



Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, January 16th, 2020
Old South Church | The Guild Room
4:00 - 6:00pm

Summary of Attendance

Members Present

Adelina Alves
Barry Callis
Brian Holliday
Carolyn Smith
Christopher Cullinan
Ericka Olivera
George Diaz
Gertrude Lundy
Jessica Stewart
Kathy Liture
Lorraine Jones
Manuel Pires
Michael Swaney
Patrick Baum
Ronald *Jazzzz* Bennett
Stanley Flores
Wendy LeBlanc
Robert Giannasca
Deb Winters
John Fabiano
Richard Swanson
Stephen Batchelder
Keith Nolen
Hariharan Shanmugam
Bryan Thomas
Larry Day

Melissa Hector
Gelfi Colon
Mahara Pinheiro
Tim Young
Katie Keating
Lamar Brown

Members Present Remotely

Christopher Lesley
Shawna Smith

Members Excused

Alison Kirchgasser
Jose Sostre
Stephen Corbett
Darren Sack

Members Absent

PCS

Liz Rios
Masill Miranda
Tatiana Ramos

Guest

John Gatto - JRI
Carmen Fonseca - JRI

Topic A: Welcome and Introductions

Richard Swanson, Planning Council Chair, welcomed everyone, asked members to introduce themselves for the record, and reviewed the ground rules.

Topic B: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of December 12th, 2019 were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve.

Motion to Approve: John Fabiano

Second: Bryan Thomas

Result: The minutes were approved with (7) Abstentions

Topic C: Committee Updates

Executive (Brian Holliday, Chair Elect): Exec reviewed committee attendance and evaluations, the PC work-plan and ongoing topics, as well as membership changes.

SPEC (Robert Giannasca, Chair): SPEC had a discussion on possible service categories to be added and had an introduction to the AAM.

Consumer (Ronald Jazzzz Bennett, Chair): The anti-stigma campaign is currently in limbo, but Consumer and PCS are looking for new avenues for production. The last meeting had a presenter, Dr. Keuroghlian, discuss sexual assault among PLWH and the gender diverse, as well as presentations on PLWH and incarceration on Michael Swaney and Richard Swanson.

NRAC (Harry Shanmugam, Vice Chair): Lamar gave a member spotlight, and a discussion on what was learned in the funding expo as well as results from consumer surveys received since June. New ideas for NA distribution were also discussed. The former Vice Chair resigned, and Harry was elected.

MNC (Stephen Batchelder, Vice Chair): MNC discussed past outreach events in Nov/Dec, membership retention and possible outreach to agencies in counties where we do not have representation.

Liz Rios, PCS Program Manager: PCS has been interviewing for an intern, as well as coordinating focus groups for the Needs Assessment.

Action Step

- ❖ Raymond to connect PCS with an agency in New Bedford and Stephen B. with a contact in Fall River.
-

Topic D: Knowledge Check!

Liz Rios, PCS Program Manager, led a recap quiz on MAI, Standards of Care and the Funding Expo/parts of RW present.

Topic D: Ending the HIV Epidemic

John Gatto and Carmen Fonseca from JRI presented an overview of the Ending the HIV Epidemic Campaign being implemented in Boston. The CDC asked for a plan to end the HIV epidemic in Boston by December, which our advisory group submitted, though the final plan isn't due until the fall. The four pillars of the campaign, as well as the

“Crosswalk” (combining existing plans to create a concise plan of attack) were also discussed. In the diagnosis pillar, EHE will look to engage with disproportionately impacted sub-populations (e.g., MCM, Black/Latinx, Non-US born, IDU), while the Treatment pillar focuses on improving linkage to care and retention. The prevention pillar aims to reduce HIV incidence through targeted outreach, and the response pillar will include culturally sensitive responses to key populations and workforce development for work with transgender PLWH.

Questions/Comments

- PC Member: Is this MA specific?
 - JG: The national government identified Suffolk County as an area with a greater percentage of HIV cases. Though, it will likely influence other neighboring counties.
- Will the CDC get back with feedback before the plan is finalized?
 - Barry Callis, PC Member: They will, but we aren’t waiting for it to finish finalizing our plan.
- PC Member: I would strongly suggest looking at PWID and distinguish unique needs among sub-populations in the category, instead of having only one, general approach.
- CF: We are using the CDC’s definitions for each pillar, but that is not to say we cannot modify them accordingly.
- Will this put more money in creating more programs for IDU?
 - CF/JG: The pillars will interconnect to help these key populations, but we’re looking to leverage other pieces of the system and integrate HIV services in substance use care.
- PC Member: How can we go directly to spaces to connect with key populations, as opposed to waiting for them to get to us?
 - JG: This is a topic has come up in EHE discussion, ways to connect where these key demographics are.
- PC Chair: We need to get PrEP out in the communities, and become more proactive as opposed to reactive, since many people don’t take HIV seriously since they can take “a pill” and “be okay”.
- PC Member: We need to educate people on the layered realities of living with HIV, because since HIV isn’t viewed as death sentence anymore, youth aren’t concerned.
- PC Member: Is there additional funding incorporated into this campaign? A lot of the aims and findings from EHE is similar to what we have set as goals already. How will this be different?
 - Katie Keating, RWSD Director: We applied for \$9 million for the first of the five year plan. It’s planned to be scaled up to roughly \$60 million over five years.
 - ER: This funding also has less restrictions and more flexible to engage key communities than Part A.
 - KK: We’re also not limited to the RW PC approved services.
- JG: We will return and provide the innovative approaches to accomplishing these pillars. More structured information will be presented to PC in the coming months.

Topic E: Utilization and Spending Report

Katie Keating, RW Division Director, presented a year-to-date update on RW Part A service category spending from March 1 – December 31, 2019.

Questions/Comments

- PC Member: How is viral suppression data collected for each service category? What is the marker, how many copies of the virus?
 - KK: It's based on the number of clients receiving each of these services that are registered as virally suppressed.
- PC Member: Can we have case information of scenarios of when EFA was used, to provide clarity?

Action Steps

- ❖ KK to investigate data collection of virally suppressed vs. virally undetectable and report back. [Discussed at 1/30/2020 Exec meeting, to be incorporated in April presentation]
- ❖ EFA scenarios to be provided to Planning Council. [Discussed at 1/30/2020 Exec meeting, to be incorporated in April presentation]
- ❖ Utilizations to be presented as well, as opposed to solely the stat findings. [Discussed at 1/30/2020 Exec meeting, to be incorporated in April presentation]

Topic F: Updates for the Planning Council

Richard Swanson, PC Chair, gave updates on Planning Council, namely attendance and the members who have left the council. A call was also made for statements of interest for those who would like to attend the Ryan White Conference in D.C.

Topic G: Agency Reports

The representatives for Medicaid (Alison Kirchgasser), New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) (Christopher Cullinan), 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.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

BARRY CALLIS - DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

- Ending the HIV Epidemic in Suffolk County DRAFT Plan (12/23/2019)
- Clinical Advisory and Boston Globe Article (Felice Freyer, 1/09/2020)

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, NH CARE PROGRAM CHRISTOPHER CULLINAN – DATA ANALYST / ADAP COORDINATOR

- Narrowing the candidates for NH Ryan White CARE Program Manager position, no hire yet.
- Re-enrolled about 100 clients in ACA Marketplace insurance. Offering tax prep service through H&R Block help to eligible clients
- Migrated the Program to CAREWare Version 6.

Topic H: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn

Meeting to Adjourn

Motion: Michael Swaney

Second: Justin Alves

Result: The meeting was adjourned.
