

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**GOTOMEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 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 Nolan Finn, Member, at 1:35 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS | See attached attendance list. |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | Nolan Finn requested that a Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) report be added to the committee report section of the agenda. |
| MOMENT OF SILENCE | Nolan led everyone through a moment of silence, asking everyone to remember those we’ve lost. |
| LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | Donna Sabatino with The AIDS Institute shared a legislative update with the group. Donna gave a brief update on the Medicaid unwinding process and said about 2,000 people with HIV will be coming off Medicaid. At the time, about 1,200 had been contacted and enrolled in either Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans or Ryan White. At the time of the meeting, the Florida legislature was in its final week of session ending on May 5, 2023. Donna reported that there were a range of bills that had already passed during that session, some good and some bad. Donna gave an overview of many of the relevant bills, including House Bill 1069, which has also been called the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. This bill would extend the policy prohibiting the discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity in the classroom through eighth grade. The State Board of Education has also enacted a policy prohibiting any discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity outside of a health class. Donna also gave an overview of Senate Bill 1580, which will allow any health care provider to opt out of participation in or payment for certain health care services on the basis of personal conscience-based objections.  More information on the 2023 Legislative Session is available in the weekly legislative reports distributed by The AIDS Institute. Members may also reach out to Donna at dsabatino@taimail.org. |
| REVIEW OF MINUTES | Members reviewed the minutes from April 5, 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 | Part A Recipient staff, Dorinda Seth, reported that Part A had received its full award for fiscal year 2023-2024 totaling $10,779,094, which was a slight increase of around 1% from the previous year. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the program did not spend out over 95% of funding for the first time in program history. Final expenditures were just slightly below 95%. There will not be any penalty for underspending due to a COVID-related waiver, so the program will still receive carryover funds of around $400,000. Dorinda then said that Part A will be bringing allocations to the next Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) meeting. She stressed the importance of everyone attending so that there would be a quorum to vote on the allocations. The program is trying to get the allocations set earlier in the year, compared to last year, so that providers have more time to spend the funding. Dorinda also said that she expects Part A may be reallocating funds more often this year.  Nolan asked if the program could receive just part of the carryover funds back, since the area had difficulty spending its full award last year. Dorinda said that it is generally frowned upon to not ask for the full award we are eligible for, and that doing so might jeopardize the amount of funding we get in the future. Nolan then asked if the Care Council could analyze the key reasons why funding was not spent. Dorinda answered that there were several reasons, including staffing issues. Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services (OAHS) was underspent this year because a lot of people are insured, so don’t need to rely on Ryan White as much for coverage for their medical care. There are also still impacts with COVID, either from hesitancy or people being out of the habit of going into the doctor’s office. Peggy Wallace shared that at her clinic, insurance is the main reason there is difficulty spending the contracted funds. When there are more people insured with private insurance, the clinic has to see more people to spend the same amount of Ryan White money. |
| LEAD AGENCY REPORT | Part B Lead Agency staff, Joshua Cardwell, reported that Part B would not have an expenditure report going to RPARC the next month, since the fiscal year just closed, and they are working on finalizing their numbers. Part B has been in touch with Part A about the services they are funding and their allocations. Joshua then said he is still working on how best to report on the Part B budgets, since they are split between state and federal funding. Joshua also noted that Part B had had difficulty spending money this year and since they cannot procure for new services at this time, they would be looking at increasing funding in some of its contracts this year to better spend the funds.  Joshua then shared that Nicole Houston is now the new HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC) for Area 5. Nicole previously worked as an Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) coordinator. Nicole introduced herself and said she was looking forward to working in the position. Members congratulated Nicole on her new position. |
| HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) REPORT | Anne Cronyn with the City of Tampa reported that the City is in the middle of its universal Request for Applications (RFA) process, which is an RFA put out for all federal and state programs at once, including HOPWA. Grants will start on October 1, 2023 and are planned as three-year agreements. HOPWA has a little over $5 million for the upcoming fiscal year. Applications will be accepted until May 9th. The original deadline was May 2nd, but there were a number of technical difficulties with Neighborly, the platform they are using to accept applications, so the deadline was extended. As a result of the extension, the timeline for reviewing applications has now changed. The review will take place on May 16th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at the City of Tampa office on Lemon Street. City of Tampa is under a cone of silence and cannot give any information about the program or how to apply, during the application period. Everything is on the City of Tampa website, including the technical assistance meetings that were provided for the community. Anne then said that one of the reviewers for the HOPWA applications had backed out, and they were looking for one more. To be a reviewer, you must not work for or be affiliated with an agency that has applied for funds. Nolan said he knows someone who might be able to do it and would be in touch.  Anne closed her report by saying that she reached out to Charmese Simmons from Pasco County Housing Authority about getting involved with the Care Council. Anne thanked Charmese for joining the meeting that day. |
| CARE COUNCIL PLANNING SUPPORT (PCS) STAFF REPORT | Planning Council Support (PCS) Staff, Katie Scussel, began her report by giving an update on committees and committee attendance. Katie shared a list of the membership of all committees and said that she had reached out to everyone who had not joined a committee yet and reminded them of the committee requirement in the bylaws. Membership and Community Outreach, in particular, is in need of more members. Both the previous Membership and Community Advisory Committees were struggling with low membership before the committee stopped meeting and it seems the new combined committee is struggling as well. Katie then said, as Dorinda mentioned, that attendance at RPARC was very important that month. It is also important to have a quorum at P&E as there are several big work items to get through as part of the needs assessment process before the committee can set the service priorities and every month there is no quorum the process is delayed. Katie said she would be collecting RSVPs for both meetings.  The 2022 HIV Care Needs Survey closed on Friday, April 30th. Katie reported that she is taking paper surveys through the end of that week. The survey had 520 responses as of that morning, with some additional paper surveys still to be added. Overall, the response rate was much lower than in 2019. Katie reminded anyone to please get in touch if they have any more paper surveys to turn in.  Finally, Katie reported that the Care Council will be meeting in-person next month at the Children’s Board. |
| COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP REPORTS | **A. Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee – Nolan Finn, Co-Chair**  P&E met on April 13, 2023 at Empath Health in Clearwater. The committee reviewed the Epidemiology and Care Continuum reports, but did not have quorum to vote on them, so they will be reviewing them again the next month when hopefully more members are present. The committee also reviewed a report on outcomes of EHE-funded services.  Kim Molnar offered to present the report. Kim clarified that this program is the HRSA funded EHE program through Hillsborough County. There is also a CDC-funded EHE grant, which is separate. The CDC funds go to the health departments, whereas HRSA funds goes through the Part A mechanism. Kim went over the report, which covered two EHE-funded services, Early Intervention Services (EIS) and Housing, for the fiscal year that ran from March 2022 to February 2023. The services are in year four and have reached a significant number of clients. Kim explained that viral suppression rates may seem low in the EIS group, but reminded everyone that the purpose of this service is to reach people who are not in care, so it makes sense for these numbers to be low as people are just being reengaged in care. Viral suppression rates from clients enrolled in the housing services were 91% and 96% for one provider, across two counties, and 100% for another provider, which is very good.  Kim also noted that the program had received it’s full award for the new fiscal year and had received an increase of $905,000 for a total of $2,555,761. There is an EHE planning group that meets separately on the first Thursday of the month at 2:00. If anyone is interested in attending the meeting to learn more about these projects, they can reach out to Kim.  The next P&E meeting will be on May 11, 2023 at Empath Health in Clearwater.  **B. Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) - Nolan Finn, Chair**  RPARC did not meet in April. Nolan The next meeting will be on May 11, 2023 and the committee will be reviewing final expenditures for the 2022-2023 fiscal year and voting on allocations for 2023-2024.  **C. Membership and Community Outreach – Joel Carrier, Chair**  Membership and Community Outreach met on April 17, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. Members talked about recruitment efforts. Joel said he had a great meeting with the peer navigator at the Polk County Health Department, who was interested in being more involved and assisting with recruitment efforts. Joel reported that the Care Council currently has 24 members. 38% are people living with HIV and 29% are people living with HIV that are not affiliated with funded agencies. The Care Council is in need of more members who are men, in their 20’s, 50’s, and 60’s, and from Manatee, Pasco, and Polk Counties. The next meeting will be on May 15, 2023 at Metro Inclusive Health in Tampa. |
