

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**GOTOMEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023**

**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 E.S. Myles, Chair, at 1:33 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS | See attached attendance list.  As an icebreaker, Myles noted that there has been a lot of bad news going on in the world lately and asked members to share some good news to counteract the bad. |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| MOMENT OF SILENCE | Myles led everyone through a moment of silence, asking everyone to remember those we’ve lost and those who have given so much in the fight. |
| REVIEW OF MINUTES | Members reviewed the minutes from March 1, 2023 but could not vote, due to the meeting being virtual. There were no changes made. |
| CHAIR/VICE CHAIR’S REPORT | There was no Chair or Vice Chair report. |
| RECIPIENT’S REPORT | Recipient staff, Aubrey Arnold, began his report saying Part A had still not received its full award but that it was expected within the next month. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) did receive its full award. Aubrey went on to say that his office is primarily focused on grant close out right now and that the Part A program is now expected to be at least 95% spent, if not more, which means they will not receive a penalty. Final expenditure reports for the 2022-2023 fiscal year will go to the Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) in May or June at the latest. Monitoring will be starting within the next month or so. Aubrey noted that housing and substance abuse services are launching in Hernando and Pasco Counties with the new grant year. Policies and procedures have been updated and reviewed with providers to ensure that services can be carried out in the same manner across all providers. The program will be looking at the HIV Care Needs Survey results when they are available to help determine what services they will be procuring for in the procurement this fall. Part A is still working with Part B on setting up a case management training. More details will be available soon.  Joel Carrier, member, asked about the availability of housing services in Polk County. Aubrey reminded Joel that Part A only covers the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) counties, which does not include Polk. Nikki Kish, the HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC) for Polk County answered that Polk does have a Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program. |
| LEAD AGENCY REPORT | Part B Lead Agency staff, Joshua Cardwell, reported that Part B staff is in the process of closing out final invoicing for the grant. All contracts have been renewed for one more year at level funding. It is state budgeting season with state level budgets being finalized. The Department of Health is still in the process of filling the open HAPC position, as well as a contract manager position that was vacated when Joshua became the Grants Manager. Part B is in the process of updating policies and procedure manuals. Joshua then went on to say, as Aubrey mentioned, that Part A and B are working on planning the next case management training.  EHE Coordinator, Nicole Houston, let everyone know that that week, April 3-7th, was National Public Health Week. April 10th is National Youth HIV Awareness Day and April 18th is National Transgender HIV Testing Day. Nicole reminded everyone that if anyone has any events happening for these awareness days, that they can submit them to her to be featured in the Pinellas EHE newsletter. The next quarterly EHE meeting will be on Thursday, April 27th at Enoch Davis Center in St. Pete. |
| HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) REPORT | Indira Palomino with the City of Tampa announced the release of the Universal Funding Request for Applications (RFA), which includes HOPWA funds. The City of Tampa will host two technical assistance workshops for the public, one on April 11th at Seminole Gardens Park and one on April 18th at Ragan Park. Indira said she would send out information on the RFA for staff to distribute. |
| CARE COUNCIL PLANNING SUPPORT (PCS) STAFF REPORT | Planning Council Support (PCS) Staff, Katie Scussel, gave an update on the 2022 HIV Care Needs Survey, saying that the deadline had been extended to April 30, 2023 and that this was expected to be the final deadline and it would not be extended again. As of that morning, the survey had received around 450 responses. Katie asked everyone to please continue promoting the survey through the end of the month. Paper copies are still available and anyone can get in touch with Katie if they would like them. |
| COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP REPORTS | **A. Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee – Sheryl Hoolsema, Chair**  P&E met on March 9, 2023 at Empath Health in Clearwater. Sheryl was elected as Chair and Nolan Finn was elected as Co-Chair. Members updated the work plan and voted to keep the meeting time of the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. Members also reviewed the baseline Integrated Plan data and made some language changes to the goals. The committee will be updating the Minimum Standards of Care in the coming months. The next meeting will be on April 13, 2023 at Empath Health in Clearwater.  **B. Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) - Nolan Finn, Chair**  RPARC met on March 9, 2023 at Empath Health in Clearwater. Nolan was elected Chair and Joy Winheim was elected Co-Chair. The committee updated their work plan and voted to keep the meeting time of the second Thursday of the month at 11:00 am. The committee will not meet in April. The next meeting will be on May 11, 2023 and the committee will be reviewing final expenditures for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.  **C. Health Services Advisory Committee – Nicole Kish, Co-Chair**  Health Services Advisory Committee met on March 16, 2023 at The Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. Bobbi Lambert was elected Chair and Nicole Kish was elected Co-Chair. The committee voted to keep the meeting time of the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm and decided to meet every other month. The committee reviewed the work plan and agreed to look at the Integrated Plan goals at the next meeting and see which ones might be incorporated into the work plan. The committee will also be monitoring the Medicaid roll offs and changes in Ryan White eligibility. The next meeting will be on May 18, 2023 at the Children’s Board.  **D. Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families (WICY&F) Work Group - Abigail Machtel, Staff**  WICY&F met virtually on March 23, 2023 on GoToMeeting. The group updated the work plan and discussed future events. The work group will not be hosting a spring event anymore, due to lack of time to plan, and has instead decided to focus their attention on a fall event around Thanksgiving. The next meeting will be on May 25, 2023 on GoToMeeting.  **E. Membership and Community Outreach – Nataliya Johnson, Co-Chair**  Membership and Community Outreach met on March 23, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. There were only two members present. Nataliya Johnson was elected Co-Chair and the two members decided to wait to elect the Chair at the next meeting, if there were more members present. Members updated the committee work plan and discussed a schedule for the year. Nataliya encouraged more members to attend next time. Joel Carrier clarified the meeting date and time and said he would plan to attend the next one. The next meeting will be on April 17, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| ALL COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE | Katie presented the All Committee Work Plan, a document comprised of all committee work plans for the next year, which were updated by all committees at the previous month’s meeting. Katie then presented a schedule of major work products for the Care Council and all committees. Katie explained that the Care Council, as long as she is aware of, has always run on a September to August schedule, however, this schedule can be confusing because it is different than the fiscal year. There are certain activities, such as needs assessments and the setting of service priorities, that need to be done each year, but sometimes, because of the way the schedule works out, they end up being done twice in one Care Council year and not at all within a fiscal year, or vice versa. Katie said now that each committee had updated their workplan in March, it might make sense to change the Care Council year to run from March to February, so that it aligns with the Part A fiscal year and close to the Part B fiscal year, which runs April to March.  Nolan Finn asked whether Part A or Part B saw any issue with changing the schedule. Aubrey answered that Katie had checked with him about this proposed change before the meeting and that he couldn’t remember any reason why the year ran from September to August, other than that maybe the first meeting after becoming a combined A and B planning council may have happened in September. Aubrey said he supported the change and that it made sense to align with the fiscal year. Members discussed whether they would need to take formal action to change the schedule. Katie said she had looked through the bylaws, and there was no mention of the schedule except for a line about the election of a new chair usually happening in August for a term starting in September. The Membership and Community Outreach Committee can update that in a future meeting.  Katie went on to explain the schedule, saying there are certain items that will be looked at over the next few months as part of the needs assessment process. Planning and Evaluation will review the Epidemiology and Care Continuum reports before they go to the Care Council, then they will review HIV Care Needs survey results, then the Needs Assessment report, then update Service Priorities, ideally in July. RPARC will also look at allocations in July. Service Priorities and final allocations will be adopted by the Care Council in August, before the procurement in the fall. The Care Council will not meet in July, due to the July 4th holiday, and will tentatively plan not to meet in September due to the conflict with the United States Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA). |
| PREVENTION ACTIVITIES/QUALITY MANAGEMENT | A. Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) Surveys  Quality Management Consultant, David Cavalleri reported that RPARC had gone over the provider and Care Council AAM surveys at their last meeting and provided feedback. The Care Council survey is now live and is open to all Care Council members. David shared the link in the chat.  B. System-Wide Performance Measures  David presented the March 2023 System Wide HRSA Performance Measures, explaining that these measures are compiled on a quarterly basis to monitor the quality of the services being delivered. David noted that the performance measures from March 2023 showed decreases across all measures, particularly viral load suppression and retention in medical care. David explained that while these numbers are concerning, there may be an issue with providers not entering data until the end of the month, after David has already pulled the data, which would make the measures appear lower than they are. Joshua Cardwell asked for clarification on the national averages for viral load suppression. David included both the averages for Ryan White clients and for all people with HIV. Joshua pointed out that the rates are very low for those outside the Ryan White system.  Nolan noted that, as a member of the Quality Management Work Group, these numbers did concern the group and they will continue monitoring them and hope that this is not a trend. Aubrey commented that he was concerned about the decrease in the viral suppression rate. He wondered if there could be impacts from Early Intervention Services, with new clients or clients who had fallen out of care entering back into the system with higher viral loads, bringing down the average.  Marylin Merida shared that these numbers mirror what she has seen in Part D as well. Retention in medical care for Part D clients is currently at 69%, which is very low. Marylin said that the data quality manager for Part D, Barbara Szelag, separated data by youth and women over 25, thinking that youth were dragging the numbers down, but surprisingly the numbers for youth were better than women over 25. Marylin said that the program is still seeing impacts from COVID, and that clients are still getting back into the routine of coming in for appointments. She noted that telehealth could be having a negative impact because clients aren’t as engaged with their providers. Aubrey also noted that he had heard from one provider that they are still seeing hesitation from COVID.  David asked if members might want him to come back next month for a deep dive on these topics, since there is concern about the numbers. Aubrey answered that it might be helpful.  Joel Carrier asked about the relationship between the different measures, noting that it was interesting that prescription of antiretroviral therapy (ART) is up, but viral suppression is down. David said that prescription of ART doesn’t necessarily mean clients are taking it regularly, so there could be adherence issues. |
| COMMUNITY INPUT | Nolan mentioned April 16-22 is National Volunteer Week and thanked members for all they do as volunteers to service the Care Council. |
| PUBLIC POLICY REPORT | Kim Molnar shared that Donna Sabatino with The AIDS Institute (TAI) prepares a weekly legislative update that she shares with TAI staff. Kim said she would send Donna’s update to Katie to distribute to members after the meeting. She also mentioned that Donna is available to give presentations. Myles thanked Kim and said he would be interested in that. |
| **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Teriko Perkins with Midway Specialty Care announced several upcoming events:  Every second Tuesday of the month, Midway Hosts their 3T event, Talent, Test and Trivia, at Cityside Bar and Lounge in Tampa. There is sexual health bingo and a community talent show with $100 prizes. There is also rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, as well as direct linkage to PrEP.  Every second Wednesday of the month, Midway hosts its focus group Midway in the City. This month the theme will be around smoking while HIV positive and will be hosted by Stephanie Day from the Universtiy of South Florida, who is conducting a study on smoking in people with HIV. The group will meet at the Temple Terrance office from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.  Every third Wednesday of the month, Midway hosts a Trans Social. The theme this month will be using controlled substances while on hormone therapy. They will be meeting at the Temple Terrace office from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.  In honor of National Gay Men’s HIV Awareness Day, Midway will be hosting a Mr. and Mrs. PrEP Pageant, sponsored by Gilead, at Southern Nights in Ybor. There will be a Save the Date coming out soon. |
| ADJOURNMENT | There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:59 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. April 5, 2023 Agenda 2. March 1, 2023 Minutes 3. 2023-2024 All Committee Work Plan 4. 2023-2024 Care Council Work Products Schedule 5. System Wide HAB Performance Measures 6. April 2023 Calendar |
| WEBSITES CITED | 1. Care Council AAM Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HP99KXP> |

