

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

***March 16th , 2026 @ 2:08 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/89040044542?pwd=BTftCSfcw3Wgz4xRbe7dWYUDVfrRjI.1>

Meeting ID: 890 4004 4542

Passcode: 247733

Members Present

Ashnika Ali
Hector Bernardino
Kristen Harrington- **Secretary**
Ashaki Sypher
Miguel Vazquez
Youssef Motii- **Treasurer**
Brittany Henry
Tad Fuller- **Chair**
Dr. Sandra Anderson
Kim Rommel-Enright- Vice **Chair**
Dr. Berthline Isma
Orquidea Acevedo
Glenn Krabec
Michelle Scott
Andi Thomas Wilson
Mary Reynolds

Members absent

Richardo Jackson
Nancy McConnell
Cecil Smith
Cynthia Walker
Dominique Lane
Rosie Hayes

Guests

Donna Taylor
Denise Brown
Sharon Hammond
Robert Scott
Melissa Brown
Susan Mintz
Patricia Jackson
Lolitha Everette
Barbara Edwards
Lashauna Harris
Nora Collazo
Lilia Perez
Nicole Myer
Hardeep Singh
Vicky Tucci

Djennha Seneval
Rela Smith
Billy Jacksson
Dr. Sandra Anderson
Susie Hammond
Freddie Mae Britton
Marilyn Freeman
Irene Holloway
Fabiola Gonzalez

Eddie Rhodes
Monica Millner
Malay khan

Chronister

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

CARE Council Staff

Neeta Mahani

Recipient Staff Present

Jefferey Lesanti

Dr. Daisy Wiebe

Thomas Eaton

Geneve Simeus

Shoshana Ringer

Jasmine Parrish

Dr. Casey Messer

Anna Balla

Jason Gross

Stephne Ellis

Recipient Staff Absent

Jessica Bober Rosenthal

I. Call to order. Roll, Introduction of Guests – **Neeta Mahani** 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.*

III. **Motion to accept Excused Absences for Nancy McConnell:**

Annette Dunn- first, Miguel Vazquez- second – Motion carries

Motion to accept Excused Absences for Cecil Smith:

Annette Dunn- first, Andi Thomas-Wilson- second – Motion carries

Motion to accept Excused Absences for Cynthia Walker:

Andi Tomas-Wilson- first, Annette Dunn- second – Motion carries

IV. **Motion to accept of March 16th, 2026, CARE Council Meeting Agenda – Ratification of offices under new business.** Annette Dun – first, Brittany Henry – second – Motion carries

V. **Motion to accept the February 23rd, 2026, Meeting minutes as is –**
Andi Thomas-Wilson – first, Annette Dunn- second – Motion carries

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VI. Comments by the Chair: Tad Fuller thanked everyone

VII. Palm Beach County Part A Recipient report: Dr Casey Messer

- Dr. Messer provided updates on key legislative and program developments:

ADAP & Legislative Updates

- The Board of County Commissioners:
 - **Unanimously passed a resolution** urging the State to reconsider changes to the ADAP program.
 - Approved the creation of a **local 340B Premium Plus Program** to support individuals removed from Florida ADAP.
- Florida Legislature Update:
 - Passed a **\$30 million budget amendment** to provide:
 - Direct-dispensed medications
 - Coverage up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level
 - Effective through June 30 (pending Governor approval)

Identified Gaps

- Current program limitations include:
 - No coverage for health insurance premium assistance
 - Certain medications (e.g., Biktarvi, Descovy) not included

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

HOPWA (Housing) – Miguel Vazquez

- Reported serving **196 clients** through the HOPWA/HOPPER program.
- Key concerns:
 - Insufficient funding to enroll new clients
 - Rising housing costs impacting program sustainability
 - Potential risk to clients if **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for Haitians is terminated

Part A Expenditure Report – Jeffrey Lesanti

- Provided updates on fiscal performance:
 - Delays in reimbursement submissions were noted
 - These delays have temporarily impacted reporting metrics
- Reassurance:
 - The program remains on track to meet the **95% expenditure requirement**

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- Pending reimbursements are expected to resolve discrepancies

Program & Administrative Updates – Dr. Messer

- Additional clarification on the **340B Program**:
 - Will involve **direct pharmacy partnerships**
 - Designed for clients not eligible for premium assistance through subrecipients

Executive / General Updates

- Follow-up needed:
 - Additional information pending from **Mayor Ann** regarding community support for legislative advocacy
 - **Tad Fuller** agreed to follow up and report back

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business:

- **CARE Council & Subcommittee Schedule (Grant Year 2026)- Please see attached changes from executive committee:**

Care Council and Subcommittees scheduled GY-2026 – Tad Fuller explained the changes from the Executive meetings. {Please see attached}

- **CARE Council GY 2026 Budget**
 - A total budget of **\$18,000** was approved.
 - Allocations include:
 - Annual retreat
 - Member travel
 - Food and beverages
 - Outreach materials
 - Vote on the budget as proposed CC GY-2026 – All in favor- No opposed.
 - Sent an email to members for HRSA travels request
- **Ryan White Conference (August 2026)**
 - Discussion on conference attendance:
 - Two members, including Annette Dunn and Rosie Hayes showed interest to attend
 - Additional note:
 - A **Washington, D.C. conference** opportunity allows only two members, one current chair and one affected member.

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- Interested members must:
 - Notify Neeta Mahani in writing before April meeting.
 - Present justification at the next meeting and will finalize who will be attending.

{<https://ryanwhiteconference.hrsa.gov/>}

- Care Council Work Plan at the new Executive meeting In April – Get the workplan from Miami, Tampa or Broward.

Integrated Plan Participation: Geneve Simeus

- All CARE Council members are required to:
 - Participating in Integrated Plan workgroup meetings
- Final vote on the Integrated Plan scheduled for **June 2026**

Committee Leadership Ratification

- The following chairs were confirmed:
 - **Planning:** Brittany Henry
 - **QMEC:** Hector Bernardino
 - **Housing:** Miguel Vazquez

Motion to accept Brittany Henry as a Planning Council chair. Berthline Isma- first, Andi Tomas-Wilson – second – Motion carries

Motion to accept Hector Bernardino as QMEC chair. Andi Thomas-Wilson - first, Kristen Harrington- second – Motion carries

Motion to accept Miguel Vazquez as Housing chair. Andi Thomas-Wilson- first, Annette Dunn – second – Motion carries

XI. Public Comments: 3 Minutes: None

XII. Educational Moment: None

XIII. Announcements:

- **Denise Brown: announced April 10th, 2026 Symposium**
- **HRSA Site Visit:**
 - Scheduled for **March 31 – April 3, 2026**
- **Pride Festival Participation:**
 - Dates: **March 28–29, 2026**

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- Volunteers requested to sit at the CARE Council table

Schedules:

- **Saturday** **12 PM – 3 PM**
 3 PM – 6 PM
- **Sunday** **12 PM – 3 PM**
 3 PM -- 6 PM

Saturday: Member sitting at the table:

Michelle Scott - 12PM - 3 PM
Kim Rommel-Enright - 3 PM – 6PM
Tad Fuller - 3 PM – 6 PM

Sunday: Parade

Berthline Isma - 12 PM – 3 PM
Denise Brown - 12PM – 3 PM

Neeta Mahani: sent Pride link to everyone -

- **Florida AIDS Walk:**
 - Mentioned as an upcoming community engagement opportunity

XIV. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:26 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

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conflict is identified by the County's Commission on Ethics may be removed from the CARE Council.

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