| PREVENTION ACTIVITIES/QUALITY MANAGEMENT | Quality Management Consultant, David Cavalleri, gave an update on performance measures that were reported last month. David said he ran the numbers again that morning, to see if there were any changes, as several of the measures the previous month had raised some concern. Viral load suppression increased from 81.9% to 82.5%. Retention in care increased from 70% to 74%. Prescription of antiretrovirals, however, decreased from 93% to 89%.  Nolan asked David how the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) was going. David said that the survey process was ongoing and that he had received responses from a little over half of all Care Council members. |
| COMMUNITY INPUT | Bernard Washington asked whether other providers were having issues with Medicaid transport. Bernard reported that he has seen issues with rides now showing up. Angela Kellogg said that her agency has been seeing this issue for quite some time and that is it their practice to arrange for the ride to be there 45 minutes before they need to be, so that when they don’t show up, they can make other arrangements through Uber. Nolan asked if there might be some possibility to use unspent Ryan White funds on transportation. Angela said that because Ryan White is supposed to be the payer of last resort, they have to try Medicaid trans first, even though it is unreliable. |
| PUBLIC POLICY REPORT | The public policy report was covered during Donna Sabatino’s legislative update. |
| **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Nolan Finn announced that Mara Michniewicz, HIV Prevention Manager and Interim HIV Section Administrator, has resigned from her position after seventeen years with the HIV/AIDS Section. Nolan then said, as a member of the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN), there has not been much communication from the section, and he does not know whether there will be a spring meeting. Kim Molnar then said that Jimmy Llaque, who was formerly the ADAP Manager, has been promoted to Patient Care Manager and will serve as the Interim Section Administrator. Craig Wilson, Chief of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, will also be assisting with the Section Administrator responsibilities. The new Section Administrator position will now be divided into two positions, one more outward facing position will be hired as a consultant and another position will be hired with the state and will handle internal operations. FCPN will be having a spring meeting. The contract is still being finalized, but the meeting should take place in mid-June.  Angela Kellogg announced that Metro Inclusive Health is opening several new locations across Tampa Bay, including in Brandon, north St. Pete in the Gandy area, and in south St. Pete. The intention is to have more clinics available closer to where clients live. These clinics will be smaller and will allow a more intimate delivery of care.  Nicole Houston announced several upcoming HIV Awareness Days in May, including National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Awareness Day and HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. Pinellas EHE will be tabling in the lobby of the health department on May 18th and will be providing no cost HIV testing.  Nataliya Johnson announced that her daughter was graduating from the University of Florida with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Members congratulated Nataliya. |
| ADJOURNMENT | There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:04 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. May 3, 2023 Agenda 2. April 5, 2023 Minutes 3. EHE Activities Report March 2022-February 2023 4. 2023 Florida Legislative Report – Week 7 5. 2023 Florida Legislative Report – Week 8 6. May 2023 Calendar |
| WEBSITES CITED | None |

**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 |  |
| Nolan Finn | *Virtual* |
| Ashley Hill |  |
| Sheryl Hoolsema |  |
| Nataliya Johnson | *Virtual* |
| Riley Johnson |  |
| Vincent Kaborycha |  |
| Angela Kellogg | *Virtual* |
| Nicole Kish | *Virtual* |
| Kamaria Laffrey |  |
| Jeffrey Lluberes | *Virtual* |
| Bernice McCoy | *Virtual* |
| Marylin Merida | *Virtual* |
| Antonio Miles | *Virtual* |
| Kim Molnar | *Virtual* |
| Teriko Perkins | *Virtual* |
| Peggy Wallace | *Virtual* |
| Bernard Washington | *Virtual* |
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| **Associate Members** | **Attendance** |
| Chris Gudis | *Virtual* |
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| **Recipient Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Aubrey Arnold |  |
| Dorinda Creighton-Seth | *Virtual* |
| Maria Teresa Jaureguizar |  |
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| **Lead Agency Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Joshua Cardwell | *Virtual* |
| Nicole Houston | *Virtual* |
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| **Health Council Staff** | **Attendance** |
| Abigail Machtel |  |
| 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** |
| Chase Barrs | *Virtual* |
| Holly Beaver | *Virtual* |
| Lisa Conder | *Virtual* |
| Bobbi Lambert | *Virtual* |
| Mike Neuges | *Virtual* |
| Indira Palomino | *Virtual* |
| Donna Sabatino | *Virtual* |
| Michelle Scavnicky | *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, June 7, 2023.

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