**Attendance**

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| **Care Council Members** | **Attendance** |
| (Myles) Edward Myles *(Chair)* |  |
| Rachel Brown *(Vice-Chair)* |  |
| Steven Becker |  |
| Lillie Bruton | *Virtual* |
| Joel Carrier | *Virtual* |
| Anne Cronyn | *Virtual* |
| J Carl Devine | *Virtual* |
| Nolan Finn | *Virtual* |
| Ashley Hill | *Virtual* |
| Sheryl Hoolsema | *Virtual* |
| Nataliya Johnson | *Virtual* |
| Riley Johnson | *Virtual* |
| Vincent Kaborycha |  |
| Angela Kellogg | *Virtual* |
| Nicole Kish | *Virtual* |
| Kamaria Laffrey |  |
| Jeffrey Lluberes | *Virtual* |
| Bernice McCoy |  |
| Marylin Merida | *Virtual* |
| Antonio Miles | *Virtual* |
| Kim Molnar | *Virtual* |
| Teriko Perkins | *Virtual* |
| Peggy Wallace |  |
| Bernard Washington | *Virtual* |
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| **Associate Members** | **Attendance** |
| Chris Gudis | *Virtual* |
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| **Recipient Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Aubrey Arnold | *Virtual* |
| Dorinda Creighton-Seth |  |
| Maria Teresa Jaureguizar | *Virtual* |
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| **Lead Agency Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Joshua Cardwell | *Virtual* |
| JoAnne Lamb |  |
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| **Health Council Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Abigail Machtel | *Virtual* |
| Lisa Nugent | *Virtual* |
| Katie Scussel | *Virtual* |
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| **Regular Guests** | **Attendance** |
| David Cavalleri | *Virtual* |
| Emily Hughart | *Virtual* |
| Elizabeth Rugg | *Virtual* |
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| **Guests** | **Attendance** |
| Holly Beaver | *Virtual* |
| Lisa Conder | *Virtual* |
| Nicole Houston | *Virtual* |
| Arte’vus Nettles | *Virtual* |
| Mike Neuges | *Virtual* |
| Indira Palomino | *Virtual* |
| Michelle Scavnicky | *Virtual* |
| Wanda Vazquez | *Virutal* |
| Kevin Williams | *Virtual* |

*ALT= Alternate present*  *EX = Excused*

I, Chair E.S. Myles, do certify that these minutes have been approved by me and the members of the Care Council on this day, May 3, 2023.

E.S. Myles, Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_