



Minutes ☘ Monday, April 12th, 2021

4pm-6:30pm

Virtually through Zoom

Council Members Present: *Michael Iouder, Katie Hara (Madison Clinic), Hector Urrunaga Diaz (Bailey-Boushay House), Lina Stinson Ali, Genie Sheth (City of Seattle-Human Services Dept.), Ron Padgett, Susan Buskin (Dept. of Public Health-Seattle & King County), German Galindo, Eve Lake (Madison Clinic), Jonas Nicotra, Andrew Ashiofu*

Council Members Absent: *Richard Prasad (Country Doctor), Teresia Otieno (Center for Multi-Cultural Health), Amber Casey (Hepatitis Education Project)*

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

Recipient Staff Present: Linda Coomas, Mark Baker

Visitors Present: Michael Lidel (prospective member), Kevin Hockley (Optum HIV Specialty Pharmacy), Gabriel Silberblatt (City of Seattle-Human Services Dept.), Helena Paneyko (Spanish/English Interpretation), Wanda Vazquez (Janssen Biotech)

Italics denote Planning Council Membership.

I. **Welcome, Meeting Rule Reminder, Introductions and Announcements**

Eve announced that she is taking a temporary leave of absence and will be back later in the summer.

II. **Meeting Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written by acclamation.

III. **Meeting Minutes**

Michael was absent at the last meeting.

The March minutes were approved as amended by acclamation.

IV. **Public Comment**

None.

V. **Recipient Report**

We received the final notice of the Ryan White Part A (RWPA) award at the end of March which totals \$6,883,410. This is less than previously awarded and less than was requested in the application. We received approximately \$25,000 less than what we requested in Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds. These changes will necessitate budget revisions.

The objective review panels will be meeting this Friday to review funding applications. There may be excess funds unapplied for that may need to be reallocated and this will happen at the next NAPSRA meeting. There are also cost reductions being considered in recipient staff and quality management to prioritize funds to services. There were questions about what has caused the reduction in funds, and the recipient will ask the project officer when they meet next. There are no clear answers yet as to why the funding reduction has happened. The feedback that they got from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) was positive and gave no feedback on why the awarded amount was reduced.

Recipient staff worked with agencies to help in their completion of the Ryan White Services (RSR) Report. This is the first this report has been done using the new PROVIDE database and there were a couple of hiccups. Staff worked diligently with agencies to resolve these and the report was submitted on time. There are 2 reports that the Recipient team will be working on in order to present to the Council, the Annual Progress Report due May 29th, and the program terms/submission report due June 30th. This is done after the award is received to show where the funds are going.

Recipient staff stated that the purpose of the RSR is to take note of how many clients have not tested their viral load in a calendar year, housing status and other indicators. Recipient staff is very open to requests to pull data and reports. They look forward to being able to better provide this data with the new database. Giving space to consumers to speak their minds and to thoughtfully honor and respond to their questions is a key part of this process. It was noted that having more consumers both present and heard is important.

VI. Executive Committee Report

In the debrief of the COVID-19 Q & A panel at the last Council meeting, it was requested that sharing of COVID information on a regular basis be implemented due to the rapidly changing landscape. It was noted that reopening of in person services was happening before vaccinations were broadly available, and this will likely increase as vaccines roll out. There was discussion about writing a letter suggesting against requiring vaccination to receive services.

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

This committee has been discussing consumer needs assessment, and Council staff has been doing research around the country on how other Transitional Grant Areas/Eligible Metro Areas (TGA/EMA) are approaching needs assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Phone interviews and focus groups were assessment tools discussed. A doodle poll will be sent out to see if a new time is necessary for this meeting.

VIII. Membership/Operations Committee Report

This committee interviewed Michael Lidel, and another interview is scheduled for the next meeting. Recruitment of consumers is ongoing and there is still a need for a mental health service provider. Lydia Guy-Ortiz is no longer a part of the Council due to changing responsibilities at the Washington State Dept. of Health, and she will be missed. In her place Ray Harris has applied to fill the Ryan White Part B (RWPB) representational position. Michael Lidel was interviewed and his references will be reviewed at the next committee meeting. There was extensive discussion on having an anti-bias training at the Council. This would be good one to fulfill the yearly training requirement of the Council. This training was pushed back to the committee with a request for a fully-fledged idea for moving forward on this and other trainings. There was a request for other ideas for trainings.

IX. +Caucus Report

This meeting was postponed and then cancelled due to lack of ability to attend. There is the ongoing need for a co-chair.

X. System of Care (SOC) Committee Report

The Medical Transportation service unit definition was reviewed and redefined to include ride shares (vouchers and credits), which is a growingly common method of transportation.

MOTION: Katie moved to accept the Medical Transportation service units as newly defined. Andrew seconded.

Discussion: None

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 8 – *Michael, Katie, Eve, Jonas, Susan, Andrew, German, Genie*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -2- *Ron, Lina*

Medical Transportation Standards were reviewed and revised as they were last updated in 2018. There were not many changes, most were updates to wording to include changes to service units to include rideshare and parking. There was an added standard requiring policy from agencies on how vouchers or credits are used. The request for applications (RFA) has already been posted and applications received for old standards and service unit definitions in place; the Recipient will work with contractors to see if any new standards/units adopted can be implemented.

There was a question about providing space in the standards for caregivers or escorts if someone needs to go with them to appointments. It was noted that agencies are required to gather eligibility data including 400% federal poverty level (FPL), HIV status, etc. If the caregiver is not Ryan White eligible, they cannot receive reimbursement or vouchers. This question was kicked back to the committee to consider after these standards are approved.

The Emergency Financial Assistance Service Standards were reviewed, discussed, and voted on.

XI. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: 4pm Monday, May 10th virtually through Zoom.