

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**EMPATH HEALTH - CLEARWATER**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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, Gina Puglisi  Members Absent: Nicole Kish, Jeffrey Lluberes, Marylin Merida, Elizabeth Rugg  Guests Present: None  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold  Lead Agency Staff Present: Joshua Cardwell  Health Council Staff Present: Abigail Dees, Katie Scussel |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | **Members voted to approve the minutes for October 12, 2023 (M: Finn, S: Kellogg).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Committee Co-Chair, Nolan Finn, 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.  The training was presented by The AIDS Institute and covered the federal budget and legislative process. Nolan commented that it was a very good presentation.  The next Care Council meeting will be on December 6, 2023 at 1:30 PM at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| **2023-2024 EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, gave a presentation on the 2023-2024 Epidemiology Report. Katie explained that the report covers 2022 data, the most recently available data, which was released by the Florida Department of Health (DOH) earlier in the fall. The report usually covers three years of data but Katie explained that she included 2019 data in this report so that members could compare data from before the pandemic.  Members discussed the increase in incidence. HIV incidence changed from 507 cases in 2019, 429 in 2020, 478 in 2021, and back up to 516 in 2022. Angela Kellogg commented that an increase in incidence is not always a bad thing because it means more of the right people are being reached for testing. Members noted a concerning increase in incidence among Hispanic people. There were 94 cases of HIV in Hispanic individuals in 2019 and 152 in 2022. Members discussed how this increase may be due to more targeted testing in this population.  **Members voted to approve the 2023-2024 Epidemiology Report (M: Kellogg, S: Hoolsema).** |
| **2023-2024 CARE CONTINUUM REPORT** | Staff, Abigail Dees, presented the 2023-2024 Care Continuum Report.  Members discussed retention in care rates. A lot of private providers are now moving to ordering labs every six months, rather than every three. For these patients, lab visits may not show that they are retained in care if they are a little bit late getting their labs. Members also discussed viral suppression rates and noted lower viral suppression in Black individuals. In 2022, 68% of Black individuals were virally suppressed, compared to 79% of White individuals and 75% of Hispanic individuals. This difference in viral suppression rates represents the largest disparity within the care continuum.  **Members voted to approve the 2023-2024 Care Continuum Report (M: Finn, S: Hoolsema).** |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/**  **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Part A Recipient, Aubrey Arnold, announced that DOH will be using the Vision Mission Services and Goals (VMSG) dashboard to monitor the statewide Integrated Plan. Several Part A areas will also be using this dashboard to monitor their local plans. Katie confirmed that staff are planning to use this dashboard to monitor the Tampa-St. Petersburg plan. Aubrey noted that there should be an upcoming training on the dashboard, but a date has not yet been set.  Members had some discussion about data issues and the changing nature of healthcare and social services. There is an increased focus on tracking data, which is important for quality improvement, but agencies are not always provided the support they need to input data. Providers are expected to keep up with multiple data systems. Members noted that every dollar spent on data is less spent on patient care.  The committee will not meet in December. Members and staff discussed all of the work accomplished by the committee this year and acknowledged that the program is in a good place for the site visit next spring with all major work items up-to-date, including the Service Priorities, Minimum Standards of Care, and Service Caps and Limits. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m. |