



Planning Council Meeting  
 Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
 GoToMeeting  
 4:00 - 6:00pm

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## Summary of Attendance

### Members Present

Brian Holliday  
 Carolyn Smith  
 Gertrude Lundy  
 Michael Swaney  
 Patrick Baum  
 Wendy LeBlanc  
 Deb Winters  
 Richard Swanson  
 Katie Keating  
 Darren Sack  
 Shawna Smith  
 Alison Kirchgasser  
 Jose Sostre  
 Stephen Corbett  
 Robert Giannasca  
 Manuel Pires  
 Jessica Stewart  
 Kathy Lituri  
 Christopher Cullinan  
 Ericka Olivera  
 Barry Callis  
 Mahara Pinheiro  
 Tim Young  
 Hariharan Shanmugam  
 John Fabiano  
 Justin Alves

Margaret Lombe  
 George Diaz  
 Lamar Brown-Noguera

### Members Excused

Ronald *Jazzzz* Bennett  
 Melissa Hector  
 Lorraine Jones  
 Gelfi Colon

### Members Absent

Adelina Alves  
 Stephen Batchelder  
 Stanley Flores  
 Keith Nolen  
 Bryan Thomas

### PCS

Liz Rios  
 Masill Miranda  
 Tatiana Ramos  
 Rinka Murakami

### Guests

Raymond Rodriguez

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## 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.

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

The minutes from the meeting of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve.

**Motion to Approve:** Wendy LeBlanc

**Second:** John Fabiano

**Result:** The minutes were approved with (0) Abstentions

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## **Topic C: Committee Updates**

**Executive (Brian Holliday, Chair Elect):** Discussed evaluations (PC, committee evaluations, attendance), changes to staffing.

**SPEC (Robert Giannasca, Chair):** No update as SPEC's last meeting was before the previous PC meeting. Michael Swaney, SPEC Vice Chair, will present the year-end report.

**Consumer (Ronald *Jazzzz* Bennett, Chair):** Had the last council year meeting on Monday which included updates on the anti-stigma campaign and a final video by next month to present at the next council meeting.

**NRAC (Darren Sack, Chair):** Results of All-Day Meeting to be shared.

**MNC (Stephen Corbett, Chair):** Met on 5/28 and discussed the Nominations Committee, year-end report and presentation, and selected a presenter.

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## **Topic C: Assessment of Administrative Mechanism (AAM) VOTE**

Justin Alves presented the AAM recommendations made by SPEC at last month's meeting (May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020). At this meeting, he requested for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented by SPEC.

**Motion to accept the AAM recommendations made by SPEC:** Darren Sack

**Second:** Deb Winters

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** 0

**Abstention:** 0

**Results:** 100% Approval of AAM

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## **Topic D: NRAC's Year End Report (YER)**

Lamar Brown–Noguera and Harry Shanmugam, NRAC Vice Chair, presented NRAC's Year-End Report and funding recommendations. During the presentation, they discussed the committee membership and charge, and NRAC's two

main responsibilities. The two main responsibilities include developing the Needs Assessment process and developing recommendations where BPHC should spend the Ryan White Part A award funds. In addition, they presented the recommendations for unexpended funds and funding scenarios. Lastly, NRAC recommended giving the grantee up to 20% above or below the levels for each service category, except for categories funded at less than \$500,000 are given up to 50% leeway. The Planning Council will vote to approve NRAC's funding recommendations on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Questions/Comments**

- PC Chair: Maybe break it up by section in the future.
- NRAC Chair: Grantee couldn't give updated numbers until day before.
- PC Member: When voting on scenarios, if something should dramatically change, is there leeway to change what was voted on?
  - PC Chair/NRAC Chair: Yes, can delay things 60-90 days.

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### **Topic E: SPEC's Year End Report (YER)**

Michael Swaney, SPEC Vice Chair, presented the SPEC Year End Report. During the presentation he discussed SPEC's charge, membership, and projects they worked on during the year. Michael highlighted the AAM, service category recommendations and the Priority Setting Exercise.

