

**METROPOLITAN ATLANTA HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness**  
**99 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**March 16, 2017**

The March 16, 2017 Planning Council Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Planning Council Chair Ken Lazarus.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Trevor Pearson, Planning Council 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, requested that a special item be added to the agenda to discuss payment of services rendered for the AAOI.

The adoption of the agenda with amendment was moved and seconded. The motion was carried without opposition.

**Seating of New Planning Council**

At the request of Ken Lazarus, Part A staff, Planning Council officers, Council members, and visitors introduced themselves, providing their name, years on the council and committee assignment. Ken gave a brief description of each of the Planning Council's committees and their work, emphasizing that Planning Council work really occurs at the committee level.

**Consumer Caucus Update – Timothy Webb, Consumer Caucus Chair**

Timothy Webb reported that the Consumer Caucus, which last met on March 15, 2017, meets the third Wednesday of each month at noon at Atlanta Legal Aid, 54 Ellis Street. Ken noted the Consumer Caucus, led by Timothy Webb and Reggie Dunbar, is one of the Planning Council's most vibrant groups.

**Atlanta Area Outreach Initiative (AAOI) Update – Kim Moon, AAOI Co-Chair**

Ken, who reported for Kim Moon, indicated that over 400 consumers attended the 18<sup>th</sup> AAOI. He thanked AAOI partners for their support, especially Gilead who provided support for the PrEP panel and provided lunch.

**Added Agenda Item (Payment of Services Rendered to AAOI):**

The Chair called for discussion on the added agenda item, discussion deferred until later in the agenda due to the absence of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair.

**Priorities Recommendation: Action Item - Tim Young**

Tim Young explained to Planning Council members that at the end of the last project year, adjustments of approximately \$69,000 were made to several priority categories. This was done because Fulton County uses a three year contract basis and the adjustments will allow money to be carried forward. The motion would amend the FY17 budget to reflect the FY16 approved budget revisions.

Tim also discussed a motion to establish a new service category, Referral for Health Care and Support Services, based on input received from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Under another motion, 9.0 Non-Medical Case Management will be renamed Non-Medical Case Management with 9.1 Non-Medical Case Management Rapid Entry Clinics. Under the final motion, new category Referral for Health Care and Support Services will be ranked 10 with Referral for Health Care and Support Services – Rapid Entry Clinic at 10.1 and Insurance Navigation at 10.2. Tim noted that funding will move with the categories.

A motion was called for by Ken Lazarus who indicated that the Executive Committee had met this morning and made an executive committee motion so only a second motion is needed. David Reznick seconded the motion.

Lisa Roland asked what would be left in the Non-Medical Case Management category. Jeff Cheek indicated that Non-Medical Case Management General would include Non-Medical Case Management Rapid Entry Clinics. He explained that non-medical case management still occurs at places like the jail. Services remain the same but will have new names.

Motion was carried with 32 in favor and no opposition.

#### **Recipient Update – Jeff Cheek**

Jeff Cheek explained that the FY16 project year ended on February 28, 2017. A partial award (approximately 70% of formula finding and about 70% of Minority AIDS Initiative funding) for FY17 has been received from HRSA, the agency that awards the Ryan White funding. This will cover Part A agencies for about five months. Usually the remainder of the award is received in May. In response to a question about partial funding, Jeff stated that it has been done this way for about six years. Typically by month four or five the final award is received. The impact of proposed federal budget cuts on Ryan White funding is not yet known. Advocates are working hard to make sure that at least flat funding is maintained. Jeff said that the application the Part A office submitted in October included a request for an additional five percent (5%) in funding because metro Atlanta has the highest burden in the Southeast.

Jeff indicated that FY17 is the third year of the three year contract period for agencies. In FY18 contracts will be re-bid. Jeff noted that the Part A Office hopes to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) this summer to give agencies time to review and respond to the RFP.

#### **Data Presentation – Joe Lynn**

Joe Lynn presented a table that compared total EMA clients (regardless of when diagnosed) in a project year (FY16, FY15, and FY14) to newly diagnosed clients (diagnosed positive within the same timeframe). Data was provided for service categories. CAREWare data was used to compile the table. In response to a question by Zina Age, it was noted that use of CAREWare by Fulton County started in 1992. CAREWare is only used by agencies receiving Ryan White funding and does not capture clients served in the private sector. In addition, CAREWare does not report if an individual has been diagnosed in another state.

