

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

February 24th 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 – Light hot snacks will be provided @ MLK

<https://pbcgov.zoom.us/j/84604235960?pwd=lvghdpVbTX1ohXbYyudsEYUOe5WbY.1>

Meeting ID: 846 0423 5960

Passcode: 787302

Members Present

1. Ashnika Ali
2. Hector Bernardino
3. Lysette Perez - **Vice Chair**
4. Richardo Jackson- **Chair**
5. Kristen Harrington
6. Miguel Vasquez
7. Youssef Motti – **Treasurer**
8. Brittany Henry
9. Tad Fuller- **Secretary**
10. Denisse Grigoriou
11. Nancy McConnell
12. Kim Rommel-Enright
13. Mary Jane Reynolds
14. Cecil Smith

Members absent

Thomas McKissack
Cynthia Walker
Damion Baker
Thomas McKissack
Ashaki Sypher
Dr Jyothi Gunta
Dominique Lane

Guests

Lilia Perez
Cynthia Acosta
Orquidea Acevedo
Vicki – Legal Aid
Gayle Stein - FDOH
Jennifer Martin
Tiffany - HCSEF
Susan MINTZ
Ann Maria - HCSEF
Dr Berthline Isma-

Recipient Staff

Jeffrey Lesanti
Dr. Daisy Wiebe
Thomas Eaton
Geneve Simeus
Shoshana Ringer
August Frohnhofer A.
Andres Correa

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

CARE Council Staff

Neeta Mahani

- I.** Call to order. Roll, Introduction of Guests – Neeta Mahani 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 Nmahani@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 but attended online: Youssef Motii – first and Lysette Perez - second – Motion carries

IV. Motion to accept the February 24th 2025 CARE Council Meeting Agenda: Cynthia Walker – first and Lysette Perez – second - Motion carries

V. Motion to accept the January 27th 2025 CARE Council Meeting Minutes: Miguel Vazquez –first and Cecil Smith – second – Motion carries

VI. Comments by the Chair: None

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

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

- A. CPP Update:** Dylan or Rob Scott – No update for this month
- B. Part B Report: Patient Care & 4BNWK Report:** Christian Johnston/Rob Scott
- C. HOPWA (West Palm Beach):** Miguel Vazquez
- D. Palm Beach County Recipient Report:** Dr. Casey Messer

- **Recipient's Office Updates –**
 - **Contracts & Staffing:** Status of current service contracts; new hires and vacancies.
 - **Assistance Programs:** Continuation of rental and food assistance for PWH.

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

- E. Part A Expenditure Report:** Jeffery Lesanti – Presented the Part A expenditure report on the screen. (Report attached)
- F. Executive:** Richardo Jackson
- G. Ad hoc Health Equity:** Kim Enright – They discussed to amend the name of the committee.
- H. LPAP:** Kristen Harrington –
- **Committee Restructuring**
 - **LPAC → QMAC:** LPAC duties absorbed by QMAC to streamline oversight.
 - **Service Category Updates:** Added language on security deposits; expanded food box options.
 - **Membership:** Two new Planning Committee members approved.
- I. Community Engagement :** Tad Fuller –
- Attendance & Engagement
 - Reports of low turnout at some committee meetings.
 - April Executive Committee to devise strategies for better scheduling and reminders.
- J. P & A:** Dr Youssef Motii –
- **EHE Grant Discussion**
 - The council discussed the **expectations for upcoming EHE funding**, which often involves revisiting priority activities and allocating resources based on projected impact.
 - **Integrated Plan Development**
 - The Planning Committee began work on the **2027–2033 Integrated Plan**, which typically includes re-evaluation of priority populations and service funding strategies.
 - **Service Category Updates**
 - Approval of updates to **EFA and food bank service categories**, including security deposits and food box modifications, suggests recent P&A input on improving services to meet emerging needs
- K. QMEC:** Hector Bernardino –
- **Clinical Quality Management (CQM)**
 - The CQM update highlighted how QI efforts are improving retention in care and rates of viral suppression—core patient-care outcomes.

- L. Planning:** Lysette Perez –
- **Integrated Plan 2027–2033**
 - Planning Committee has begun stakeholder outreach and priority-setting.
 - Four pillars aligned with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy:
 1. **Diagnosis** – Expand testing, including targeted outreach.
 2. **Treatment** – Enhance patient navigation and aging-focused education.
 3. **Prevention** – Deploy mobile units; launch marketing to Asian communities.
 4. **Response** – Train rapid-response teams for emerging clusters.
 - Stress on engaging people with lived experience in planning.
- M. Housing:** Miguel Vazquez & Andres Correa – No updates
- N. Ad-Hoc Bylaws:** Lysette Perez – No updates

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business:

A. New Officers Elections – GY

- **Officers Elected :**
 - **Chair** : Richardo Jackson (re-elected)
 - **Vice Chair** : Tad Fuller (new)
 - **Treasurer** : Dr. Youssef Motti (re-elected)
 - **Secretary** : Kristen Harrington (new)

B. LPAP Meeting Motion – LPAP and emergency Meds Service Delivery Standard <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/prescribed-drugs/medicaid-pharmaceutical-therapeutics-committee/florida-medicaid-preferred-drug-list-pdl> – Shoshana & Kristen Harrington

Motion to accept the adopting of the updated Florida Medicaid Formulary for their local pharmaceutical assistance program, which includes new medications for various conditions but no changes to HIV medications. The formulary adoption aims to provide broad access to medications for people with HIV.

