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

**GOTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Holly Beaver at 10:05 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Attendees Present: Holly Beaver, Alex Cario, Mary Frances 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 | There were no changes to the agenda.  Holly Beaver and Alex Cario led the group in an ice breaker question, asking everyone if they could live anywhere in the world for one year, where would they choose to live. |
| **REVIEW OF MINUTES** | The group reviewed the minutes for March 24, 2022 and corrected one typo. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council did not meet in April. The next meeting will be the following week on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at Metro Inclusive Health in Tampa. There will be a virtual option through GoTo Meeting. |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Mary Jones asked everyone to keep the people in Ukraine in their thoughts.  Kamaria Laffrey shared that she has felt inspired recently seeing more people living with HIV (not just people who are newly diagnosed but also long-term survivors) find their voice, become empowered, and speak up against things they don’t agree with. |
| WOMEN/ YOUTH/ CONCERNS/ UPDATES | Kamaria shared that she has been involved in conversations nationally around people living with HIV breast/chestfeeding. Currently, the CDC takes a hardline approach prohibiting anyone with HIV from breast/chestfeeding. There is a group of HIV activists and medical professionals calling for the CDC to update guidance around infant feeding so that parents can make educated decisions that reflect current science on risks and benefits and to reflect the messaging of U=U (undetectable=untransmittable). Kamaria has been engaging on this issue from the lens of her work in criminalization, with reports of people living with HIV who choose to breastfeed being threatened with Child Protective Services involvement. Anyone interested in this topic can get in touch with Kamaria.  Kamaria also shared with the group a document from ViiV Healthcare, From Risk to Reasons, that details how the language used around risk can be stigmatizing and dehumanizing. Marylin Merida thanked Kamaria for sharing and said she would like to use it as a resource for the Integrated Plan.  Now that there is an injectable medication available (Cabenuva), Marylin asked the group how their patients and clients are reacting to it and whether there has been much interest. Staff from USF shared that it is available for their clients but that there has been a lot of hesitancy among youth. Having to come in for monthly appointments is a barrier, with many youth feeling unable to come in that frequently or afraid of what will happen if they miss an appointment. There is also some hesitancy with it being unfamiliar, fear of pain from the injection and side effects. Holly Beaver added that hopefully with time there will be new medications available that can be spaced out for longer periods, such as every three months or every six months. Holly also noted that there are many injectable medications today that can be injected by patients themselves in their own homes (such as diabetes medication) and she hopes HIV medications will be no different and they won’t always need to be injected by a healthcare provider. Kamaria shared that there are many people with HIV with large social media followings sharing about their experiences with Cabenuva, and that that might be a way to help youth learn more about their options. Kamaria said you can search the hashtag “#Cabenuva” and find lots of people sharing their stories, in terms of side effects and benefits. |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENT** | Marylin asked the group if they are seeing any increase in COVID cases in their patients and clients. No one reported any among clients, but some in their personal contacts. Holly reminded everyone that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had recently approved a second booster for those over 50 years of age.  Michelle McKinney asked about planning the next event. The group agreed to add a fall event to their next agenda to begin the initial brainstorming process. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 AM. |