It was noted that seven lead counties in the EMA account for approximately 70% of the individuals served so are trying to conduct outreach and increase efforts to serve individuals in the other 13 metro counties.

Dr. Melanie Thompson asked about the drop in the number of newly diagnosed individuals from FY14 to FY16. She noted that the jurisdiction does not have a way to track newly diagnosed individuals who are getting care elsewhere, but it would be very helpful to be able to do so. Jeff Cheek also indicated there is a need to do some data drilling to look at the newly diagnosed data in the table and to see if there are individuals not entered into the system yet. It was also noted that numbers are going to fluctuate and it is important to determine whether fluctuations are significant enough to cause concern. In some cases, it may be that individuals are finding services through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or data may not be entered yet

#### **Finance Update – Michelle Beadles**

Michelle Beadles reviewed a “total grant –at-a-glance” table for FY16 (as of 3/2/2017) that reflects agency expenditures as of 1/21/2017. She noted that the FY16 project year ended 2/28/2017 and that the Part A program is currently working with funded agencies on expenditures for February 2017 as well as to wrap up the grant year. In addition, Michelle reviewed expenditures for FY16 by service categories.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

#### **Assessment Committee Chair – Jeanette Nu’man**

Jeanette Nu’man thanked her co-chair Steve Bales for his help while she was out with health challenges. Jeannette explained that the Assessment Committee is focusing on a consumer survey and needs assessment that is conducted every 3-5 years. The survey looks at what services consumers are receiving, what services are needed but not received, and gaps in services. Based on survey findings, recommendations are sent forward to appropriate parties. Jeanette indicated that most of the data analyzed by the committee is population based, but sometimes specific population studies are conducted. The committee meets the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 – 11:30 at Atlanta Legal Aid at 54 Ellis Street. The next meeting will be held April 5, 2017.

#### **Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair – Katherine Lovell**

Katherine Lovell provided an overview of the Comprehensive Planning Committee, noting that this committee helps plan the work of the Planning Council. The committee is a “big picture committee” that works with other partners in the metro area as well as the state. Katherine also summarized the developed of Georgia Integrated HIV Prevention and Treatment Plan submitted late summer 2016. States chose different ways to develop their integrated plans. In Georgia, prevention and treatment partners met together, but also did work in their own groups. In moving forward, the Comprehensive Planning Committee is looking at what will be done in the EMA to help implement the State’s integrated plan as well as what Part A is doing for the people served in the 20 county metro Atlanta area. She also noted that prevention and

treatment partners, including Part A, work looking at how best to work together to implement the plan. Technical assistance has been requested from JSI to help in plan implementation.

#### **Council Procedures Chair – Larry Lehman**

Larry Lehman reported that the Council Procedures Committee is the “keeper” of Planning Council by-laws and grievance process. He noted that the Council follows federal rules and requirements first, then state, followed by any local jurisdiction laws, then Council by-laws and finally Roberts Rules of Order. Larry indicated that HRSA recommended greater separation between the Recipient (Grantee) and the Planning Council, so during the last review of the by-laws, changes have been made to address issues identified by HRSA. During the upcoming year the Council Procedures Committee will review and make necessary modifications for Planning Council review.

#### **Evaluation Committee Chair – Amistad St. Arromand**

Ken Lazarus reported. The Evaluation Committee meets as needed. The Committee sends surveys to funded Part A agencies to ensure the mechanisms between the Fulton County Part A Office and the funded agencies are working.

#### **Housing Committee Chair – Spencer Burton-Webb**

Spencer Burton-Webb, who works with HOPWA, spoke about his commitment to removing barriers to housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. He also indicated that he is a proponent of teamwork. He will send out information on the next meeting after it has been scheduled.

#### **Membership Committee Chair – Stephanie Laster**

Stephanie Laster reminded the meeting participants that the application for Planning Council membership can be submitted anytime during the year. The application is available online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mahhspc>. Stephanie also noted that the Membership Committee reviews attendance. Usually in June the Committee looks at who has missed two or more consecutive meetings. Assigned committee attendance is also reviewed. The Membership Committee currently does not have a confirmed date, but a new member orientation will be held with information sent out prior to the orientation event.

