

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**THE CHILDREN’S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Bobbi Lambert, Member at 1:30 PM. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Whitney Corouthers, Nicole Kish, Bobbi Lambert, Gina Puglisi, Musammat Rahman  Members Absent: None  Guests Present: None  Recipient Staff Present: Dorinda Seth  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Abigail Machtel, Lisa Nugent, Katie Scussel |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | None |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Planning Council Support Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council met on March 1, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County and had quorum. The Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, reported on a statewide meeting with all Part A and B areas. They discussed the data-sharing agreement between Part A and Part B that will allow data to be more easily shared between the programs, such as when clients have fallen out of care. They also discussed the new self-attestation form, which will allow clients to continue their eligibility at the 12-month mark, rather than going through the full eligibility process, if there have been no significant changes to their income or circumstances. Aubrey reported that the new Part A grant year started on March 1, as well as the new Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) grant year. Both programs have received partial awards to start the year and expect full awards by May. With the new grant year, Part A is now funding housing and substance abuse services in Pasco and Hernando Counties for the first time,  For the Part B Lead Agency Report, Joshua Cardwell introduced himself and announced that he would be stepping into the grants manager role. Darius Lightsey, the former HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC), has stepped down from his position. JoAnne Lamb is the interim HAPC in Pinellas County. Joshua reported that he expects level funding in the new grant year, starting April 1, 2023.  For the HOPWA report, Anne Cronyn announced that HOPWA is halfway through year three of its three-year agreements. Metro Inclusive Health has been awarded funding for a tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) program, using unspent funding from the previous year. The City of Tampa’s Universal Request for Applications (RFA) will be coming out later this spring.    The Care Council voted in one new member, Ashley Hill, a pharmacist with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). The Council also reviewed the Integrated Plan monitoring tool.  Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families met in February and decided to start meeting every other month. They will meet again in March to plan their upcoming Mother’s Day event, then will meet again in May.  The next Care Council meeting will be virtual. The Care Council will meet on April 5, 2023 on GoToMeeting. |
| **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR** | Katie explained the responsibilities of the committee Chair and Co-Chair. Committee Chairs are responsible for approving the meeting materials two weeks before the meeting and leading the discussion during the meeting. It is also asked that at least the Chair or Co-Chair be a member of the Care Council, so that someone is present at the Care Council meetings to give the committee report.  Bobbi Lambert self-nominated for Chair. Nikki Kish self-nominated for Co-Chair.  **Members voted to elect Bobbi Lambert as Chair and Nikki Kish as Co-Chair (M: Kish, S: Lambert).** |
| **MEETIN TIME, DAY, AND LOCATION** | Members discussed the meeting date, time, location, and frequency of meetings. Members agreed that the meeting time used previously by the committee, the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm, was convenient and allowed members to avoid rush hour traffic. Members also liked the Children’s Board as a meeting location, when available. Members discussed how often to meet and decided every other month would be sufficient.  **Members voted to approve the meeting time of the third Thursday of every other month at 1:30 pm (M: Rahman, S: Corouthers).** |
| **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN UPDATE** | Members reviewed the committee work plan. Katie explained that she had updated the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Goals to be current with the current year and also updated the committee description to align with the most recent update to the Care Council bylaws.  Katie noted that the last item on the workplan aligned with Integrated Plan Objective 5A: Develop ways to enhance adherence among clients in order to contribute to improved health outcomes, which was from the last plan. Members discussed whether to strike that goal or replace it with something from the current plan. Members decided to delete that item from the work plan for now but review the Integrated Plan goals at the next meeting to see if any items may be added to the work plan.  Members discussed the item, “Increase the number of and simplify access to medical specialty care providers.” Bobbi suggested each member bring a list to the next meeting of specialty care providers that see HIV clients within their county.  Members discussed the item, “Monitor minimum standards related to health care and recommend revisions as needed.” Katie explained that the Minimum Standards of Care is a document maintained by the Care Council that sets standards that each Part A-funded service must meet. There was a large update to the document in 2020. The Planning and Evaluation Committee will be looking at them again in the coming months, to add standards for housing and Early Intervention Services (EIS). Bobbi asked where the document could be accessed and Katie answered she believed it was on the website but that she would also send it to the committee in the next meeting packet.  Members discussed the item, “Monitor/recommend policy changes related to health and health-related services.” Lisa Nugent explained that these could be Part A or Part B policies, HRSA policy, Medicaid policies, or anything that impacts clients. Katie noted that the committee might want to monitor the changes in eligibility, and whether that increases clients staying in care. Lisa said it could also apply to the Medicaid roll off coming soon with the end of pandemic protections. Bobbi suggested maybe discussing the eligibility changes and Medicaid roll off at the next meeting.  Members discussed the item related to reviewing the pharmaceutical formulary and monitoring the pharmaceutical spend down. Members decided to look at the spend down at the next meeting.  **Members voted to approve the committee work plan (M: Kish, S: Corouthers).** |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Missy Rahman asked if there were more dentists that accept Ryan White, as she has a lot of clients that are looking for dental care but are unable to get appointments. Part A Recipient staff, Dorinda Seth, explained that currently there are two providers in Pinellas and only one provider in Hillsborough. Dorinda said Part A would love to fund more providers, but unfortunately very few have applied during the procurement process. She then added that as long as a client lives in the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA), which includes Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando, clients can visit the dental providers in any county. Dorinda went on to say that there have been issues with both Pinellas and Hillsborough dental services. In Pinellas, the providers are struggling to get clients to come in. In Hillsborough, the provider is understaffed, which leads to long wait times. Part A will be seeking additional dental providers in the next procurement in the fall, however, one barrier is that the provider must be a non-profit, which limits the pool of applicants.  Katie announced that 2022 HIV Care Needs Survey was ongoing and encouraged everyone to help promote the survey. All people living with HIV are eligible to take it. The survey will close on April 30, 2023. Katie said she had paper copies with her at the meeting, if anyone wanted to take some.  Empath Health is doing a yard sale to raise money to attend Smart Ride. More information will be available soon. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m. |