



## Planning Council Meeting

Thursday, November 12th, 2020

Zoom

4:00 - 6:00pm

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### Summary of Attendance

#### **Members Present**

Amanda Hart  
Ayla Baker  
Alison Kirchgasser  
Barry Callis  
Brian Holliday  
Bryan Thomas  
Carolyn Smith  
Catherine Weerts  
Cindi Bell  
Damon Gaines  
Darian Hendricks  
Darren Sack  
Ericka Olivera  
George Diaz  
Harry Shanmugam  
Jessica Stewart  
Jessica Tavarez  
John Fabiano  
Jose Sostre  
Joey Carlesimo  
Justin Alves  
Kathy Lituri  
Katie Keating  
Kenneth Averett  
Lamar Brown-Noguera  
Lea Nelligan  
Mahara Pinheiro  
Manuel Pires  
Margaret Lombe  
Melissa Hector

Michael Robbins  
Michael Swaney  
Richard Swanson  
Robert Giannasca  
Serena Rajabiun  
Stanley Flores  
Stephen Batchelder  
Stephen Corbett  
Tad Bailey  
Tim Mercier  
Tim Young  
Wendy LeBlanc  
Zamir Mavo

#### **Members Excused**

Gertrude Lundy  
Lorraine Jones  
Patrick Baum

#### **Members Absent**

Raymond Rodriguez  
Robinah Nakabugo

#### **PCS**

Liz Rios  
Tatiana Ramos

#### **RWSD**

Marcos Palmarin  
Alexandra Zhang

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### **Topic A: Welcome and Introductions**

Brian Holliday, Planning Council Chair, welcomed everyone, reviewed the virtual ground rules, and led a moment of silence.

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### **Topic B: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of October 8th, 2020 were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve.

Amendment | Clearer language on NH epi data to be presented at a later date.

**Motion to Approve as amended: Darren Sack**

**Second: Justin Alves**

**Result:** The minutes were approved with ( 1 ) Abstention

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### **Topic C: Committee Reports**

Planning Council leadership and sub-committee Chairs provided updates on their meetings that took place since the last Planning Council meeting. Members were encouraged to refer to the Sub-committee handouts for more details on Basecamp.

***Per Sub-Committee Report:***

**Needs, Resources, and Allocations Committee (NRAC) | Harry Shanmugam**

The committee met on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The main agenda topics were:

- Review and approve May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes
- Review committee charge and discuss leadership responsibilities
- Review 2020-2021 NRAC workplan and conflict of interest policy
- Discuss the Needs Assessment Plan
- Nominate a vice-chair

**Executive Committee | Brian Holliday**

The committee met on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The main agenda topics were:

- Review and approve September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes
- Review Planning Council and sub-committee evaluations and attendance
- Review agenda for the November 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting

- Discuss ongoing topics

### **Services, Priorities, and Evaluations Committee (SPEC) | Michael Swaney**

The committee met on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The main agenda topics were:

- Review and approve October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes
- Member spotlight – Michael Swaney, SPEC Chair
- Boston EMA PLWH Epidemiology Data, presented by Darien Mather, BPHC & Dr. Alfred DeMaria, MDPH
- COVID-19 PLWH update, presented by Tatiana Ramos, PCS
- Standards of Care overview provided by Emily Bennewies, RWSD
- Service Category spotlight Part II led by Michael Swaney and Patrick Baum, SPEC leadership

### **Membership and Nominations Committee (MNC) | Robert Giannasca**

The committee met on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The main agenda topics were:

- Review and approve October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes
- Mentor Liaison report provided by Darren Sack and Stephen Corbett
- Recruitment update provided by Tatiana Ramos, PCS
- Member update provided by Robert Giannasca, MNC Chair
- Discuss ways to engage members during lockdown led by Raymond Rodriguez, MNC Vice Chair

### **Consumer Committee | Tim Young**

The committee met on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The main agenda topics were:

- Review and approve October 8<sup>th</sup> minutes
- Facebook page introduction
- Anti-stigma campaign update
- Chair and Vice Chair elections
- COVID-19 Peer Support open forum

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### **Topic D: Introduction to Ryan White Service Categories**

Tatiana Ramos, PCS and Michael Swaney, SPEC Chair, introduced the Council to the Ryan White service categories by discussing the difference between core and support services, and outlining the timeline to

review and approve them as tasked by SPEC. In addition, presented the FY21 Service Categories approved by the Boston EMA and their definitions. Members were encouraged to review the SPEC YER for more information on past service category removal, etc.

### **Questions/Comments**

- SR: I am curious about removal of mental health so I will look at the SPEC YER.
    - ER: Mental health is often funded through other funding pools (e.g. Medicaid) and Part A is the payer of last resort. The last time it was offered in a procurement, there were no bids from the community.
    - JA: It also hadn't been funded for at least 3 years.
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### **Topic E: Ryan White Part A CARES Act Funding Update**

The Ryan White Services Division (RWSD) provided the Council with a funding update on the Ryan White Part A CARES Act. The objectives of the presentation are to provide an overview on the CARES Act, understand how the CARES Act funding has been applied and/or invested in the Boston EMA, and learn how clients have been served with this funding.

