



Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, May 14th, 2020
GoToMeeting
4:00 - 6:00pm

Summary of Attendance

Members Present

Brian Holliday
Carolyn Smith
Gertrude Lundy
Michael Swaney
Patrick Baum
Wendy LeBlanc
Deb Winters
Richard Swanson
Stephen Batchelder
Melissa Hector
Katie Keating
Lorraine Jones
Darren Sack
Adelina Alves
Shawna Smith
Alison Kirchgasser
Jose Sostre
Stephen Corbett
Robert Giannasca
Ronald *Jazzzz* Bennett
Stanley Flores
Manuel Pires
Jessica Stewart
Kathy Lituri
Christopher Cullinan
Ericka Olivera
Barry Callis

Mahara Pinheiro
Tim Young
Gelfi Colon
Hariharan Shanmugam
Bryan Thomas
John Fabiano
Justin Alves
Margaret Lombe
George Diaz

Members Excused

Members Absent

Keith Nolen
Lamar Brown-Noguera

PCS

Liz Rios
Masill Miranda
Tatiana Ramos
Rinka Murakami

Guests

Christopher Lesley
Cindi Bell
Raymond Rodriguez
Ed Rewolinski

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 April 9th, 2020 were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve.

Motion to Approve: Darren Sack

Second: Tim Young

Result: The minutes were approved with (3) Abstentions

Topic C: Committee Updates

Executive (Brian Holliday, Chair Elect): Exec reviewed attendance, evaluations, reflectiveness, the Planning Council meeting agenda, the council budget, the upcoming Nominations Committee and the August Ryan White conference becoming virtual.

SPEC (Robert Giannasca, Chair): SPEC had their last meeting for the council year, where they reviewed the AAM results and made recommendations, made final recommendations for the Year End Report.

Consumer (Ronald Jazzzz Bennett, Chair): Consumer led an open forum for members and Tatiana Ramos, PCS Consumer liaison facilitated icebreakers and a trivia game. Elizabeth Rios (ER), PCS Program Manager gave an update on the anti-stigma campaign – Amir Now Inc. has begun interviewing participants prior to filming at the end of the month.

NRAC (Darren Sack, Chair): NRAC leadership and PCS have been working towards changing the All-Day Meeting to completely virtual, but may not be able to use Zoom as previously planned for. Plan B will be to use GoToMeeting.

MNC (Stephen Corbett, Chair): MNC will not postpone the Nominations Committee, and it will still be held on June 30th. PCS has made the application available, and incumbent applications are encouraged to be submitted. MNC members will be asked to sit in on new applicant interviews.

Topic C: Needs Assessment Presentation

Rinka Murakami (RM), PCS intern, presented the results from the Needs Assessment conducted this Planning Council term. The presentation included findings collected from last term, and summarized the accrued work and efforts made these last two years.

Questions/Comments

- Planning Council Member (PCM): (With regard to a lack of dental services in NH) Not for lack of trying, it is hard to recruit dentists who are willing to be trained and operate on a reimbursement model with Part A funds. They sometimes have an easier path with private insurance.
- PCM: We need to understand that the gaps can't always be filled with money.
 - Chair: Yes, and capacity is an issue.

- PCM: Maybe, like the anti-stigma campaign, advertising could be used to inform PLWH of available services.
- PCM: For the Cape Verdean community, accessibility to technology and transportation are issues, especially for those who've recently emigrated.
- All: Great work, Rinka!

Topic D: Funding Streams Report

Liz Rios, PCS Manager, presented the Funding Streams report. The report is a collection of results reported by different agencies representing different funding streams. The goal of this presentation is to outline where there may be gaps in funding, in which, Part A can possibly fill in because Part A is payer of last resort.

Questions/Comments

- PCM: For the state funding per service category, some state funds are supplemented by federal funding (e.g. MassHealth, Medicaid) The normal breakdown is 50% federal and 50% state funds that make up Mass Health and NH Medicaid.
- PCM: You mentioned new funding for HIV & COVID-19?
 - ER: Our RWSD Division Director can updated on how HRSA funding for COVID-19 among PLWH is being allocated.

Topic E: Assessment of Administrative Mechanism (AAM) results

Justin Alves, SPEC member, presented the results and recommendations from this term's Assessment of Administrative Mechanism (AAM). The goal of the AAM is to evaluate how rapidly funds are allocated and made available to consumers in the community. This involves ensuring that funds are being contracted for quickly and through an open process, and that providers are being paid in a timely manner.

Action Step

- **Recommendations to be presented to BPHC RWSD.**

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.

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

- BPHC received it's full Notice of Award from HRSA in the amount of \$14,894,764.00
- BPHC received a supplemental award to support Ryan White Part A agencies adapt services within COVID-19 in the amount of \$893,157.00. We are working on an allocation plan.
- RWSD continues to work with agencies to understand how we can best support needs within the current Public Health Emergency. We have created and posted an FAQ document and Resource Guide re COVID-19 which we update regularly.
- RWSD is working on updating the EHE proposal and continues to participate in the EHE Steering Committee meetings.
- RWSD hosted the annual Ryan White Provider Meeting virtually on Thursday April 30th. Over 100 people participated.
- The Ryan White conference will now be virtual.
- Welcome Emily Bennewies -RWSD's new Senior Program Coordinator who started on April 13th.

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

- Serving HIV+ and other vulnerable populations through contracted providers, informed by population health group engagements
- Submitted OHAs response to CDC for EHE resources (*Prevent, Diagnose, Treat, Respond, and Workforce*)

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF MEDICAID (MASSHEALTH)
REPRESENTATIVE: ALISON KIRCHGASSER – DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONS

- Resources and information related to the coronavirus for MassHealth applicants, members and providers can be found here:
<https://www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-masshealth>

CITY OF BOSTON
REPRESENTATIVE: MELISSA HECTOR – DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING/MAYOR'S LIASON TO RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL

- The HHS webinar flyer can be found on Basecamp. Also we launched an e-newsletter folks can subscribe to, click [Here](#) to subscribe to The HHS E-Newsletter. These are a few updates for now.
Upcoming resources:
 - **Boston Resiliency Fund**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/departments/treasury/boston-resiliency-fund>
 - **COVID-19 Test Sites**

- <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/map-covid-19-testing-sites>
- **Food Access in Boston**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/news/food-resources-during-covid-19>
- **City of Boston Youth Summer Job Listening Session:** The City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Mayor's Office of Economic Development are pleased to host two community listening sessions to discuss our plans for the summer youth jobs program. We also want to hear from you on what creative ideas you may have as we work to figure out ways to engage young people in paid work opportunities this summer.
Please see links to access the sessions here:
 - **Link for 5/14 at 2-3pm:** <https://zoom.us/j/99414693682>
 - **Link for 5/15 at 1-2pm:** <https://zoom.us/j/98463512997>

Topic H: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn

Meeting to Adjourn

Motion: Darren Sack

Second: Stephen Batchelder

Result: The meeting was adjourned.