### **Questions/Comments**

- PC Member: I could help present the topic of PLWH and transplants having had a transplant myself. There is a balance with transplants and HIV medications, it's an immune system balancing act.

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### **Topic F: MNC Update**

Stephen Corbett, Chair of MNC, provided the Planning Council with an update on their current work, recruitment, and the upcoming Nominations Committee.

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### **Topic G: Chair Elect Nominations**

Richard Swanson, Planning Council Chair, and Brian Holliday, Planning Council Chair Elect, discussed their experience as former and current Chair Elect. PCS discussed the process in nominating a Chair Elect for the upcoming term. Elections for this position will be at the last Planning Council meeting, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Questions/Comments**

- PC Member: Is there a term limit?
  - PC Chair: Terms can be renewed, not expired.

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## Topic H: Agency Reports

### BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE BUREAU, HIV/AIDS SERVICES DIVISION

REPRESENTATIVE: KATIE KEATING – DIRECTOR, RYAN WHITE SERVICES DIVISION

- We are in the process of finalizing review of COVID 19 supplemental funding requests
- Our new Senior program Manager, Felipe Ruiz, will start on June 15<sup>th</sup>
- We are in the process of hiring two new staff for the Program Coordinator II positions
- We planning to relaunch CQM activities starting in late June

### MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF MEDICAID (MASSHEALTH)

REPRESENTATIVE: ALISON KIRCHGASSER – DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONS

MassHealth continues to update its policies to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please see <https://www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-masshealth>.

Important member related information:

#### MassHealth Eligibility & COVID-19

MassHealth has made temporary changes to certain eligibility-related policies and processes to support public health efforts and improve access to necessary health care for new MassHealth members and existing members. Many of these changes are listed below, and can also be found in this guide. [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

#### Getting access to food resources in your community during COVID-19

As a result of COVID-19, one out of every three families in Massachusetts is experiencing food insecurity. If you or someone you know needs food now or needs help paying for food, there are resources available. This guide provides information about your options, including programs you may be immediately eligible for as a MassHealth member. [PDF](#) | [Word](#) Spanish: [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

You can also visit <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-food-assistance> for more information on food assistance available during COVID-19.

#### Changes in Your Circumstances

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-emergency-related-waivers-for-members-and-applicants>

#### Hardship Waivers for Deductibles and Premiums

If you pay a deductible or premium, and this cost would cause undue hardship to you, you can apply online for a hardship waiver at <http://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-emergency-related-waivers-for-members-and-applicants>

**You will not lose your MassHealth coverage during the COVID-19 national emergency**

If you have received a notice in the mail that your coverage is ending on or after March 18, your coverage is protected and will not end during the national emergency. You do not need to send in any additional paperwork to keep your coverage.

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

- Our contract for AIDS Service Organizations to provide Case Management services is being extended 3 months to 9/30/20.
  - The Program received a \$50,000 award from HRSA from the CARES Act (the COVID-19 specific grant) This will be spent on prescription drugs for newly eligible clients along with some additional funds for Support Service categories.
  - Melissa Richards, our Quality Management Coordinator, will be leaving state service next week. She will continue to work in the field of healthcare in NH. We will be looking for a new Quality Management specialist soon.
  - Client enrollments are still being extended one month as needed/requested to accommodate pandemic-related issues.

**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**

- OHA staff have generated a list of training/education/capacity development needs related to COVID-19 reopening to support our contracted service system.
- OHA staff have completed engagements with OHAs population health advisory groups to identify factors impacting the health of focus populations and options for responding to them.
- Ending HIV Epidemic in SC Update

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**Topic I: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn**

Elizabeth Rios, PCS Program Manager, shared about virtual pride participation happening. Will send details about it in the Weekly Announcement tomorrow. It will be from 12-3pm on Saturday. Ray also shared another virtual pride celebration “Pride is to Rise” and a march to the State House for trans people of color.

**Meeting to Adjourn**

**Motion:** Darren Sack

**Second:** Tim Young

**Result:** The meeting was adjourned.

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