

**Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council  
CARE Council Meeting Minutes**

***January 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 @ 2:00 P.M. @ 1440 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Riviera Beach, Florida - 33404 / Belle Glade Library - 725 NW 4th St, Belle Glade Library – Lunch will be provided @ B.G location.***

<https://pbcgov.zoom.us/j/88977650940?pwd=R821QrFZO0WHacLU3GbUY7giA9McOA.1>

Meeting ID: 889 7765 0940  
Passcode: 285814

**Members Present**

1. Ashnika Ali
2. Hector Bernardino
3. Damion Baker
4. **Richardo Jackson – Chair**
5. Kristen Harrington
6. Tyrina Pinkney
7. ‘Ashaki Sypher
8. **Youssef Motti- Treasurer**
9. Brittany Henry
10. Tad Fuller- **Secretary**
11. Denisse Grigoriou
12. Kim Rommel-Enright

**Members absent**

Lysette Perez - **Vice Chair**  
Thomas McKissack  
Miguel Vasquez  
Nancy McConnell  
Cecil Smith  
Cynthia Walker  
Dr. Jyothi Gunta  
Dominique Lane  
Christian Johnston  
Mary Jane Reynolds

**Guests**

Lilia Perez  
Cynthia Acosta  
Orquidea  
Keri Ramnarace  
Alyssa Sullivan  
Susan MINTZ  
Dr. Berthline Isma

**Recipient Staff**

Jeffrey Lesanti  
Dr. Daisy Wiebe  
Thomas Eaton  
Geneve Simeus  
Shoshana Ringer

Dr. Casey Messer  
Anna Balla  
Jason Gross  
Bianca Murphy  
Lia Head- Rigby

- I. Call to order. Roll, Introduction of Guests – Jeffery took the roll call and Quorum was present

Note: If you have any question or require special accommodations, please contact Neeta Mahani at 561-355-4820 or [Nmhahani@pbcgov.org](mailto:Nmhahani@pbcgov.org) .

## II. A Moment of Reflection

### **A Moment of Silence – Richardo Jackson**

*A moment of silence is observed in respect to the memory of those individuals Who have succumbed to AIDS and those who are living with HIV. Let us Remember why we are here today. Let us have the strength to make the decisions that Will improve the care of those we serve. Let us be thankful for what we have accomplished to date.*

## III. Motion to accept the Excused Absences: Lysette Perez – Ashnika Ali First and Kristen Harrington – second – motions carries

## IV. Motion to accept the January 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 CARE Council Meeting Agenda- Kristen Harrington –first and Brittany Henry – second – Motion carries

## V. Motion to accept November 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 CARE Council Meeting Minutes – Brittany Henry –First and Youssef Motii- Second

## VI. Comments by the Chair: Richardo expressed his appreciation for the members' commitment and dedication to serving the residents and visitors of Palm Beach County, particularly those living with HIV.

## VII. County Staff Comments: Recipient and Care Council staff: None

## VIII. Standing Reports: (5 – 10 min each)

- A. CPP Update: Rob Scott announced the chair of current CPP 2025-26
- B. Part B Report: Patient Care & 4BNWK Report: Rob Scott –

- **Current Spend Rate:** 75% vs. expected 83%

- **Planned Adjustments:**

- Increase budget allocations for administration and lab services
- Explore potential additional funding under current federal policies

- **Action:** Rob to circulate the detailed financial report post-meeting (per Lilia's Request)

**C. HOPWA (West Palm Beach):** Miguel Vazquez- Tad Fuller updated

- Waitlist remains; limited movement without new resources

**D. Palm Beach County Recipient Report:** Dr. Casey Messer

**Housing Assistance Programs**

• **Short-Term Rental Assistance (EHE):**

- Up to 3 months' assistance, advance or arrears payments
- No requirement to be behind on rent or facing eviction
- Case managers must specify "EHE rental assistance" when calling in
- **Contact:** Contact office or Bianca Murphy for troubleshooting

• **Rental Assistance (Ryan White):**

- Unlimited rent amount; 30-day application processing
- Legal services available for eviction concerns
- Not restricted to individuals experiencing homelessness
- Flyers and referral to food bank services encouraged

**Budget Challenges**

- **EHE Fund Spend-Down:** Difficulty in fully expending current year funds; next year's allocation expected to decrease.
- **Funding for Undocumented Clients:** Program remains 100% federally funded.

