

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**EMPATH HEALTH - CLEARWATER**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023**

**9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Nolan Finn, at 9:30 a.m. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Nolan Finn, Nicole Kish, Jeffrey Lluberes, Gina Puglisi  Members Absent: Sheryl Hoolsema, Angela Kellogg, Elizabeth Rugg  Guests Present: Julia Delmerico, E.S. Myles  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold, M.T. Jaureguizar, Dorinda Seth  Lead Agency Staff Present: Joshua Cardwell  Health Council Staff Present: Abigail Machtel, Lisa Nugent, Katie Scussel |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | Members reviewed the minutes from March 9, 2023 and April 13, 2023 and did not make any changes.  **Members voted to approve the minutes for March 9, 2023 (M: Lluberes, S: Kish).**  **Members voted to approve the minutes for April 13, 2023 (M: Lluberes, S: Kish).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Planning Council Support (PCS) Staff, Kate Scussel gave the Care Council report. The Care Council met virtually on May 3, 2023 on GoTo Meeting. Donna Sabatino from The AIDS Institute gave a legislative update on a number of bills that were passed by the Florida legislature that may affect the client population.  For the Part A Recipient report, Dorinda Seth announced that Part A had received its full award totaling $10,779,094, which was a slight increase of around 1% from the previous year. For the first time in program history, Part A did not spend above 95% of its funding in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. There will be no penalty, as the program had already received a waiver due to COVID, so Part A will still receive carryover funds of around $400,000.  For the Part B Lead Agency Report, Josh Cardwell announced that Nicole Houston is now the HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC) for Area 5.  For the Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) report, Anne Cronyn announced that the City of Tampa is in the middle of the universal Request for Applications (RFA) process. The city is procuring for all state and federal programs, including HOPWA. New three-year HOPWA agreements will begin October 1, 2023. Applications are due on May 9th and will be scored on May 16th.  PCS Staff gave an update on the 2022 HIV Care Needs Survey, which had closed the previous week. The survey received a total of 540 responses. Kim Molnar went over a report sharing outcomes of two Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) funded services, Early Intervention Services (EIS) and Housing. Quality Management Consultant, David Cavalleri, gave an update on performance measures that had been shared the previous month. Members also discussed issues with Medicaid transport. 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. 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.  The next Care Council meeting will be on June 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at The Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| **2022-2023 EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, presented the 2022-2023 Epidemiology Report. Overall, HIV incidence in the EMA decreased drastically in 2020 and increased in 2021. The decrease in cases in 2020 was likely due to the decrease in testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in 2021 may have been due to the increase in testing from the previous year. Overall, cases decreased from 2019 to 2021. Cases in cisgender women and Hispanic/Latinx people of all genders did not follow the expected trendline and have increased over the past three years.  **Members voted to approve the 2022-2023 Epidemiology Report (M: Lluberes, S: Kish).** |
| **2022-2023 CARE CONTINUUM REPORT** | Abigail Machtel presented the Care Continuum Report, going over the definitions of each stage of the continuum and presenting graphs showing the overall care continuum, the care continuum by race/ethnicity, and the care continuum in youth. All numbers in the care continuum have improved since 2017.  **Members voted to approve the 2022-2023 Care Continuum Report (M: Lluberes, S: Kish).** |
| **MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE (MSOC)** | Katie explained that the Minimum Standards of Care (MSOC) are a set of standards that all providers must follow to ensure that each Ryan White funded service is delivered in an equal manner across each funded service category. Part A Recipient Staff, M.T. Jaureguizar, drafted new standards for Housing and Early Intervention Services (EIS) based on standards she reviewed from other counties in Florida. Ryan White Part A is not currently funding EIS, but it is an EHE-funded service and there is some potential for Part A to fund it in the future. Katie also made changes to reflect the change in eligibility now only needing to be updated every twelve months, rather than every six months.  Members reviewed the changes to the MSOC. Lisa Nugent pointed out that the EIS standards included certain benchmarks, such as 100% of clients receiving health education, and that the other services didn’t have such benchmarks. Members agreed to change the language from “100% of clients” to “clients,” to be more comparable to the other service standards. Under the Housing standards, members changed the wording from “Assistance can only be provided to HIV positive individuals within a household” to “Assistance can only be provided to a household that contains a member that is HIV positive.” Members also made additional language changes to reflect that visits may be face-to-face to telehealth.  **Members voted to approve the revisions to the Minimum Standards of Care (M: Kish, S: Lluberes).** |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/**  **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Nolan Finn announced that 650 cement trucks would be arriving in downtown St. Petersburg that Friday to pour the foundation for the new building at 400 Central Ave. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. |