

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**RESOURCE PRIORITIZATION AND ALLOCATION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE (RPARC)**

**EMPATH HEALTH, CLEARWATER**

**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023**

**11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Nolan Finn, Chair, at 11:01 a.m. |
| ATTENDANCE | Members Present: Nolan Finn, Nicole Kish, Bernice McCoy, E.S. Myles, Elizabeth Rugg, Joy Winheim  Members Absent: Lillie Bruton, Angela Kellogg  Guests Present: Julia Delmerico  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold, M.T. Jaureguizar, Dorinda Seth  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Abigail Machtel, Lisa Nugent, Katie Scussel |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | **The minutes from March 9, 2023 were approved (M: Winheim, 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. |
| PART B LEAD AGENCY UPDATE | Joshua Cardwell, Part B Grants Manager, said that he did not have an update for Part B except to say that Nicole Houston is the new HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC) for Area 5. Nicole will plan to attend future RPARC meetings to represent Part B, along with Joshua. |
| PART A RECIPIENT UPDATE | 1. Part A Expenditure Report  Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, reviewed the final FY 2022-2023 Expenditure Report. The program was at 96% expended at the end of the fiscal year. Nolan pointed out that the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services (OAHS) contract was only 72% spent and asked why. Dorinda explained that that particular provider has had a lot of staffing issues and that they also have had issues with clients keeping their appointments.  Members discussed staffing issues. Joy Winheim noted it’s become hard to compete with companies that offer higher pay and work-from-home positions. Aubrey said that the agreements in the next procurement would have rate increases for all staff positions. Lisa Nugent asked if the rate increases would apply to Planning Council Support (PCS). Aubrey said that PCS is considered part of the administration, so is subject to the 10% cap on administration costs. Lisa commented that PCS had an open position for six months last year, that could not be filled in part due to the low salary.  **2. Part A Allocation Recommendations**  Aubrey presented the Part A Allocation Recommendations, explaining that the Recipient staff put out a survey to all providers to assess areas of unmet need. Aubrey noted that Part A may consider doing a one time allocation to ADAP at some point during the year, to avoid being underspent. Julia Delmerico asked about why there was underspending in OAHS the previous year. Dorinda Seth explained that more people are being insured through private insurance, so not as many people are using Ryan White for their medical care. Providers have also said they are still seeing impacts from COVID. Nolan asked for more clarity on where the $824,097 being allocated to services was coming from. The $824,091 includes $821,554 of formula funding and 2,543 of Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding. Aubrey also noted that the allocations were not finalized last year until July. Looking at them early this year will give more time to get funds to the providers so that they have more time to spend their funds. Joy asked when the next Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) reallocations would be. Aubrey answered that the amended budget would be going to the Board of County Commissioners on June 7th.  **The Part A FY 2023-2024 Allocation Recommendations were approved (M: Rugg, S: Winheim).** |
| 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 11:59 p.m. |