

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**THE CHILDREN’S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Nicole Kish, Co-Chair at 1:33 PM. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Nicole Kish  Members Absent: Whitney Corouthers, Bobbi Lambert, Gina Puglisi, Musammat Rahman, Peggy Wallace  Guests Present: Ashley Hill, Terry Law  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | None |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | Members reviewed the minutes from the May 18, 2023 and July 20, 2023 meetings but could not vote due to lack of quorum. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council met on November 1, 2023 and had an abbreviated meeting followed by a training. Members passed the Reallocation Recommendations and Carryover Allocations, had a brief update on the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism, and voted in one new member. Part A is currently going through the procurement process. Applications for Part A services were due on November 7, 2023. Recommended funding amounts will be announced around December 1st.  Following the meeting, there was a training presented by The AIDS Institute that covered the federal budget and legislative process.  The next Care Council meeting will be on December 6, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| **DISCUSS RYAN WHITE FORMULARY** | Katie gave some background on potential changes to the Part A formulary. The Part A formulary is currently open except for erectile dysfunction (ED) drugs. Last year, Part B began covering ED drugs, following a vote from the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN)’s Medication Access Committee. The Health Services Advisory Committee is responsible for making changes to the Part A formulary and will need to vote on whether to follow Part B and allow ED drugs. Katie explained that there was disagreement at the federal level about this issue and Part A staff are currently waiting on guidance from their project officer on whether ED drugs are allowed, so the committee will not be able to vote on this issue until a final word is received from HRSA. Members discussed issues related to ED drugs.  Nicole Kish commented that there was no announcement from Part B about the addition of ED drugs to the formulary, they were just suddenly there one day. Ashley Hill, a pharmacist, shared that they are occasionally prescribed for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Terry Law shared that he does have patients that ask for ED drugs. Many of these patients are young, have a history of substance use in their chart, and may be seeking them for recreational purposes. As providers, his practice has decided not to prescribe them for these patients. For older patients, they have them see a urologist first to get a diagnosis of erectile dysfunction. He also shared that he has seen patients go to an outside doctor and get a large prescription that they may be selling. Members acknowledged that there are pros and cons to adding these drugs to the formulary and that appropriate use may come down to provider discretion.  Ashely asked if it is difficult for patients to access a urologist. Terry answered that it depends, for some yes and for some no. Members discussed that Ryan White care is not supposed to be primary care and that HIV care is supposed to be considered a specialty, but many patients do see their HIV providers are their primary physicians, especially younger people who may not have any other health issues. |
| **DICUSS IMPACTS FROM RYAN WHITE ELIGIBILITY CHANGES AND MEDICAID ROLL OFFS** | Ashley commented that at AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) there has been issues with people being enrolled in family planning Medicaid and then being unable to enroll in Ryan White or other assistance. This problem was reported by another provider at a Care Council meeting earlier in the year, when Medicaid roll offs first began. Ashley said that it has been resolved for most clients, but she still sees it here and there.  Terry shared that he likes the yearly eligibility update, rather than every 6 months which seemed like too often for some people. Nicole said that she saw a lot of issues when overseeing case management. There was difficulty with ADAP and Ryan White using different databases. |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Members discussed upcoming World AIDS Day events. CAN Community Health is co-hosting an event with Tampa Mayor, Jane Castor. The Polk Department of Health is having a community resource fair in Lakeland on December 1st. They are collaborating with a lot of smaller providers to make it a community-focused event.  Ashley shared that she does a lot of PrEP and nPEP outreach in her role at AHF. She is currently primarily focused in Pinellas, as AHF only has locations in Pinellas, but would like to do more work in Polk. She is able to see virtual patients. Terry asked if pharmacists are able to prescribe PrEP. Ashley answered that they can through a collaborative practice agreement, which is relatively new. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m. |