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**Minutes** ☘ Monday, November 8, 2021

4pm-6:30pm

*Virtually through Zoom*

**Council Members Present:** *Ron Padgett (NAPSRA Co-Chair), Katie Hara (Council Co-Chair, Madison Clinic), Patricia Ogunmola-Nazzal (Washington State Dept. of Corrections), Ray Harris (System of Care Co-Chair, Washington State Dept. of Health), Susan Buskin (Dept. of Health-Seattle & King County), Amber Casey (Hepatitis Education Project), Genie Sheth (City of Seattle-Human Services Dept.), Andrew Ashiofu (Ad-Hoc Chair), German Galindo, Lina Stinson-Ali, Paul Park (Lifelong), Hector Urrunaga-Diaz (Bailey-Boushay), Eve Lake (Membership/Operations Co-Chair, Madison Clinic), Jonas Nicotra, Tony Radovich (System of Care Co-Chair)*

**Council Members Absent:** *Michael Louder (Council Co-Chair), Teresia Otieno, Richard Prasad (NAPSRA Co-Chair, Country Doctor), John Rodriguez (+Caucus Co-Chair), Gladys Wiessner, Michael Lidel*

**Planning Council Staff Present:** Karen Chung, Wilson Pipkin

**Recipient Staff Present:** Linda Coomas, Mark Baker, Shila Wu

**Visitors Present:** Dennis Torres (Gilead), Gabriel Silberblatt (*City of Seattle-Human Services Dept., HOPWA*), Eric Y. Mose (Madison Clinic), Jake Ketchum (Dept. of Public Health-Seattle & King County, End the HIV Epidemic), Isadora Freeman (Spanish/English interpretation)

*Italics denote Planning Council Membership.*

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

- Council staff requested input on food resources accessible to people living with HIV (PLWH) which could be placed in the “Who Does What in HIV/AIDS” informational brochure. There isn’t much beyond food banks, and this is a part of the problem. Bailey-Boushay outpatient program provides resources for clients and Ballard food bank is a grocery style food bank. There are churches on Capitol Hill that have community lunches and dinner. Sound Generations and Meals on Wheels have meals for seniors in King County.
- Bailey Boushay is reopening referrals for their outpatient program day and night.

**<Jonas Nicotra joined the meeting.>**

**II. Meeting Agenda**

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

**III. Meeting Minutes**

There was a question about whether Tony is able to forward a motion as a non-Councilmember co-chair. This motion can be moved and voted upon again.

*The October minutes were approved as written by acclamation.*

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Paul commented on one of the challenges being faced currently by the Food & Meals program is the unexpected increase in costs. Providing quality medically appropriate food to communities most in need of support is being prioritized, but hard decisions may need to happen.

#### **V. Recipient Report**

- Once a re-allocation plan has been approved here, the Recipient team will be working on the changes required for this.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA, who funds the Ryan White grant) waived the site visit requirement, but the Recipient team will be doing virtual fiscal and programmatic site visits, to be scheduled soon.
- Work is ongoing on the fine tuning of Provide database.
- The current project officer for HRSA Luigi Procopio is retiring, and an interim project officer will be found soon. There is not a timeline on this yet.
- How is data gathered during virtual site visits? The Ryan White team has gone through all standards of care and will be asking agencies to provide responses based on these standards and measures with documentation. There will be review and conversation with agencies based on their responses.

#### **VI. Executive Committee Report**

- Consumer quorum was brought forth by a visiting previous Councilmember as a concern. He claimed in past years the Council was not meeting the consumer quorum as required in the bylaws. Council staff gathered data since May of 2020 on all meetings which show consumer quorum being present in every meeting.
- Did the former Councilmember assume consumers were meant to be 50%+1 of all members of the Council or just consumers on the Council?
- Membership/Operations will look at ways to enable and support consumers in engaging more.