### **Questions/Comments**

- DH: Why were HIV testing facilities not enabled for COVID-19 testing? Will they be in the future?
  - KK: I do not know. We do have testing data because HRSA asked for COVID testing information, but some agencies may not be testing, some clients may provide testing information and some may not, so we may not have complete information. For the testing sites, we know many of the community health centers are doing testing.
  - MS: I believe that APW in Worcester switched from testing to COVID testing for the time being.
  - LBN: We are doing both testing (at APW) at the moment. We are going community COVID-19 and limited on-site HIV testing.
  - DH: Antibody blood tests or viral infection nasal tests?
  - LBN: Viral infection nasal test.
- DH: How has care been affected for populations who were already on the fringe of care or in/close to AIDS status or non-compliant with meds due to COVID-19?
- SR: Are you able to get data on paying for resources for tablets and wifi?
  - KK: I'm not sure we've paid for wifi, but we've funded agencies to pay for phones, etc. We can check with agencies and provide that information at a future PC meeting.

## Action Step

- KK to bring back information on funding for tablets/wifi.
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### Topic F: Introduction to the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)

Liz Rios, PCS, and Marcos Palmarin, RWSD, provided the Council with an introduction to MAI. The objectives of this presentation are to learn about MAI's goal/purpose, Planning Council's role in allocating and prioritizing, learn about funding trends and funded agency projects.

#### Questions/Comments

- MH: This is awesome. I'd like to see how I can integrate this at the mobile sites in Boston mobile COVID-19 test sites.
- SC: Is Dimock no longer funded for MAI?
  - MP: I will confirm whether or not.
- TB: How can we get these phones to people?
  - ER: I think referring them to one of the agencies on the first slide that gets MAI funding.
- DH: I see MAI funding for additional funding for the same categories, but not an articulation on the needs for minorities not being met?
- MP: Planning Council conducts an assessment for gaps/needs.
- ER: MAI is meant to bridge off of an already existing service category.

## Action Step

- MP to verify if Dimock is funded for MAI.
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### Topic G: Next month – Virtual Funding Streams Expo

Liz Rios, PCS, announced that next month, the Planning Council meeting will be formatted differently. We will be hosting the first virtual Funding Streams Expo via Zoom. This is an opportunity for members of the Council to learn in more detail about different payers of HIV services and ask questions to the agency representatives.

#### Questions/Comments

- TY: Will we receive products from the agencies?
  - ER: We'll do our best. We have asked agencies for swag for care package.

## Action Steps

- PCS to look into swag for PC care packages.
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### Topic H: Agency Reports

The representatives for Medicaid (Alison Kirchgasser), New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) (Cindi Bell), Massachusetts Department of Health (MDPH) (Barry Callis), Mayor Walsh's Office (Melissa Hector), Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)/Ryan White Services Division (RWSD) (Katie Keating) gave agency updates – SEE below.

**BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE BUREAU, HIV/AIDS SERVICES DIVISION  
REPRESENTATIVE: KATIE KEATING – DIRECTOR, RYAN WHITE SERVICES DIVISION**

- Submitted FY21 grant application
- Hosted our first Basic QI training
- Issued 7 CQM mini grants
- Completed the FY20 Sweeps and Carryover Allocation process
- Continuing to work with subrecipients to assess and support needs related to COVID. We hosted an information session on legal services and the expired eviction moratorium. We are hosting an information session on linguistic services and best practices within COVID.
- We will provide an information session for subrecipients about the prototype for the shared eligibility module mid-November
- Continue to work on the EHE plan

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND LABORATORY SCIENCES (BIDLS)  
OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS (OHA)  
REPRESENTATIVE: BARRY CALLIS - DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION**

- Virtual Town Hall Session – EHE and Community Engagement Webinar (11/18, 3-5PM)
  - EHE Plan for Suffolk County (timeline)
  - Notice of Potential Funding Opportunity - EHE Prevention and Care Services, Suffolk County
  - Trauma, Loss, and Resiliency session for people with HIV (11/17/2020)
  - Ending HIV Stigma Meeting
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## **Topic I: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn**

- DH: I would like to request a special meeting with agencies to discuss the impact and strategies related to Mayor of Boston citing racism as a public health problem. most institutions are looking internally at understanding how institutional racism has permeated their agencies and services and how to change. Given MAI charter as well I think given the whole Black Lives Matter, Me Too, and exacerbated health inequity visibility due to COVID 19, I think we need to look at this in our own procedures, biases, agencies etc. I think this deserves a full PC meeting if not ongoing dialogue and action to address.

### **Meeting to Adjourn**

**Motion:** Michael Swaney

**Second:** Bryan Thomas

**Result:** The meeting was adjourned.

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