**E. Part A Expenditure Report:** Jeffery Lesanti - **Ryan White Part A:**

- Expenditures at 8% carryover (must not exceed 5%)
- Continuing resolution in place pending full award notice
- **EHE Program:**
- Funding level TBD; short-term housing assistance under way
- **Mobile Health Units:** Available at no cost for sub recipients to deepen

Service delivery

- F. Executive:** Richardo Jackson - Committee did not meet
- G. Ad hoc Health Equity:** Kim Enright – Committee did not meet
- H. LPAP:** Kristen Harrington – No update
- I. Community Engagement:** Tad Fuller – Will meet in February but having a hard time getting Quorum and getting business done as most of the members were attending via zoom.
- J. P & A:** Dr Youssef Motii – Committee did not meet in January but planning to meet in February.
- K. QMEC:** Hector Bernardino – Committee meet quarterly and then Dr Daisy gave update about incoming quality improvement showcase on February 24<sup>th</sup> before CC meeting.
- L. Planning:** Lysette Perez was absent and Genève provided an update on the planning process, emphasizing the need for people with lived experience to participate in the planning committee. She also mentioned the release of the new integrated plan guidance and the cancellation of the training webinar due to government department limitations.
- M. Housing:** Miguel Vazquez & Andres Correa- Committee did not meet.
- N. Ad-Hoc Bylaws:** Lysette Perez- No update
- IX. Old Business:** None

**X. New Business:**

- **PBC HIV CARE Council annual election is schedule for February 24<sup>th</sup> 2025.**  
Richardo announce the annual election and requested everyone to be present in person.
- **Quality Improvement showcase schedule on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2025 @ 11 a.m. – Dr Daisy and Jasmine requested everyone to attend before the February CC meeting and snacks will be served.**

**XI. Public Comments: 3 Minutes- None**

**XII. Educational Moment: 2023 Data Epi Profile Presentation - Irma Shute presented (10 Minutes.) Please see attached Epidemiological Update**

- **2023 HIV Statistics:**
  - Palm Beach County ranks 5th in new diagnoses but shows a decline
  - Trends: ↓ new HIV & AIDS cases | ↑ prevalence (longer lifespans) | ↓ HIV-related deaths
  - Care metrics: 75% in care; 66% virally suppressed
  - Death rate: 1.8 per 100,000 (among lowest in Florida)
- **Transmission Modes:** Heterosexual contact most common; Black heterosexuals highest priority group

**Rising STD Rates in seniors:** Comparable to teenage rates; higher among Hispanic & African American senior.

**Prevention Strategies:**

Promotion of safe sex practices  
PrEP and doxycycline prophylaxis

- **Senior Centers:** Expand HIV information and services on-site

### **XIII. Announcements:**

- **Campbell Health Summit & Expo:** February 28, 2025 – focus on health, justice, faith & leadership
- **“Positively Positive” Show:** Susan coordinating community HIV resource segment
- **Mainstream Housing Waitlist:** New waitlist opening soon for non-elderly disabled Clients via County Housing Authority

### **Overall Action Items**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible</u></b>	<b><u>Due/Notes</u></b>
Serve as 2025 Council officers	Interested members	Election Feb. 24
Attend Quality Improvement Showcase	All attendees	Feb. 24, 12:30 PM
Recruit individuals with lived experience	All members	Ongoing
Submit priority scoring data	Sub recipients → Genève	ASAP
Promote 3-month EHE rental assistance	All attendees	Ongoing through Feb.
Clarify EHE call-in process	Bianca Murphy	Draft process by next meeting
Expand senior center HIV services	Jason & team	Plan rollout in Q2
Monitor new mainstream housing waitlist	All attendees	When announced
Participate in Campbell Summit & Expo	Interested parties	Feb. 28
Coordinate for “Positively Positive” show	Interested parties → Susan	Contact Susan directly

### **XIV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourn @ 4:30 p.m.**

#### **\*Conflict of Interest**

A CARE Council member who has an identified conflict of interest must abstain from voting on issues related to that conflict. A member who does not abstain from voting on issues where a conflict is identified by the County’s Commission on Ethics may be removed from the CARE Council.

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