

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**EMPATH HEALTH - CLEARWATER**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

**9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Sheryl Hoolsema, at 9:30 a.m. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Nolan Finn, Sheryl Hoolsema, Angela Kellogg, Jeffrey Lluberes, Marylin Merida, Gina Puglisi  Members Absent: Elizabeth Rugg  Guests Present: Audrey Shockley-Cummings  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold  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 voted to approve the minutes for August 10, 2023 (M: Hoolsema, S: Finn).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | The Care Council did not meet in September. The next meeting will be on October 4, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| **2023-2024 NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, presented the 2023-2024 Needs Assessment Report, explaining that HRSA requires the planning council to produce a needs assessment each year. The needs assessment is comprised of the epidemiology overview, information on access to care and service gaps (which includes recent survey data), a description of the coordination of services and local funding streams, a description of the planning and resource allocation process, and a listing of the most recent service priorities.  Nolan Finn asked about the service priorities included in the final section of the document. Katie explained that the priorities listed are the ones that were last adopted by the Care Council, because the most recent priorities voted on by this committee have not gone to Care Council yet. Members decided to update the priorities to the new list once they are approved.  Nolan asked whether the program is tracking how many people travel into counties other than where they live to receive services. Aubrey said that while it is not specifically tracked, he is aware that some clients travel from outside the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) into EMA counties to receive their services. Marylin Merida commented that she sees the same thing with Part D, that there are some clients who are comfortable with certain providers, so they are willing to travel to see them. Katie noted that there was a question on the 2022 Needs Survey that asked about traveling to another county for services. She said she did not know off the top of her head how many people said that they traveled between counties, but that there were some but not a big number.  Members discussed barriers with housing. Even with rising housing prices, the cost of moving is a barrier in itself, with the need to hire movers and secure deposits and first and last month’s rent, so many become stuck where they are because they are unable to afford the upfront costs of moving, even when it would save them in rent prices in the long term.  Nolan motioned to adopt the report, with the updated service priorities once they are adopted by Care Council. Angela Kellogg seconded the motion and added that Part B be listed as a source of funding for medical nutrition therapy in the Resource Inventory Table.  **Members voted to adopt the 2023-2024 Needs Assessment Report, with the changes discussed to the service priorities and resource inventory table (M: Finn, S: Kellogg).** |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/**  **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Audrey Shockley-Cummings introduced herself as a Doctor of Nursing student at the University of South Florida. Audrey explained that she is working on developing testing guidelines for USF’s mobile unit and is looking to make connections with local HIV providers. Aubrey asked if she was connected to the USF street medicine team, which is involved in HIV testing in the Tampa General Hospital emergency room. Audrey said she was not and would be happy to have the connection. Several members agreed to share their contact information with her after the meeting. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. |