#### **VII. Needs Assessment, Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Committee Report**

**<Jonas Nicotra left the meeting.>**

- The Recipient team has to do re-allocations each year based on 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter performance and expenditures in order to comply with the HRSA requirement to spend 95% of formula funds.
- There were funds returned in some categories and further requests in others.
- The committee reviewed these returns and requests and decided to fully fund the \$65,892 requested in Housing Non-Medical Case Management (NMCM), Emergency Financial Assistance was fully funded for the requested \$40,000, Medical Transportation was fully funded for the requested \$2,999, Food and Meals was the other category where funds were being requested and it was funded with the remaining returned funds of \$132,109.

**MOTION: Ron moves to approve these re-allocations. Susan seconds.**

**Discussion: None.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

- In favor – 13 – Ron, Ray, Lina, Susan, Katie, Amber, Andrew, Genie, Eve, Paul, Patricia, Hector, German
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-

- This committee also voted to allow the Recipient team the authority to move funds between categories between now and the end of the grant year in order to spend out 95% of formula funds as required by the grant to avoid penalties.
- Were any thresholds, guidelines, or guardrails placed on this? The amount re-allocated without Council approval is usually small.
- The expectation was set for any returned funds in this period be generally put toward Food & Meals, as their request is not being fully funded, in a manner that allows spending out at least 95% of formula funds. This was agreed upon and amended to the authority granted to the Recipient team.

**<Jake Ketchum & Gabriel Silberblatt left the meeting.>**

***MOTION: Ron moves to accept this reallocation the way it is written, with the request that any further reallocations within the remaining grant year the Recipient does without Council approval goes toward Food & Meals. Andrew seconds.***

***Discussion: The justification for this request to send funds to a lower priority service category is the only category requesting funds not receiving their full request and is generally a service that can readily spend out funds to reach 95% spent formula funds. The Recipient will move to other prioritized categories if needed to spend out.***

***MOTION AMENDED: Ron moves to accept this reallocation the way it is written, with the request that any further reallocations within the remaining grant year the Recipient does without Council approval goes toward Food & Meals if feasible. Ray seconds.***

***The motion passed with the following vote:***

- In favor – 11 – Amber, Ron, Ray, Katie, Susan, Andrew, Paul, Genie, Patricia, Eve, Hector
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -2- Lina, German

- There was a request to add discussion on guidelines for reallocation without approval by the Council to the next NAPSRA Committee meeting.
- The Consumer survey was reviewed, and language was requested around a question whether consumers feel they have power in the decision making on how services are provided and funded.
- A printed version was requested.
- The goal is to have it go out in January.
- The November and December meetings are being combined into 1 meeting Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **VIII. +Caucus Report**

- The Co-Chair *John* was present at the +Caucus, but is out today.
- Tony will be covering a draft letter from the Council regarding the impact of ESHB 1551 and the proposed changes which are required by the legislation to keep criminal charges for the willful transmission of blood borne pathogens and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- A guiding principle requested by the +Caucus is to work across the Council and committees to ensure that everyone is heard equally and is supported in participation.
- The +Caucus brochure has been translated into French, Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic as per the goal is to get more PLWH to join and participate on the Council.
- There is work being done on a poster requesting PLWH to join the Council, with a repeated phrase translated into top spoken languages for posting in waiting rooms and other community spaces around the 3 counties of the Transitional Grant Area (TGA-King, Snohomish, Island).

- The +Caucus is outreaching to non or underrepresented populations on the Council, and one of the questions frequently asked is, “what’s in it for me?”
- There have been Councilmembers which have been a part of community conversations by sharing their stories on “Life, Law and Love with HIV.”
- How else do we recruit more people to the Council including better representation of PLWH within King County and the TGA?
- How do we create a safe space for those who are undocumented or those who do not speak English?
- Can we hold panels or community forums for these populations or with community-based organizations we are trying to recruit from?

