

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by Bobbi Lambert, Chair at 1:32 PM. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Bobbi Lambert, Nicole Kish, Musammat Rahman, Peggy Wallace  Members Absent: None  Guests Present: None  Recipient Staff Present: None  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Abigail Dees, Lisa Nugent, Katie Scussel |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | None |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | Members reviewed the minutes from the May 18, 2023, July 20, 2023, and November 16, 2023.  **All minutes were approved by the committee (M: Kish, S: Rahman).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Staff, Katie Scussel, reported that the Care Council did not meet in January. The last meeting was on December 6, 2023. Members reviewed expenditure reports and the most recent Epidemiology and Care Continuum reports, which covered data through 2022. Anyone who has not seen the reports and would like to reach them may get in touch with staff to request copies. They are also posted on the Care Council website. At the time of the meeting, the Part A Recipient had just wrapped up the procurement process and released application scores and recommended funding amounts. Part B gave a brief update on the transition to the Statewide Fiduciary Agent model. Local Lead Agencies will remain and current contracts will continue for at least one more year. There will be a procurement process to identify the statewide fiduciary agent, but a timeline and funding amount has not yet been announced. DOH has stressed the continuity of services so that there are no disruptions for clients. Planning Councils will also remain as a way to gather feedback from the community.  The next Care Council meeting will be on December 6, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| **UPDATE RYAN WHITE FORMULARY** | Members discussed potential updates to the Part A formulary. Katie gave some background on the discussion from the last meeting. 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. Part A staff were told by their project officer that ED drugs may be covered by Ryan White, but the prescription should be given for conditions related to a patient’s HIV and approval granted on a case-by-case basis. Part A staff requested a statement in writing from the project officer but had not received one by the time of the meeting.  Bobbi Lambert stated that she had read the minutes from the previous meeting and liked what was said about having clients see a urologist first to receive a formal diagnosis. She said that one physician she used to work with prescribed these drugs more frequently, but that she hasn’t seen many requests recently.  Lisa Nugent commented that it didn’t seem like the committee had enough information on the parameters that should be set. Nicole Kish agreed that it didn’t seem like the committee had enough information to make a decision.  Members decided to table the item to the next meeting, so that they could get more information from Part A. |
| **DICUSS IMPACTS FROM RYAN WHITE ELIGIBILITY CHANGES AND MEDICAID ROLL OFFS** | Missy Rahman reported that she has seen issues with clients being enrolled in family planning Medicaid and then being unable to enroll in ADAP, which was an issue also brought up at the last meeting. Missy reported this has especially been an issue with female clients and that she has been working with ADAP to help get it resolved.  Missy also reported that clients have been happy with the yearly eligibility renewal, as opposed to every six months. She said that it has allowed case managers to work more intensively with the clients that need it, because they are not overburdened with helping clients renew their eligibility. Peggy reported that the new eligibility process has been very helpful. She said that it seemed there was some concern that clients would fall out of care if they don’t have to renew eligibility as often, but that has not been the case. Peggy also said that she’s continued to see issues with Medicaid. Most clients don’t find out they have been dropped from Medicaid until they need their medications. She is grateful ADAP has staff out in the community now helping to assist with issues as they arrive. Tampa Care Clinic has an ADAP staff member on site one day per week. The clinic has also been using free samples from the pharmaceutical companies, to ensure clients don’t go without their medications. |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Bobbi asked committee members how much they are seeing clients using the long-acting injectable medication Cabenuva. Nicole said that the Department of Health is still hesitant to provide it because they are unsure clients will be able to keep the appointments necessary to stay current on the medication. Injections must be given in an office setting. Peggy said that she has patients that show interest, but some are put off by the frequency of the injections and the pain that may linger at the injection site. She does have some that start it and are happy with the treatment.  Katie asked if anyone had heard of anything else in research and development that might be longer acting than Cabenuva. Peggy shared that there is a monoclonal antibody treatment coming. It is administered for 8-12 weeks, after which patients may come off their medications and should remain virally suppressed. It is uncertain how long viral suppression will last.  Bobbi announced that the Pasco County Health Department has moved offices as of November. They are now in a new building, with new exam rooms and office spaces.  Bobbi also announced that Pasco DOH did not receive Part A funding in the recent procurement, so they are transitioning clients to Metro Inclusive Health. There were about 45 clients utilizing services at Pasco DOH. The remaining staff will refocus their work on prevention and early intervention. Bobbi said they are hiring new prevention positions, so if anyone knows, anyone interested might tell her.  Nicole shared that Polk DOH is hosting a Community Health and Resource Fair in Haines City on February 7, 2024 for National Black HIV Awareness Day. She shared that the World AIDS Day event was held in Lakeland, so they are trying to move other events around the county to reach more people. With Polk being such a large county, some people in the rural areas don’t know about all of the services offered in the rest of the county.  Missy shared that EPIC will be hosting an upcoming drag bingo fundraising event. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m. |