

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

**January 26th, 2026 @ 2:13 P.M. @ Mayme Frederick Building - 1440 MLK Blvd.
Riviera Beach / Belle Glade Library - 725 NW 4th St, Belle Glade Library //LUNCH
will be provided @ Both the location.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pbcgov.zoom.us/j/84398822805?pwd=1OHWWqqFbKAgMVaSW1KK7tFKJx2v9k.1>

Meeting ID: 843 9882 2805

Passcode: 394846

Meeting minutes

Members Present

Ashnika Ali
Hector Bernardino
Lysette Perez
Kristen Harrington – Secretary
Miguel Vasquez
Youssef Motii – Treasurer
Brittany Henry
Tad Fuller – Vice Chair
Cecil Smith
Kim Rommel-Enright
Mary Jane Reynolds
Annette Dunn
Dr. Berthline Isma
Orquidea Acevedo

Members absent

Richardo Jackson - Chair
Ashaki Sypher
Nancy McConnell
Cynthia Walker
Dominique Lane
Dr. Sandra Anderson
Rosie Hayes
Glenn Krabec

Guests

Vanessa Louis
Denise Brown
Raymond Cortes

Willie Joseph
Robert Scott
Mildred Jolly
Donna
Peter Fenty
Andi Thomas-Wilson
Susan Mintz
Sudha Singh
Jennifer Martinez
Djennha Seneval

Hardeep Singh
Irene Holloway

Havard Hill
Barbara Edwards

Vernell Desrosier
Patricia Jackson
Billy Jackson
Dr. Linda Klumb
Lilia Perez
Vicky Tucci
Alexander
Paige Campbell

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

Members Present

Members absent

Guests

Yanik Charles
Michelle Scott
Fabiola Gonzalez
Crystal Estrada

CARE Council Staff

Neeta Mahani

Recipient Staff Present

Dr. Casey Messer
Geneve Simeus
Jessica B Rosenthal
Jeffrey Lesanti
Lynn Todd
Roshana Ringer
Jasmine Parrish
Anna Balla
Jason Cross
August Frohnhoefer
Dr. Andres Correa
Amber Scott

Recipient Staff Absent

Thomas Eaton

- I. Call to order. Roll, Introduction of Guests: Neeta Mahani 2:13 p.m. and Quorum was present

- II. A Moment of Reflection: Tad Fuller

A Moment of Silence

*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.*

- II. **Motion to accept Excused Absences:**

Motion to accept excused absence for Ashaki Sypher.
Lysette Perez – first, Annette Dunn – second – Motion carries
Motion to accept excused absence Nancy McConnell.
Lysette Perez – first, Annette Dunn – second – Motion carries

III. Motion to accept of January 26th, 2026, CARE Council Meeting Agenda.

Motion to accept the agenda as presented-

Kristen Harrington- first, Lysette Perez- second – Motion carries

IV. Motion to accept of November 17th, 2025, CARE Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion to accept the November 17th, 2025, amended minutes.

Kristen Harrington - first, Ashnika Ali – second – Motion carries

V. Comments by the Chair:

Tad Fuller emphasized the importance of member participation in surveys, noting that survey data is critical for CARE Council reporting and planning.

Members were encouraged to complete outstanding surveys promptly.

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

- County staff reiterate the importance of survey completion, reporting that only 8 of the required 22 surveys have been submitted.
- Staff highlighted ongoing challenges related to resource limitations and the growing need for services among individuals living with HIV.

VII. Standing Reports:

CPP Update by Robert Scott:

- Updates were provided regarding the Community Prevention Partnership (CPP).
- New FCPN representatives, Lysette Perez and Dylan will be substitute and were nominated for a three-year term.

Part B Report / Patient Care & 4BNWK Report by Robert Scott:

- Updates were provided on Ryan White Part B funding streams and state categorical general revenue.

HOPWA Report

- Updates were shared regarding housing assistance and coordination with local partners.

Palm Beach County Recipient Report

- **Part A Update - Dr. Casey Messer** discussed that he would give an update on ADAP funding which they discussed at January Executive meeting. Please see attached documents.

Part A Expenditure Report

- Jeffery Lesanti presented Part A expenditure report.
- Delays in reimbursements were noted.
- Subrecipients were reminded that Obligated Balance reports are due by February 2, 2026.
- The Executive Committee will provide estimates on reallocated funds at the next CARE Council meeting.

Executive Committee Report

- The Executive Committee provided updates on

Additional Standing Reports

- **QMEC:** Hector Bernardino – Hector Bernardino spoke on QIP project and requested everyone to attend the February 23rd, 2026, QIP showcase.
- **Planning:** Lysette Perez – June 22nd meeting they decided to in May of 2026 but Geneve recommended to meet in February as auditors are coming on March 31st to finalize the workplan.
- **Housing:** Miguel Vazquez & Andres Correa - None
- **Ad-Hoc Bylaws:** Tad Fuller - will add it to the February agenda under New Business travel policy language.

VIII. Old Business: None

X. New Business:

ADAP Eligibility and Program Changes

- **Dr. Casey Messer** presented proposed changes to the Florida AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).
- Effective March 1, 2026, ADAP eligibility will be reduced from 400% to 130% of the Federal Poverty Level, impacting individuals earning over approximately \$20,000 annually.
- Additional changes include:
 - Disenrollment of clients based on income.
 - Elimination of premium assistance.
 - Discontinuation of the state rebate model for Pedal medications.
 - Changes to the medication formulary.

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- Nearly half of current ADAP clients are expected to be affected.
- **Dr Casey** confirmed that these changes have not been delayed.
- A letter sent to HRSA expressing concern was reviewed, along with HRSA's response offering technical assistance.

Florida Medicaid Rule Change Challenges

- Potential legal challenges to proposed Medicaid rule changes were discussed.
- **Dr Casey** outlined steps being taken by the Recipient's Office, including data collection and coordination with partners.
- Transitioning eligible clients to commercial insurance plans was discussed as a mitigation strategy.

Strategic Health Program Funding Challenges

- A significant gap in viral suppression among safety-net program clients was discussed.
- **Dr. Casey** highlighted the need for partnerships with subrecipients to assist with premiums and co-pays.
- Members acknowledged the stress these funding changes are causing and committed to collaborative problem-solving.

HIV Medication Advocacy Strategy

- **Dr. Casey** explained limitations on organizational lobbying due to grant restrictions.
- Members were encouraged to advocate directly with elected officials.
- **Dr. Casey** shared outcomes from meetings with legislators in Tallahassee, including acknowledgment from Senator Gail Harrell's office regarding potential influence over administrative code changes.

Medicaid Eligibility and Funding Concerns

- Concerns were raised regarding federal poverty guideline changes and Medicaid eligibility.
- Belle Glade requested copies of advocacy letters; **Neeta** agreed to re-email the correspondence with additional information.

Council Planning and Administrative Updates

- The 5-year HIV Prevention and Care Plan concurrence meeting was announced for June 22, 2026.
- Annual CARE Council officer elections were announced for February 23, 2026, with nominations opening in early February.
- An HRSA site visit was scheduled for March 31 through April 3, 2026.
- Members were reminded to promote the HIV care needs survey and special enrollment periods for clients.

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- XI. Public Comments: 3 Minutes: None**
- XII. Educational Moment: None**
- XIII. Announcements: None**
- XIV. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm**

***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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