



Minutes ☘ Monday, February 8, 2021
4pm-6:30
Virtually through Zoom

Council Members Present: *Michael Louder, Lina Stinson-Ali, Katie Hara (Madison Clinic), German Galindo, Genie Sheth (City of Seattle Human Services Dept.), Ron Padgett, Alora Gale, Lydia Guy-Ortiz (Washington State Dept. of Health), Susan Buskin (Dept. of Public Health-Seattle & King County), Jonas Nicotra, Hector Urrunaga-Diaz (Bailey-Boushay House), Teresia Otieno (Center for Multi-Cultural Health), John Rodriguez, Eve Lake (Madison Clinic)*

Council Members Absent: *Richard Prasad (Country Doctor), Gladys Wiessner, Tony Radovich*

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

Recipient Staff Present: Linda Coomas (Recipient), Mark Baker (clinical quality mgmt), Shila Wu

Visitors Present: Michael Lidel (prospective Councilmember), Leanne Neumann (Janssen Biotech), Kevin Hockley (Optum HIV Pharmacy), Becky Gonzales, Patricia Ogunmola-Nazzal (Dept. of Corrections-prospective member), Amber Casey (Hepatitis Education Project-prospective member), Jake Ketchum (Dept. of Public Health-Seattle & King County), Megan Toothaker (Medical Case Management-Lifelong), Dennis Torres (Gilead Sciences), Becky Gonzales, Wanda Vazquez (Janssen), Andrew Ashiofu (prospective Councilmember), Rachael Wright (Lifelong)

Italics denote Planning Council Membership.

I. Welcome, Meeting Rule Reminder, Introductions and Announcements

Council staff reported that there will not be an interpreter present due to the agency being unable to find someone that could be present.

II. Meeting Agenda

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

III. Meeting Minutes

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

IV. Public Comment

No public comment

V. Recipient Report

There was a partial award from the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) of \$1.5 million in formula funds and about \$82,000 in Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds. The supplemental award has not been awarded, and unclear when final awards will be awarded. The

HIV Care Services request for applications (RFA) was released on schedule on Jan 29th, and there was a preapplication conference for community questions on Feb 4th. Applications are due March 8th by 5pm. The committee making recommendations on the applications meets April 16th. Currently funded agencies received 4-month contracts until the delayed RFA process is completed.

The Ryan White team is currently working on the Provide Database migration and the annual Ryan White Services report. In response to a question it was stated that the preapplication conference is to answer questions that possible service providers and community members have about applying for the funding. The objective review committee goes through all applications, reviews them, and makes recommendations and suggests any contingencies to Dennis Worsham (head of the Prevention Division) who reviews them one last time. Members of this committee must be unaligned subject matter experts that do not work for agencies currently funded or applying for funds.

VI. Executive Committee Report

The Recipient had a question about what food voucher service units would be defined as, and this was brought to the Executive Committee in the interest of time. It was defined as 1 voucher=1 service unit to allow for program design flexibility. This is not ideally how a service unit definition would be approved. This definition was required for the RFAs so that agencies can apply for any/all service units and have bounds set by the Council within which to work.

There is a lot of community desire to have information and education around COVID-19 vaccinations. The Council would like to put together a panel of experts to answer any questions and would like to know what questions everyone has in order to gather the appropriate subject matter experts. Questions were recorded, and Council staff will move this forward.

<Kifleyesus Bayru joined the meeting>

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

This committee accomplished very productive in their last meeting. There was a start of a discussion on lessons learned from the recent prioritization process. This will continue into the next meeting.

One of the guiding documents for needs assessments talks about “the highest quality of life.” There was much discussion around this language and it was forwarded to the +Caucus to discuss. The timeline of the needs assessment was also discussed. Last year the American Indian/Alaska Native assessment was delayed due to COVID. Both this and the overall needs assessment will be done. The timeline for this is: Jan-Mar preparing assessments, Apr-Dec doing the assessments. This will be done through several tools including the Medical Monitoring Project, epidemiologic reporting, focus groups and interviews.

