

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL

**RESOURCE PRIORITIZATION AND ALLOCATION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE (RPARC)**

**EMPATH HEALTH, CLEARWATER**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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, Angela Kellogg, Marylin Merida, Elizabeth Rugg  Members Absent: Lillie Bruton, Nicole Kish, Bernice McCoy, Joy Winheim  Guests Present: David Cavalleri, Kevin Williams  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold, 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 | **The minutes from August 10, 2023 were approved (M: Rugg, S: Kellogg).** |
| 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. |
| PART A RECIPIENT UPDATE | 1. FY 2024-2025 Allocation Recommendations   Aubrey Arnold, Part A Recipient, went over the allocation recommendations for fiscal year 2024-2025, noting each of the categories that will be in the upcoming procurement (outpatient ambulatory health services, medical case management, oral health, health insurance premiums and cost sharing, AIDS pharmaceutical assistance, emergency financial assistance, mental health services, and substance use outpatient care). Aubrey explained that the recommendations are based on the award amount for FY 2023-2024, because the program does not yet know the total award amount for FY 2024-2025. He said that he expects either level funding or a small increase. He does not foresee a cut. The area requested around $11 million, but we usually do not receive the full amount.  The amounts for oral health were recommended to be decreased in Pasco and Hernando, based on expenditures from the previous year. Members discussed barriers seen within oral health. To receive Ryan White funds, dental providers must be non-profits, but there are not many non-profit dental providers in the area. Providers often do not want the contracts, because the reporting requirements can be burdensome. A lot of oral health providers are also uninformed about HIV and carry stigma that makes them hesitant to work with these patients. Elizabeth Rugg asked if a non-profit could apply for the oral health funds, and then subcontract with a for-profit provider to provide oral health. Dorinda Seth answered that the only way that could be possible is if no other non-profits bid for the service during the procurement.  Members also discussed the recommendation for health insurance premiums and cost sharing, as the amount of recommended funding is more than what was expended in the last fiscal year. Aubrey explained that some of the justification for that is that the program expects increased utilization of that service due to the Medicaid unwinding.  **The allocation recommendations were approved by roll call vote (M: Marylin, S: Rugg).** |
| PART B LEAD AGENCY UPDATE | 1. FY 2023-2024 Part B Expenditure Reports   Part B Lead Agency staff, Joshua Cardwell, went over the expenditure reports for Part B and Patient Care Network and General Revenue funds for FY 2023-2024. Members noted that there are currently no expenditures in oral health in Hillsborough County. Members discussed issues with oral health, as mentioned above, including issues with staffing. |
| ASSESSMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM (AAM) | David Cavalleri, Quality Management Consultant, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) for 2022-2023. The AAM is a process of assessing how well the Part A program is doing at stewarding the Ryan White funds and includes surveys and interviews with providers, Care Council members, and RPARC members assessing how information is shared, how quickly invoices are paid, and overall satisfaction with the Recipient. David explained that the report was currently in draft form because he still has a few more interviews he is planning to complete.  In his presentation, David noted that about 50% of providers had responded to the survey. Nolan asked who within the agencies gets the survey and whether it should maybe go to other staff members. David said that he sends it to those who he has historically received responses from. David also said that the survey is anonymous, so he can’t necessarily tell which providers have responded.  Members discussed spending in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The program spent over 95% of the grant, but did not spend 95% of the service dollars. There was no penalty for not spending the funds, as there was a waiver in place due to COVID. Aubrey said that he does not think there will be a COVID-related waiver available again, so he is concerned that there will be a penalty if the program does not spend 95% of funds this year. Elizabeth commented that she would like the Insurance Services Program (ISP) to be able to use enhanced benefits to assist clients in paying down medical debt. Kevin Williams agreed with Elizabeth and said he sees clients struggling a lot financially. Nolan commented that now that medical providers are increasingly using online portals, sometimes you have to pay a co-pay before your appointment, or the appointment is canceled. Elizabeth said she had not heard that and was concerned about the impact that such policies could have on ISP.  David also noted in the presentation that Hillsborough County switched to a new payment system, Zenith, which has created a lot of issues. As a result, invoices have not been paid as quickly as they used to be. David noted that in talking to providers, he learned that providers did not blame the Part A staff for this issue and understood that they did everything they could on their end to solve any problems. Members discussed barriers for non-profits, particularly small ones that do not have the reserves to draw on when invoices are not paid in a timely manner. |
| COMMUNITY INPUT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS | There were no community concerns or announcements. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. |