**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**  
**WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORK GROUP**

**GOTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

**10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

# MINUTES

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting was called to order by Marylin Merida at 10:10 am. |
| ATTENDANCE | Attendees Present: Mary Frances Jones, Tara Ochoa, Barbara Szelag, Anica Colon, Cienna Booker, Antonio Miles, Indira Palomino, Bernard Washington, Deniz Curler, Marylin Merida, Ciera Brumdage, Sheryl Hoolsema  Recipient Staff Present: Maria Teresa Jaureguizar  Lead Agency Staff Present: None  Health Council Staff Present: Katie Scussel, Abigail Dees |
| CHANGES TO AGENDA | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **REVIEW OF MINUTES** | The group reviewed the minutes for July 27, 2023 and did not make any edits. |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Care Council support staff, Abigail Dees, reported that the Care Council did not meet in September. The last meeting was in August.  Abigail reported that Part A had updated the E2Hillsborough Software and procurement will take place via that program this fall. Part A was working on their data-sharing agreement with the Department of Health, including the 12 month attestation form.  Part B announced that they would have expenditure reports for the Resources Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee in September.  Katie stated that Anne Cronyn from HOPWA gave updates on their grant cycle. They have completed their Request for Applications for this grant cycle. These new applications included one new applicant, Positively U, and one applicant that did not reapply, Pasco Housing Authority.  Abigail reported that the Council updated the nominations to the Florida Comprehensive Planning Network.  The Planning and Evaluation committee presented new Service Caps and Limits which was approved by the Council. Planning and Evaluation also presented the Care Needs Survey Report and it was approved. The Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee presented Part B Allocations. The Membership and Community Outreach Committee presented the Guiding Principles and they were approved by the council.  The next Care Council meeting will take place on October 4th at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. Abigail urged that attendance will be very important at that meeting because there are many action items on the agenda. |
| **MOMENT OF INSPIRATION** | Mary Francis Jones asked the group if anyone would like to share a moment of inspiration. There were no members that shared. Mary then shared that she would like the group to focus their attention on clients and community members who were experiencing mental health and emotional challenges. She stated that she has seen an overwhelming amount of individuals seeking out mental health services. She asked the group to reflect on these individuals and their experiences and to keep those “suffering in silence” in their thoughts. She then called for a moment of silence. |
| FALL EVENT | Members discussed the logistics for the event around Thanksgiving.  Abigail Dees stated that although Lisa Conder could not attend the meeting today, she had reached out and let her know that her organization, Help Us, Help U was willing to provide pamper bags for the group and centerpieces if they were needed. Members also reviewed the other members that had agreed to contribute to the event.  Mary Jones posed if the group should meet again in October since the next meeting that was scheduled would not have taken place until after the event. Antonio Miles stated that he believed it would benefit the group to meet one more time before the event. Members agreed and the group scheduled to meet on October 26th at 10 AM.  Members asked that the Google Doc that is used to coordinate the event be sent out again as some members had lost the email containing the link. Abigail agreed to send it out again after the meeting.  Marylin then asked if the group had discussed whether masks would be required at the event due to an increase in Covid-19 cases in the area. Abigail explained that the group had not discussed whether masks would be required, but it would most likely be up to the organization at which the event is located. Deniz Curler then explained that EPIC, the host organization, has not reinstated a mask requirement. Abigail stated that they could encourage attendees to wear a mask at the event, but since the building does not require masks, they would probably not be able to enforce a mask requirement. Marylin asked if the host organization would be able to provide masks and Abigail stated that Suncoast Health Council would be able to provide them.  Marylin stated that she thinks this event will be a successful way for clients to get out of isolation and help them connect with other people. She believes that it will be an important event for clients. Mary stated that she had been discussing this event with individuals and Mercy House and Francis House and she believed this event would be an important connection for those individuals. She stated that a lot of these individuals were experiencing mental health challenges and even their therapy sessions have been moved to an online setting; contributing to their isolation.  Antonio stated that he should be finished with the flyer for the event within the next couple days. He stated that he would send it to Abigail when finished and then make any changes based on feedback. Abigail stated that she would send it out to everyone as soon as she received it. |
| WOMEN/YOUTH CONCERNS/UPDATES | There were no women/youth concerns/updates. |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | Bernard Washington announced that the Ybor Youth Clinic’s HalloScreen event would take place on October 27th and a flyer would be coming out soon. Marylin announced that Positively U was hosting a “Call In” Day to call the Florida senators regarding the cuts in HIV spending in the proposed budget. The event was scheduled for today.  Marylin also announced that she was hosting a study on long term survivors who contracted HIV perinatally. This study focuses on these individuals’ experience in the system of care throughout their lives. The study is called Beating the Odds and consists of a survey that any long term survivor over the age of 25 who contracted HIV perinatally can take. After the survey, individuals can notate if they would be willing to participate in a virtual focus group. These focus groups will take place virtually and any individuals who completes one will receive a gift card. Marylin asked that members please refer their clients to take the survey and participate in a focus group if they are willing. She stated that if anyone had questions they can contact her or Barbara Szelag.  Mary asked that if any member’s organization was planning any activities for World AIDS Day that they send the information out so that she could begin promoting the activities.  Antonio shared that his organization Positively U gave out free clothing and food every Thursday from 10AM to 2 PM at their Tampa location. He also announced that the Hillsborough Planning Council was planning a gala for World AIDS Day and a flyer would be out soon for that event. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM. |
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