

Greater Hartford Ryan White Part A Planning Council

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Minutes

February 3, 2016

APPROVED

Members Present

Nitza Agosto	Kate Bassett	Janier Caban Hernandez
Cassie Cain	Danielle Warren Dias	Alice Ferguson
Loyd Johnson	Leander Kelly, Jr.	Moneca Liz
Monica Martinez	Andre McGuire	Myrna Millet-Saez
Yolanda Potter	Mary Prince	Janette Rodriguez
Jose Rodriguez	Dorine Testori	

Staff

Angelique Croasdale	Renata Dixon	LaShaunda Drake
Ashley Graves	Peta-Gaye Nembhard	

Guests

Jesse Grant	Vivian Riera Llantin	Sandra Smith
Silvia San Martin	Clifford Lumpkin	Madeline Rodriguez
Walt Godlewski	Michael Walker	Yanira Garcia
Denise Morin	Denita Rose Daniels	Leticia Manguel
Valerie Ingram	Linda Estabrook	Rebecca Willis
Melanie Alvarez	Shawn Lang	Lolita Cervena
Jim McCarthy	Sera Morgan	

I. Welcome & Announcements

Co-chair Loyd Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:46 AM. Loyd reminded everyone that Planning Council meetings are open to the public, but some of the information discussed in these meetings, including individual's HIV status, is of a confidential nature, and everyone is expected to honor and respect that confidentiality.

II. Moment of Silence and Introductions

Co-chair Loyd Johnson asked the group to observe a moment of silence to remember those we have known and love who have been lost to the AIDS epidemic and to remember all individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

To comply with the Planning Council Conflict of Interest policy, Loyd asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, state what organization they work for, and what funded Ryan White Part A services their organization provides, if any.

Loyd then reviewed the meeting's rules of the road to ensure respect, confidentiality, and participation.

III. Approval of Planning Council Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the November 4, 2015 Planning Council meeting were reviewed by members of the council. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Alice Ferguson and seconded by Mary Prince. There were 12 Yeas, 0 Nos, and 2 Abstentions. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

The minutes from the December 17, 2015 telephone conference were reviewed by members of the council. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Danielle Warren Dias and seconded by Janier Caban Hernandez. There were 12 Yeas, 0 Nos, and 2 Abstentions.

IV. Presentation of Model for Psychosocial Support Groups

Danielle Warren Dias presented her model for Psychosocial Support Groups based on the Narcotics Anonymous 12-Step Program. She described a series of performance measures that can be used to encourage consumers to take responsibility within the group and actively participate. These performance measures can be adapted to suit each specific group, and she gave examples of performance measures for both men's and women's groups. For the completion of performance measures, each group member can receive a small token (e.g. keychains, bracelet charms) that are acknowledgements of their goals and reminders of how far they have come on their individual journeys. The completion of each measure can also be double verified with a Health Passport and through CareWare, which is real, documented evidence that the individuals have adhered (has already been implemented with Danielle's women's group and has been successful). Danielle stressed that it is very important not to police anyone's journey, as there is no set timeline for the completion of performance measures. Rather, it is a means for peers to come together to support each other.

Danielle noted that they have been forming groups of approximately fifteen (15) people for one hour and that the groups were split into English and Spanish-speaking groups, which helps ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Additionally, one-on-one intervention (called "individual encounters" in CareWare) have been shown to be very important. Finally, Danielle described ways that peers can benefit financially from the program, such as a small monetary reward for stepping forward to lead group for the week. She emphasized that financial

incentives and a space to talk through issues and emotions can help everyone feel more empowered. This leads to peers themselves bringing more people into the program, which is perhaps more effective than case manager referrals and staff visits to individual agencies.

V. Committee Reports

The following committees met and the chairs provided an update to the Planning Council.

a) Membership Committee

The Membership Committee met this morning to interview Walt Godlewski for a position on the Planning Council. The committee decided to accept his application and invited him to join the Council. Three individuals also submitted applications for Planning Council membership.

b) Positive Empowerment Committee

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting and noted that a correction needs to be made to reflect the absence of Miranda Baldwin and Clifford Babson. The Committee agreed to request the Ryan White New Member Demographics Report from Janier and Andre noted that Walt Godlewski, who was interviewed during today's Membership meeting, meets the needed demographics of the Council. The Ryan White Membership Officer's Terms of Service and the 75/25 Core – Non-Core Services Split were discussed. The Committee decided to approach the Grantee's Office to review possible courses of action for a waiver application to assist those who have a lot of need in a Non-Core area. Janette asked whether consumers who live in HIV/AIDS residences are required to receive case management from only those locations. The committee co-chair, Alice Ferguson, felt that those consumers should maintain the same right to seek alternative case management as consumers who do not live in those locations. Danielle also encouraged consumers to utilize support groups being held at various Wellness Centers. There was a debate as to whether the groups were meeting the needs of consumers and most were in agreement that they have not. It was suggested that facilitators need to be adequately trained to lead these groups in the future.

c) Evaluation Committee

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting and agreed that the minutes should be approved. Melanie provided feedback on the clients who received the benefits of the HIP Tax Premium and stated that she felt this affidavit should have been available before the assistance was provided. The Committee felt that the program outcomes/measures should be reworded to include "referred." They also discussed the fact that the Psychosocial Support Services service definition will be changing. Thus, they decided that it does not make sense to tackle standard of care for this service category until it is clear.

d) Priorities – Needs Assessment Committee

Rebecca Willis from ACT delivered a presentation on resources available to help consumers enter or re-enter the workforce. She discussed the trends of her "Getting Back to Work Survey" and described a series of skill building workshops that will be hosted at Connections, beginning with a two hour series on February 16 and February 17. Rebecca also shared a number of programs and resources that consumers should be made aware of and the committee suggested other resources that are also available. Angelique

presented an update on the Integrated Care Plan and stated that the project has been progressing very well.

e) Continuum of Care Committee

The Continuum of Care Committee did not meet this month due to the site visit.

VI. Grantee's Report

The Grantee introduced the members of HRSA who were present for the Ryan White audit: Sera Morgan, Jim McCarthy, and Lolita Cervena. The site visit will conclude on Friday, February 5 with a closing conversation and presentation.

The Grantee noted that a new Health Director has just been appointed.

Site audits are still underway.

Partial funding for the 2016-2017 fiscal year has been received. The amount is \$1.8 million and should be available by March 1, 2016. Angelique noted that LaShaunda Ware will be working on this year's contract.

VII. Comments from the Public

Melanie Alvarez and Yanira Garcia both questioned the state of their membership applications. It was stressed that the Membership Committee would review their applications and get back to them. Vivian asked whether the e-mail list has been updated to include her most current information. It was stressed that the sign-in sheets are critical for keeping the Planning Council listserv up to date and that all information will be checked against the most recent sign-in sheets to ensure everyone receives Planning Council information.

VIII. Raffle Winners

Walt Godlewski, Myrna Millet-Saez, and Valerie Ingram won the monthly raffle drawing.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.