**<Ron Padgett left the meeting.>**

- Council staff sent out a draft memo to Washington State Board of Health (WBOH) regarding proposed regulations to be implemented in 70.24 Revised Code of Washington (RCW).
- SHB 1551 was a policy attempt to completely decriminalize HIV by removing language in 70.24 that was HIV specific. HIV was replaced with blood borne pathogens, and STD was replaced with STI. The knowing transmission of HIV was instead reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor.
- WBOH was given rules designed to implement the statutory requirements and proposed rules are about blood borne pathogens and STIs.
- The unseen problem with this language change is those who now knowingly pass on Hepatitis, HPV, etc. could face a misdemeanor charge, a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. This would be broadening the authority of WBOH to charge folks with criminal misdemeanor for transmitting blood borne infections or STIs and criminalizes more people.
- With expanded work around molecular surveillance and tracking of infections, what would this mean for information reporting and sharing between public health departments and the firewall between client information and required reporting?
- The plan is to ask WBOH a couple of questions including how many doctors and community members were consulted in the change? More community input is required before this is implemented, because if passed this goes into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Council was sent a draft letter, and the request from the +Caucus is if this can be approved by the Council to send to WBOH.
- The changes to ESHB 1551 are criminalizing sex, and this will expand harm as opposed to reducing harm to community.
- The King County Executive’s Office would like to review the approved draft of community input before it is sent to WBOH, but the Council has generally been given a green light.

**MOTION: Andrew moves to forward the letter requested by the +Caucus for approval by the Council. Katie seconds.**

**Discussion: This change to ESHB 1551 puts all PLWH on the Council at risk for criminal charges. Nowhere in the RCW does it mention Undetectable=Untransmissible, the use of PrEP or other science-based responses not rooted in stigma, archaic data, and fear. Feedback to WBOH from infectious disease experts on the Council on how harmful and absurd this change would be could have great impact. So much of the policies and procedures around this are outdated and need fixing. Both individual and group testimony on such issues is impactful. It is unknown how quickly this policy change is going, but the next meeting is Wednesday where there will be time for community input. The decision to adopt the change could happen there or be postponed. Anyone that would like can register for the meeting Wednesday to attend or give testimony.**

**The motion passed with the following vote:**

- In favor – 11 – Eve, Genie, Andrew, Ray, Katie, Amber, Paul, Patricia, German, Lina, Hector

- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -1- Susan

#### **IX. Membership/Operations Committee Report**

- *Jonas* is not present at this meeting, and *Eve* was not present at the last committee meetings, so Council staff will report out.
- The application was reviewed and slightly amended to ask for applicant pronouns and a recommendation for an applicant to attend a committee meeting as well as a Council meeting.
- The committee looked at a cheat sheet for meeting facilitation, which will be an evolving document, which will be sent out to the Council and the chairs as a reference.
- There was much discussion on language services, as there have been several meetings recently which have not had interpretation. Council staff is looking at additional interpretation agencies so that there are more options moving forward.
- There is ongoing discussion on recruitment and support of consumer members on the Council.

**<Dennis Torres left the meeting.>**

#### **X. Food & Meals Workgroup Report**

- The last meeting was not held due to the Washington State LGBTQ Commission holding a community forum on access to HIV medications being held at the same time.
- Tomorrow's meeting should be wrapping up the report out and recommendations for provision of Food & Meals services. This will be forwarded to the Council for approval.
- Please reach out to Mark if there are any questions or data requests around the service category.
- The work this group has done is already having an impact.

#### **XI. System of Care Committee Report**

- This committee has been reviewing the standards for Early Intervention Services. There was not a quorum present at the last meeting, so no votes were taken. This will be approved in time for a vote at the next Council meeting.
- As Tony cannot put forth a motion, the Food & Meals standards of care will need to be revoted on.

***MOTION: Ray moves to approve the Food & Meals standards of care. Andrew seconds.***

***Discussion: None***

***The motion passed with the following vote:***

- In favor – 12 – Genie, Hector, Susan, Patricia, Andrew, Katie, Ray, Eve, German, Lina, Paul, Amber
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-

- This committee has completed the cycle and will be coming back to the general standards. There will be a new framework to discuss to be used in the next round of standard review.

#### **XII. Adjourn**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 4pm virtually through Zoom.**