Kristen Harrington – first and Lysette Perez - second

- **QMEC Meeting Motion-** Motion to change or amend the QMEC
Please see below language: no need to vote as its coming from Jan 8th 2025 QMEC meeting
- EFA: Category A Caps/Limitations was updated to:
Up to 4 accesses per grant year for no more than a combined total of \$1,000, and/or housing assistance as one access per 12 month period to equal one month of rent and/or one security deposit.
- Food Bank: Unit definition will now be 1 unit = 1 voucher or 1 food box. If a client is at or below 150 FPL they would get \$75 voucher/food box and clients between 151-200 would get the \$50 voucher/food box. Each unit is worth \$25 still.

C. Planning Committee meeting –

- **Motion to make Lydia Vargas and Berthline Isma a Planning committee member** – Lysette Perez – first and Richardo Jackson - second

D. Subcommittees Attendance issues of not having Quorum in person –

- Members decided to discuss more at the March meeting.

XI. Public Comments: None

XII. Educational Moment:

- HCSEF presented their Needs Assessment findings-

Slide 1: Title & Overview

- Title: "State of HIV in South Florida: Trends, Progress, and Strategies"
- Subtitle: Presentation by Neeta / HIV Care Council
- Date and logo placement

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

Slide 2: Executive Summary

- Key takeaways in 3 bullets:
 - Declining new diagnoses but persistent hotspots
 - High PrEP effectiveness; gaps in uptake
 - Ongoing barriers: insurance, stigma, awareness

Slide 3: Diagnosis Trends

- Line chart: Annual new HIV diagnoses (past 10 years)
- Callout: % change (e.g., -15% since 2015)

Slide 4: Treatment & Viral Suppression

- Bar chart: % of diagnosed individuals on ART vs. virally suppressed
- Note: Improvements year-over-year

Slide 5: Prevention Medication Effectiveness

- Infographic: PrEP efficacy (up to 99% risk reduction)
- Map overlay: PrEP uptake rates by county

Slide 6: Geographic Distribution of HIV Rates

- Choropleth map: County-level HIV prevalence per 100,000 residents
- Highlight hotspots (e.g., Miami-Dade vs. Monroe)

Slide 7: Health Insurance Coverage

- Pie chart: Insurance status among people living with HIV
- Callout: % uninsured or underinsured

Slide 8: Key Challenges

- Two-column list:
 - Stigma & discrimination
 - Low awareness & testing rates
 - Social determinants (housing, income)

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

Slide 9: Health Literacy Strategies

- Flow diagram: Education → Engagement → Retention in care
- Examples: Community workshops, multilingual materials

Slide 10: Addressing Social & Economic Barriers

- Icons + text:
 - Housing support
 - Food security programs
 - Employment assistance

Slide 11: Clinical Quality Management Impact

- Before/after chart: Patient outcome improvements
- KPI dashboard mockup: retention, viral suppression, appointment adherence
- Quality Improvement Showcase – (with a slideshow) – Dr Daisy & Jasmine (Please see attached)

XIII. Announcements:

- **Campbell Summit & Expo:** March 28–30; contact Kristen Harrington for registration details.
- **Florida AIDS Walk:** March 15; volunteer sign-up forthcoming.
- **Palm Beach Pride:** March 29–30; volunteer slots for the Care Council table to be distributed.

Announcements

Send out calendar invites for all standing committee meetings	Neeta	ASAP
Review and finalize meeting schedules	Executive Committee	March 2025 meeting
Promote and ensure attendance (quorum) at committee meetings	Committee Chairs & Members	Ongoing
Share Health Council needs assessment presentation with members	Neeta	Following schedule finalization
Coordinate volunteers for the Care Council table at Palm Beach Pride	Council Members	March 29–30, 2025
Distribute sign-up link for Pride volunteer slots	Neeta	ASAP
Incorporate LPAP formulary approval into annual QMAC work plan	QMAC Committee	2025 work-plan cycle
Collect any remaining agency posters from the meeting room	Council Members	Before next full Council meeting
Provide Campbell Summit & Expo details	Kristen Harrington (via email)	Prior to Summit (March 28–30)
Encourage participation in Florida AIDS Walk	Council Members	March 15, 2025

XIV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 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.

Note: If you have any question or require special accommodations, please contact Neeta Mahani at 561-355-4820 or Nmahani@pbcgov.org.