



Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, March 12th, 2020
Old South Church | The Guild Room
4:00 - 6:00pm

Summary of Attendance

Members Present

Gelfi Colon
Brian Holliday
George Diaz
Gertrude Lundy
Lorraine Jones
Patrick Baum
Wendy LeBlanc
Deb Winters
Richard Swanson
Raymond Rodriguez
Keith Nolen
Melissa Hector
Katie Keating
Lamar Brown-Noguera
Darren Sack

Members Present Remotely

Michael Swaney
Adelina Alves
Margaret Lombe
Shawwna Smith
Alison Kirchgasser
Jose Sostre
Stephen Corbett
Robert Giannasca
Ronald Jazzzzz Bennett
Manuel Pires

Jessica Stewart
Kathy Lituri
Christopher Cullinan
Ericka Olivera
Barry Callis
Mahara Pinheiro
Tim Young

Members Excused

Justin Alves
Stephen Batchelder
Hariharan Shanmugam
Bryan Thomas
John Fabiano

Members Absent (*Not Penalized*)

Carolyn Smith
Christopher Lesley
Stanley Flores

PCS

Liz Rios
Masill Miranda
Tatiana Ramos

Guest

Cindy Bell, NH Dept Health and Human Services

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 February 13, 2020 were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve. Katie Keating clarified the number of months (6) to attempt to connect with out-of-care clients in the Standards of Care.

Motion to Approve: Wendy LeBlanc

Second: Darren Sack

Result: The minutes were approved with (2) Abstentions

Topic C: Committee Updates

Executive (Richard Swanson, Chair): Lamar Brown-Noguera has been chosen to attend the Ryan White Conference in August.

SPEC (Robert Giannasca, Chair): SPEC discussed service categories approved but not funded and made recommendations. Final edits for the AAM were made, and the Priority Setting Exercise was introduced.

Consumer (Elizabeth Rios, PCS Program Manager): Consumer's topic was Leadership and skills relevant for speaking in the community. The campaign production team (Amir Now, Inc.) is awaiting the contract which is being finalized, and a launch meeting for the creative vision will then be held and a final product will be released in June.

NRAC (Darren Sack, Chair): NRAC discussed the Needs Assessment Survey and the Resource Allocation process.

MNC (Stephen Corbett, Chair): MNC discussed letters being sent out to members, outreach updates, how many people have signed up to learn more about PC and the overall success to-date.

Topic D: Needs Assessment Introductory presentation

Keith Nolen and Darren Sack, NRAC Chair, provided the Needs Assessment Introductory presentation. The goals were to gather and share information on the needs of PLWH in the Boston EMA and on the HIV service system. This will allow for the Council to make informed decisions on prioritizing service categories and allocating Ryan White Part A funds. Nolen presented epi data from MA, while Sack presented epi data from NH, historical data on the Needs Assessment as well as what NRAC is doing this year – collecting surveys year-round, utilizing paper surveys which is the preferred method, and increasing outreach to ages 18-30, women of color and the Bristol, Essex and Stafford counties. Focus groups are planned in various counties, but a couple have been postponed.

Questions/Comments

- ❖ Are those with more than one risk factor for HIV transmission included in this epi data twice?
 - No, they are entered only once, though the method of transmission is noted per self-reporting by the client/interviewing the client.
- ❖ Is it only one criteria that needs to be met for “unmet need” or must all three be satisfied?
 - If only one is met, the person is defined as being “in care”.

- If you cannot satisfy one, you move on to the next. If none can be, they would be considered “out of care”.
- ❖ They can have one test in 12 months, not meet with any providers during the year and still be considered in care?
 - Yes, because a provider would have needed to order the test.

Topic E: Service Categories presentation

Tatiana Ramos, PCS Program Coordinator, and Liz Rios, PCS manager, presented the FY21 Service Categories presentation. The objective of the Service Categories presentation was for the Planning Council members to gain a clear understanding of the definitions per core medical services and support services. In addition, SPEC’s recommendation of removing service categories out of the approved list was presented to the Council. SPEC spent months reviewing the categories, past allocation and procurements. Due to the lack of interest in the community for bid, and not accruing funding for over three fiscal years, SPEC recommended it be removed.

Questions/Comments

- (PC member) Hasn’t Outpatient Ambulatory service been an approved category before 2013?
- ER: Yes, but 2013 was the last year it was formerly included in a procurement but has been approved for far longer than that.
- **Could we use EIS funds to address the corona virus?**
 - **KK: No, it cannot.**

Motion to approve the FY21 Service Categories as recommended and presented by SPEC: Wendy LeBlanc

Second: Deb Winters

Favor: 30

Opposed:0

Abstention: 1

Results | FY21 Service category removal recommendations have been approved by the Planning Council. Mental Health, EIS, Substance Abuse Services – Outpatient and Outpatient/Ambulatory Care have been removed from the FY21 list, which will now have 15 approved service categories.

Topic F: Ground Rules for Priority Setting

Ericka Olivera, SPEC member, provided the Ground Rules for Priority Setting presentation. The presentation included instructions on how to complete the Priority Setting. They highlighted its importance and the information to take into consideration when ranking the service categories including epidemiological trends, Council presentations,

reports, and personal and professional experience. Lastly, it was explained to the Council that the Priority Setting is not linked to funding allocations.

Action Steps

- ❖ **Planning Council members are asked to use the worksheet to rank at their leisure and send their rankings to PCS by the next PC meeting. Method of sending the rankings to be communicated to PC by PCS in the coming days.**

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 BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND LABORATORY SCIENCES (BIDLS) OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS (OHA)

REPRESENTATIVE: BARRY CALLIS - DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Suffolk County
- EHE Steering Committee Update
- Latest information about COVID-19: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION INFECTIOUS DISEASE BUREAU, HIV/AIDS SERVICES DIVISION

REPRESENTATIVE: KATIE KEATING – DIRECTOR, RYAN WHITE SERVICES DIVISION

- The RWSD sent award letters to all agencies in the EMA
- BPHC has not yet received notification of its full award for Ryan White Part A
- BPHC is excited to announce that we received a Notice of Award for the Ending the HIV Epidemic Funding Opportunity through HRSA. BPHC will receive \$1,117,069.00 annually to support new HIV services in Suffolk County over the next five years. For reference, here is the [link](#) to the summary of how EHE funds were awarded across jurisdictions nationally. BPHC is in the process of working with HRSA to update the EHE work plan. We will continue to keep you updated!

NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTOPHER CULLINAN – RYAN WHITE CARE PROGRAM

- Our new Ryan White CARE Program Manager has started, her name is Cindi Bell and she will be supervising the Part A and Part B Program for NH DPHS.

- NH DPHS has been ramping up its response to the coronavirus outbreak. The State has 2 confirmed cases. More at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>
- Planning our spring HIV case managers meeting: April 17th at the NH Hospital Association in Concord
- Our CMS Data Sharing Agreement being implemented with CMS and Magellan (Pharmacy Benefit Management)

Topic H: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn

Chair Richard Swanson gave an update to GoToMeeting which will be used for the upcoming virtual meetings. The Old South Church will be closed for meetings for the next several weeks, therefore all upcoming meetings during that time will be virtual. Troubleshooting will be addressed with PCS for any tech issues in advance.

Meeting to Adjourn

Motion: George Diaz

Second: Patrick Baum

Result: The meeting was adjourned.
