



Minutes ☿ May 11, 4pm-6
4pm-6:30pm

Council Members Present: *Michael Louder, Ron Padgett, Scott Bertani, Richard Prasad, Susan Buskin, Alora Gale-Schreck, Katie Hara, Lydia Guy-Ortiz, Teresia Otieno, Eve Lake, John Rodriguez, Carlos Delgadillo, Tony Radovich*

Council Members Absent: *German Gallindo, Brian Lauver, Hector Urrunaga-Diaz, Gladys Wiessner*

Planning Council Staff Present: Karen Chung, Jake Ketchum, Wilson Pipkin (minutes)

Recipient Staff Present: Linda Coomas, Shila Wu

Visitors Present: Kevin Hockley (AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)), Wanda Vasquez (Janssen Pharmaceuticals), Karen Hartfield (Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC)), Dennis Saxman (Former Council Member), Michelle Bice (Gilead Sciences), Dennis Torres (Gilead Sciences), Genie Sheth (Prospective Council Member), Marcee Kerr (Mountains West AIDS Education & Training Centers)

Italics denote Planning Council Membership.

I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

II. Meeting Agenda

Carlos wanted to add discussion of why the Planning Council meetings have been shortened to 2 hours. It was stated that the meeting being shortened was decided and voted on at the Executive Committee meeting, and the decision on meeting length was made so that meetings were more accessible.

Carlos requested an interpreter. It was stated that Planning Council staff tried to get in contact with him to discuss how best to fulfill that need in a virtual meeting, and *Carlos* had not responded. Karen Chung apologized for not having an interpreter available at this meeting, but will have interpreters moving forward and will gladly discuss this with him directly after the meeting.

☑ *The agenda was approved as written by acclamation.*

III. Meeting Minutes

Dennis requested that he be listed as a former Councilmember on the last meeting minutes.

Carlos stated that acronyms should be spelled out in minutes to make the language more accessible.

German requested that reminder texts be reinstated for virtual meetings.

Carlos requested that all materials and written communication be also translated into Spanish.

☑ *The February minutes were approved as written by acclamation.*

IV. Public Comment

Genie Sheth announced that Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) received \$426,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These funds will be used for the prevention of homelessness in Snohomish and King Counties. It was clarified that all people living with HIV are eligible for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) services.

V. Recipient Report (Linda)

Linda stated that the full Ryan White Part A award has been received in the amount of \$7,015,507. There were slight reductions from last year in formula and supplemental funds. There was an increase in Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds. The recipient also received \$464,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to be used within a year. These funds do not need to go through the Council, and have very few restrictions to enable them to be used in response to COVID-19 as quickly as possible. This money is being used in the community to support providers of HIV services in pivoting their delivery of services, as well as supporting people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) with things like food cards, rental assistance, etc.

Carlos requested a list of agencies that are receiving these Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds so he could get some of this aid. It was stated that due to the Ryan White Part A legislation, agencies are not allowed to be discussed in Council meetings, only service categories. Linda offered to discuss getting connected to services outside of Planning Council meetings. *Carlos* was encouraged to get in contact with his case manager or consult the "Who does what in HIV" pamphlet. It was offered to send this pamphlet in English or Spanish or to get him connected to a case manager. *Carlos* stated that he believes this restriction is discrimination.

VI. Executive Committee Report (Katie & Michael)

The May meeting date was discussed due to a conflict with a holiday. The challenges and needs of virtual meetings was discussed at this meeting, including the need for language services.

VII. Needs Assessment, Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Committee Report (Richard & Brian)

This committee discussed the Never, Not & Intermittently in Care report that Becca Hutcheson put together. The overall assessment is delayed but moving forward. The Council discussed how to present the data gathered. The Council also discussed the prioritization and allocation process. This committee discussed Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) non-medical case management funds, but did not get to divvying up funds between the Black and Latinx populations. It was suggested that the remaining \$26,969 funds be divvied up in alignment with the current allocation by population.

Susan suggested that the allocation of the remaining funds instead be divvied up by the percent of current and new HIV infections (59% Black 41% Latinx) in the Transitional Grant Area (TGA).

MOTION: Susan motioned to divvy the remaining \$26,969 Minority AIDS Initiative funds by 59% Black and 41% Latinx, to align with the number of current and new HIV infections in the Transitional Grant Area (TGA). Richard seconded.

Discussion: There was much discussion, and there was consensus that making this a data driven decision is key. Carlos was very vocal about his frustration with this motion and the process.

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 9 – Ron, Michael, Susan, Katie, Eve, Scott, Lydia, John, German
- Opposed -1- Carlos
- Abstaining -2- Teresia, Alora

VIII. Membership/Operations Committee Report (Carlos)

Carlos reported that it was only himself, German, Eve, Jake, Wilson, and a woman whose name he cannot remember were in attendance at the last Membership/Operations Committee meeting. This guest was interviewed, and was voted to be passed to the Council to be approved for membership. It was clarified that this guest was Genie Sheth who works for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and that she is present in this Planning Council meeting.

MOTION: Carlos motioned to nominate Genie Sheth for Planning Council membership. Michael Seconded.

Discussion: Genie introduced herself, and described her previous experience as a Planning Council member and work in housing for people living with HIV (PLWH).

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 12 – Michael, Richard, Scott, Susan, Alora, Teresia, Ron, Lydia, Katie, John, Carlos, German
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-

IX. +Caucus Report (Pat & John)

John reported that the +Caucus had its first virtual meeting, and they discussed different ways to do outreach, the need for more people living with HIV (PLWH) and representation of populations within the Transitional Grant Area (TGA) on the Council, the Planning Council Handbook, and the brochure that is nearing completion. The brochure is waiting on the email address for the +Caucus to be created.

Action: Planning Council Staff will look into where King County Information Technology (KCIT) is in the process of creating that email address.

There was discussion on COVID-19 and the challenges caused by the pandemic for people living with HIV (PLWH).

Carlos requested that information on travel reimbursements be included in the +Caucus brochure, and wanted to discuss this topic further. It was tabled for the next +Caucus meeting in the interest of time, and Katie offered to discuss it offline with Carlos.

X. System of Care Committee Report (*Michael*)

This committee did not meet in the last month.

XI. COVID-19 Update / Q&A (Karen H.)

This presentation was shortened due to time and interruptions.

- It was stated that the Transitional Grant Area (TGA) has a large number of COVID-19 cases in Washington State, with King County being most impacted.
- The number of cases and deaths is declining. Homeless shelters, supportive housing, and long-term care facilities are being impacted by cases.
- There are 50 people living with HIV (PLWH) who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- There are racial disparities in the impact of COVID-19 with Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, Latinx and Black populations being disproportionately affected.
- There is a data dashboard online for COVID-19 information put out by King County, and it has data on populations.
- PPE distribution, contact tracing, testing capacity expansion, congregate settings, and long-term care facilities are the priority areas for Public Health.
- The Washington State Safe Start Plan and its 4 phases were discussed.
- Information on how and where to get tested was shared.

XII. Quality Management Presentation (Marcee)

This item tabled until the next Planning Council meeting due to time.

XIII. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Monday June 8th, 4pm-6 virtually. Link will be sent with meeting materials.