VIII. Membership/Operations Committee Report

There have been 2 candidate interviews recently, and both are being forwarded to the Council for a vote to approve their membership. First is Andrew Ashiofu. He introduced himself as a first-generation Nigerian immigrant that has been HIV+ for 15+ years. He is excited to be a part of this work.

Next is Amber Casey. She introduced herself and stated that she is returning to Seattle after a decade in New York where she was the grantee/recipient to the Planning Council there. She is hoping that she can bring a drug user health perspective, broader Ryan White happenings and lived experience.

MOTION: Eve moved to nominate Andrew Ashiofu for membership to the Council. Katie seconded.

Discussion: None

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 14 – *Michael, Lina, Katie, German, Genie, Ron, Alora, Lydia, Susan, Jonas, Hector, Teresia, John, Eve*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-
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MOTION: Eve moved to nominate Amber Casey for membership on the Council. Ron seconded.

Discussion: None

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 14 – *Michael, Lina, Katie, German, Genie, Ron, Alora, Lydia, Susan, Jonas, Hector, Teresia, John, Eve*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-

In response to a question Andrew stated that he was born in the U.S. but spent most of his life in Nigeria. Amber currently lives outside the Transitional Grant Area (TGA) but works in King County and used to be a consultant to Kitsap County in their HIV work. The social media presence will be discussed at the next meeting as well as possible co-chair.

IX. +Caucus Report

This group also discussed COVID vaccination questions. There was much discussion on the co-chair position for this committee and possibly having a rotating co-chair. This discussion is also happening in Membership/Operations for possible bylaw integration. No action has been taken yet to remove Pat Migliore as co-chair to the +Caucus, as efforts to contact have not been successful.

There was also discussion on a consumer handbook in order to recruit and onboard members more easily. There are also recruitment brochures and business cards for the +Caucus. New Councilmembers are welcome to join the +Caucus for their next meeting which is held virtually the first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm.

X. System of Care (SOC) Committee Report

This committee is presenting a draft of Standards of Care for Psychosocial Support Services for approval by the Council. HRSA updated the definition of this service category, and this was updated in the standards. Under 3.2 support staff will make appropriate referrals and coordinate care with appropriate providers and documentation of coordination will be measured. There was much discussion about the importance of peers in this service category and how they could be integrated into the language of this service category. It was noted that peers were included in the Seattle TGA definition. Service units for this category include 1-1 and group counseling, but outreaching to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) populations can be difficult due to HRSA restrictions around “parties” and the realities of how BIPOC support each other. In response to a question it was stated that releases of information (ROIs) and consent to care standards are in the General Standards. It was explained that respect for autonomy and decision making of the client is paramount.

MOTION: Teresa moved to approve the Standards of Care for the Psychosocial Support Service Category. Lydia seconded.

Discussion: It was noted that Psychosocial Support is one of the few service categories that can be extended to family members, and this is in the HRSA definition of this category.

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 12 – *Michael, Lina, Katie, German, Genie, Alora, Lydia, Susan, Hector, Teresa, John, Eve*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -2- *Ron, Jonas*

Thanks were given to Katie Hara, who extends warm welcomes to new members. Michael Lidel opened the floor for questions about incarcerated people living with HIV (PLWH) from the perspective of lived experience. In response to a question, it was noted that incarcerated PLWH are treated 1 of two ways: with no regard, the same as everyone else, or the medical staff does a great job ensuring care is happening. There is still stigma there, but the response ranges from acceptance to ostracizing. In response to a question there was anecdotal evidence given to being personally proactive in seeking care while incarcerated. He had to inform himself and then inform his care providers. In response to a question it was stated in his first experience of incarceration he was ill prepared and informed and reverted back to behaviors that led to reincarceration. Before leaving the second time, his medical support was built up and some stability found. In response to a question it was stated that there was self-collection of surplus medications in order to not go without medications. The care team also made sure that there was a bridge to care after incarceration.

There was a request to have a list of common acronyms and jargon to give to new attendees and interpreters. Using more accessible language will allow for a more consumer focused Council.

XI. Adjourn @ 6pm

NEXT MEETING: 4pm-6:30 Monday, March 8th virtually through Zoom.