 4. Background: HIV Care Continuum 5. 2021 HIV Care Continuum Report for the Tampa-St. Petersburg EMA 6. Background: New Member – McCoy 7. Background: Member Removal – Mohammed 8. Background: Member Removal - Ware 9. June 2022 Calendar |
| WEBSITES CITED | 1. Vote for St. Pete Pride Grand Marshal: https://www.stpetepride.org/events-and-ticketing/2022-grand-marshal-nominees 2. 100 Things To Do When You’re Feeling Down: https://uncustomary.org/100-things-to-do-when-youre-feeling-down/ 3. Listening to My Body Activity Guide: <https://cainclusion.org/resources/tp/materials/walking-up-the-pyramid/trauma-informed/Listening-To-My-Body-Activity-Guide-2020.pdf> 4. Trans Life Line: <https://translifeline.org/> 5. Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> |

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| **Care Council Members** | **Attendance** |
| Nolan Finn *(Chair)* | In-Person |
| (Myles) Edward Myles *(Vice-Chair)* | In-Person |
| Rachel Brown |  |
| Lillie Bruton | Virtual |
| Joel Carrier |  |
| Lisa Conder | Virtual |
| Anne Cronyn | In-Person |
| J Carl Devine | Virtual |
| Sheryl Hoolsema | In-Person |
| Vincent Kaborycha |  |
| Angela Kellogg | In-Person |
| Nicole Kish | Virtual |
| Kamaria Laffrey | In-Person |
| Jeffrey Lluberes |  |
| Michelle McKinney | In-Person |
| Marylin Merida | In-Person |
| Antonio Miles |  |
| Naketa Mohammed |  |
| Kim Molnar | Virtual |
| Amanda Miller |  |
| Teriko Perkins |  |
| Peggy Wallace | ALT |
| Charles Ware |  |
|  |  |
| **Associate Members** | **Attendance** |
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| **Recipient Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Aubrey Arnold |  |
| Dorinda Seth | In-Person |
| Maria Teresa Jaureguizar |  |
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| **Lead Agency Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Darius Lightsey | Virtual |
| Yashika Everhart | Virtual |
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| **Health Council Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Lisa Nugent | In-Person |
| Katie Scussel | In-Person |
| Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani | In-Person |
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| **Regular Guests** | **Attendance** |
| David Cavalleri | Virtual |
| Nicole Houston |  |
| Emily Hughart |  |
| Michelle Keyes |  |
| Dave Konnerth |  |
| Denise Mote |  |
| Mike Neuges | Virtual |
| Sam Quintero |  |
| Jim Roth |  |
| Elizabeth Rugg |  |
| Donna Sabatino |  |
| Chris Walker | Virtual |
| Miyisha Wall | In-Person |
|  |  |
| **Guests** | **Attendance** |
| Michael Alonso |  |
| Jasmine Alvarado |  |
| Jade Baranich | Virtual |
| Conrad Barzarea |  |
| Frances Benton |  |
| Dawn Branley |  |
| Zack Brown |  |
| Taryn Buckley |  |
| Jose Camino |  |
| Joshua Cardwell |  |
| Michael Carlton |  |
| Astrid Carrasquillo |  |
| Mike Catala |  |
| Gregory Clark |  |
| Everis Clarke |  |
| Donna Corpuz |  |
| Luis Delgado |  |
| Darlene Duran |  |
| Lolita Emanuel-Brown |  |
| Karlie Gallagher |  |
| Geneva Galloway |  |
| Beth Gotti |  |
| Pierre Guttenberg |  |
| Khalil Hall |  |
| Laurie Hardy |  |
| Indica Harris |  |
| Tequila Harris |  |
| Lovell Harp |  |
| Michael Holder |  |
| Chris Holland |  |
| Sherri Hoover |  |
| Karen Hoyle |  |
| Marylin Jones |  |
| Vicki Kenyon |  |
| Janet Kitchen |  |
| Josh Kratz |  |
| Roberta Lambert |  |
| Topher Larkin |  |
| Grace Levy-Clarke |  |
| Kristen Lewis | Virtual |
| Andrew Maldonado |  |
| Paola Mancera | Virtual |
| Olinda Manjenje |  |
| Ian Martin | Virtual |
| Bernice McCoy | In-Person |
| Kenisha McCoy |  |
| Andrew McFarbme |  |
| Sean McIntosh |  |
| Mark Mischan |  |
| Carmen Millie Montanez |  |
| Christine Montero |  |
| Jamie Morano |  |
| Dionne Nixon |  |
| Sheyla Nobles |  |
| James Ogedegbe |  |
| Vicky Oliver |  |
| Christopher Paisano |  |
| Steve Palermo |  |
| Indira Palomino | In-Person |
| Terrell Parker |  |
| Guttenberg Pierre |  |
| Juliana Pinero |  |
| Melanie Posner |  |
| Dee Prendergast |  |
| Ashley Quidaciolu |  |
| Nathan Remy | Virtual |
| Dedra Richardson |  |
| Kelly Roy |  |
| Solita Royal |  |
| Allison Ruby |  |
| Sheila Ruck |  |
| Christine Santos |  |
| Michelle Scavnicky |  |
| Garrett Sears |  |
| Joni Simmons |  |
| Ashley Snug |  |
| Danielle Taylor | Virtual |
| Kristi Thomas |  |
| DeAnne Turner |  |
| Wanda Vazquez |  |
| Diego Villalba |  |
| Crystal Waddy |  |
| Max Wilson |  |
| Taylor Witkowski |  |
| Bernard Washington | Virtual |
| Ronald Weston |  |
| Kevin Williams | In-Person |

*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, July 6, 2022.

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