

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

April 28th 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

Members Present

1. Ashnika Ali
2. Hector Bernardino Acevedo
3. Lysette Perez
4. Richardo Jackson- **Chair**
5. Kristen Harrington - **Secretary**
6. Miguel Vasquez
7. Youssef Motti – **Treasurer**
8. Brittany Henry Collazo
9. Tad Fuller- **Vice Chair** McFadden
10. Nancy McConnell
11. Kim Rommel-Enright
12. Cynthia Walker
13. Ashaki Sypher
14. Dominique Lane

Members absent

- Denise Grigoriou
Dr Jyothi Gunta
- Cecil Smith
Mary Jane Reynolds
Tyrina Pinkney
Thomas McKissack
Damion Baker

Guests

- Lilia Perez
Orquidea
- Mathew Jackson
Ashley Viggers
Allyssa Sullivan
- Dr Berthline Isma
Rosie Hayes
Norma
- Erin
- Simeon Gavin

Recipient Staff

Jeffrey Lesanti
Dr. Daisy Wiebe
Thomas Eaton
Geneve Simeus
Shoshana Ringer
Tammy Fields
John Hulick

Dr. Casey Messer
Anna Balla
Jason Gross
Lia Rigby Head

CARE Council Staff

Neeta Mahani - Absent
Dr James Green- Present

- I.** Call to order. Roll, Introduction of Guests – Jeffery Lesanti took the roll call and Quorum was present with the discussion of Thomas McKissack resignation.

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 - None

IV. Motion to accept the April 28th 2025 CARE Council Meeting Agenda as amended by adding Data presentation and Retreat workgroup date and members under new business

Lysette Perez– first and Nancy McConnell – second - Motion carries

V. Motion to accept the January 27th 2025 CARE Council Meeting Min with

Changes suggested to remove bottom action items to announcements:

Youssef Motii –first and Brittany Henry – second – Motion carries

Motion to accept the February 24th 2025 Care council Meeting Min with changes

Suggested to remove bottom action items to announcements:

Brittany Henry – First and Ashaki Sypher – Second. Motion Carries

VI. Comments by the Chair:

The Chair emphasized:

- The critical role of **ongoing committee participation** in maintaining a functional and compliant Council.
- **Active member engagement is needed** to meet quorum and ensure robust representation of community needs.

VII. County Staff Comments: Recipient and Care Council staff:

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

A. **CPP Update:** Dylan or Rob Scott - Gave updates on patient care trends and coordination improvements.

B. **Part B Report: Patient Care & 4BNWK Report:** FDOH – No expenditure report presented.

C. **HOPWA (West Palm Beach):** Miguel Vazquez & Tad Fuller- Miguel Vazquez provided updates on housing services and access issues- Tad Fuller gave an

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update of the HOPWA program, which currently has a waiting list of 300 people and there will likely be no movement on this list for some time due to funding constraints and high per-unit costs in the area. Tad also emphasized the importance of individuals reaching out to their representatives to advocate for HIV funding, while he clarifies the rules around lobbying and suggests ways to inform elected officials about program impacts

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

- **Dr. Casey** discussed the current funding situation for the Grant Year:
 - Operating under a **continuing resolution** due to the lack of a **ratified Federal budget**.
 - A **second partial notice of award** is expected to fund operations for another quarter.
 - **Supplemental funding** of approximately **\$2 million for Palm Beach County** has **not yet been awarded**.
 - The program will **continue operating under last year's approved budget** until a final notice of award is received.
- Additional key points noted by **Dr. Casey**:
 - **No information** is currently available regarding the budget for the **next Grant Year (GY. 26)**.
 - **Proposals for major cuts to HIV care and treatment programs** have been introduced.
 - There is **hope these proposed cuts will not be approved**.
- **Dr. Casey** also mentioned:
 - A **program letter** was received from the new **HRSA administrator**, which commits to:
 - **Continuing the fight against HIV**.
 - **Addressing social determinants of health**.
 - A **change in project officers** for the **EHE program** has occurred.
 - **No disruption** to the **EHE program** is expected.
- Additionally:
 - They have been granted the **authority to carry forward unused EHE funds** from **GY. 24 into GY. 25**.

E. Part A Expenditure Report: Jeffery Lesanti – Presented the Part A expenditure report on the screen. (Report attached)

Unspent Funds Impact on Future Funding

- **Jeffery** discussed the financial performance of the program:
 - Approximately **\$66,000 in MAI funds** and **\$222,000 in Part A funds** were **carried over** from **Criteria 24 to 25**.