#### **Public Policy Committee Chair – Jeff Graham**

Jeff Graham explained that the Public Policy Committee looks at proposed legislation and public policy and how it will impact service needs of people living with HIV/AIDS that receive services funded with Ryan White dollars. The Policy Committee looks at what is happening on a federal level with Congress as well as in the state of Georgia with the State legislature. Jeff stressed the importance of Planning Council members, noting that all Council members are honorary members of the Policy Committee, helping increase community awareness and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS. Jeff also stated that the Policy Committee also collects information and “send it back up the chain”. The Committee is developing fact sheets for all 14 of Georgia’s Congressional House Members and two Senators so that they understand the impact of the HIV epidemic in their districts. Congressional members are also provided with fact sheet information on Ryan White, the importance of the Affordable Care Act, housing, and

other key issues. Jeff said that advocates can use these fact sheets when they meet with their representatives. Jeff then briefly reviewed where federal HIV prevention and treatment funding comes from. He noted that the President's budget includes cuts for Health and Services Administration programs (HHS funds Ryan White), but there are no proposed cuts for Ryan White. The President's budget does include cuts of \$6 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and a 13% cut for HOPWA. If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, about 750,000 people in Georgia could lose insurance. Cuts are also proposed for across the board prevention that could significantly impact the Centers for Disease Control. The Planning Council, because of its affiliation with Fulton County and Ryan White, cannot advocate, but individual members can and Jeff can because he is with Georgia Equality. Georgia Equality sends out action alerts that will be shared with Sandra Vincent who will then share them with Planning Council members. Jeff also noted that Congress will be in recess in August and this is a good time to talk to your representatives. In addition, he indicated that any proposed cuts are for the new fiscal year that begins in October. Jeff encouraged Planning Council members to contact their representatives about the proposed cuts. He also talked about AIDS Watch will be held March 27-28, 2017. There is no community plan for a bus to go to AIDS Watch, but Ken Lazarus noted that Mega Bus has a \$10 overnight trip to Washington, DC where the meeting will be held. Jeff concluded by indicating that the Policy Committee meets the second Friday of every month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM at the Phillip Rush Center.

#### **Priorities Committee Chair – Timothy Young**

Timothy Young reported that the Priorities Committee meets four to six times a year. The Committee helps establish priorities and to "put dollars in to make things go". The Committee will meet in April to review first quarter expenditures.

Ken Lazarus asked for a motion to extend the Planning Council meeting by 15 minutes. A motion was made by Bruce Gardner and seconded by Timothy Webb. The motion carried.

#### **Quality Management (QM) Committee Chair – Nicole Roebuck**

Nicole Roebuck indicated that the Quality Management Committee sets Standards of Care for Ryan White services and measures the delivery of services against those standards. The QM Committee also develops strategies to improve measures, as needed. The Committee meets the first Thursday of each month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon in Room P-40, Grady Infectious Disease Ponce Center.

#### **Added Agenda Item (Payment of Services Rendered to AAOI):**

Trevor Pearson, Planning Council 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, requested that a special item be added to the agenda to discuss payment of services rendered for the AAOI. Ken Lazarus indicated that he authorized payment to a vendor that was not authorized by the AAOI Committee. Because the vendor has not received payment and has engaged a lawyer, the matter was in litigation. Trevor asked to talk about the matter but Ken noted that he could not discuss the situation further because it is under legal review.

#### **Public Form:**

Several members of the audience announce various public community activities. Larry Lehman reported that he, David Reznik and Melissa Beaupierre recently attended the CAEAR Coalition meeting in Washington, DC. The CAEAR Coalition gave the first annual Jacque Muther Community Service Award to Congressman John Lewis. Members of Jacque's family were attendance and it was wonderful to have that opportunity in her honor. Larry said it was very interesting CAEAR Coalition meeting and he encouraged Planning Council members to call their local and district representatives consistently. Contact information can be found online.

Ken announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair position is vacant and applications are being accepted.

**Adjournment:**

The chair opened the floor to accept a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was motioned and seconded. The meeting concluded at 11:15 A.M.

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Meeting Date: March 16, 2017

Minutes Approval Date:

Attested by:

  
Ken Lazarus, Planning Council Chair