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- **Oral health and medical transportation** were among the service categories with **unspent funds**.
- **Jeffery** expressed concern about:
- The **potential impact** of unspent funds on **future funding**.
- The **need to address** this issue proactively.
- He acknowledged that the program had:
- **Met its legislative requirements**.
- A strong team, and he **thanked them** for their contributions.
- **Jeffery** recommended:
- Reviewing service categories with **unspent funds** to better understand **needs and spending patterns** of sub recipients.

Oral Health Care Funding Challenges

- **Jeffery** discussed challenges in the **oral health care** category:
 - Difficulty in **accessing specialty care services**.
 - A **funding shift** did **not result in increased utilization** of oral health services.
- He identified the need for:
 - **More non-medical case management services**.
 - Currently constrained by a **25% cap** on support services.
- **Jeffery** proposed:
 - A **strategic approach** to expand non-medical case management.
 - **Coordination of services between Ryan White and EHE** to meet case management needs.
- He emphasized:
 - The importance of **balancing support services funding** to avoid overburdening case managers.
 - Attaching **explanations to remaining balances** for transparency.

Improving Mental Health Services Integration

- **Jeffery** highlighted the need to enhance **mental health services**, especially in the context of **HIV care**.
- He suggested:
 - **Forming partnerships** with organizations to offer **mental health and housing support**.
 - **Integrating mental health services** into:
 - **Primary and HIV care**
 - **Behavioral health and housing sectors**
- **Jeffery** also noted the importance of:
 - Understanding **current spending patterns and program income** to manage the budget effectively.

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- **Tracking unobligated balances** and maintaining a clear **budget narrative** to ensure **contractual compliance**.

F. Executive: Richardo Jackson - No Update

G. Community Engagement : Kristen Harrington –
The Community Engagement committee met to discuss Increasing membership and reviewed demographics and an attendance. Also concerned arises why the meeting date changed from May 8th to May 15th 2025 and Kim Rommel Enright will not be able to attend.

H. P & A: Dr Youssef Motii – Jeffery Covered during the Part A Expenditure report.

I. QMEC: Hector Bernardino - The QMAC committee reviewed performance metrics and proposed changing their meeting schedule to quarterly on the 4th Thursday at 2 PM.

J. Planning: Lysette Perez - Moving forward with capacity survey rollout.

K. Housing: Miguel Vazquez & Andres Correa – No updates

L. Ad-Hoc Bylaws: Tad Fuller – They discuss the need to review bylaws and policies, setting a tentative date of May 22nd 2025 for the Bylaws Committee to meet.

IX. Old Business

- Attendance compliance for Care Council members was addressed. Members must attend one committee meeting per month in addition to full council meetings.
- Updated quorum rules were introduced: 50% + 1 will be required for official action.

X. New Business

1. **Samsung Tablets:** Jeffery provided an update on procuring tablets for Council chairs to facilitate meetings. Tablets has been arrived and it's in Neeta's office.
2. **Bylaws Review:** A Bylaws Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for May to review language and policies.
3. **Data Presentation and retreat workgroup-** Workgroup formed (Tad, Lysette, Kristen, and Richardo) to prepare for the July 15 and 16th 2025 retreat.

XI. Public Comments

Open forum for public feedback. Attendees were allotted 3 minutes each to speak.

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XII. Educational Moment

Presentation by Simeon Gobin, MSN, RN

Topic: ICD-10 Coding and HIV Prevention

Simeon emphasized the importance of non-stigmatizing medical codes and their influence on patient trust, outcomes, and overall care, particularly within the Black community. He highlighted best practices in coding and the impact of ICD-10 on the Ryan White Program, noting that only Code 20 is required for reimbursement and that stigmatizing codes should be avoided.

XIII. Announcements

4. **Stigma Walk and Stroll:** Scheduled for July 19 at 7:30 AM. The walk will be under 2 miles led by Dr. Sandra Anderson. Vendors and registrations are active, and community members are encouraged to participate.
5. **Upcoming Events:**
 1. **Community Engagement Committee Meeting:** May 15, 12:00–1:30 PM.
 2. **QMAC Schedule Change:** Now meets quarterly on the 4th Thursday at 2 PM, starting July 24.
 3. **Retreat and Data Planning:** Workgroup formed (Tad, Lysette, Kristen, and Richardo) to prepare for the July retreat.
 4. **Planning Committee:** Will implement a capacity and capability survey for service providers and case managers.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned @ 4:00P.M.

Discussed Ongoing Initiatives

- Tad and Neeta to schedule Bylaws Committee meeting.
- James to share ordinance revisions with Bylaws Committee.
- Recipient staff to prepare data for the July retreat.
- Retreat and Data Planning Committee to begin preparations.
- Committee meeting attendance required for all members.
- QMAC to shift to a quarterly schedule.
- Continue operating under current budget until final funding is confirmed.
- Planning Committee to conduct provider/case manager survey.
- P&A Committee to review service allocations.

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