

IV. Floor Open to the Public

Ms. Jefferson opened the floor to the public with the following statement:

“Pursuant to Florida Sunshine Law, I want to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to be heard on any item on our agenda today. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard, I invite you to speak now. Each person will be given three minutes to speak. Please begin by stating your name and address for the record before you talk about your concerns.”

There were no comments; the floor was then closed.

V. Review the Minutes of May 29, 2018

Members reviewed the May 29, 2018 meeting minutes (copy on file). There were no changes.

Motion to approve the May 29, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

Moved: Synthia Mitchell

Seconded: Zena Troutman

Motion: Passed

VI. Membership

Christina Bontempo

Committee members reviewed a copy of the *Partnership and Committees Vacancy Report* dated July 16, 2018 (copy on file) which outlines the vacancies remaining on all standing committees, subcommittees, and the Partnership.

An application for Partnership membership to fill the *Mental Health Provider* vacancy was received from Dr. Luckner Denord, Jessie Trice Community Health Center. Dr. Luckner introduced himself and briefly described his experience working with PLWHA and HIV/AIDS-related programs. Members asked Dr. Luckner about his volunteer activities and to confirm his commitment for the time required to attend meetings and review documents on a monthly basis.

Members reviewed and scored the application and moved to forward it to the Partnership for recommended appointment.

Motion to recommend the appointment of Dr. Luckner Denord as *Mental Health Provider* on the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, with the Mayor’s approval.

Moved: Terrence Henry

Seconded: Sandra Jones

Motion: Passed

Dr. Denord was advised to attend the Partnership meeting on August 20 for the board’s consideration.

VII. Standing Business

- **Partnership Report**

Cameka Jefferson

The committee received the July 16, 2018 *Partnership Report* (copy on file). It was noted that the allocations referenced in the report are for the current fiscal year which began March 1, 2018.

- **Grantee Reports**

All

Members reviewed the Ryan White Program Part A/MAI; Part B; AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP); and State General Revenue reports (copies on file).

Staff reminded members that the Part A and MAI reports detail the approved allocations and expenditures in order to provide transparency in how funds are distributed in accordance with the Partnership's directives. Also, the distributed July 3, 2018 report is the first for the new fiscal year which began March 1, and only a small percentage of invoices had been processed at the time of this report.

It was noted that Grantee Reports presented at Partnership meetings include a report on the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program, but there is not a written report to distribute. Members discussed concerns about the lack of available affordable housing. It was suggested that the City of Miami (local HOPWA administrator) should negotiate with builders for set-asides for affordable housing. Meeting guest Tom Collins of Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc., noted there are approximately 3,000 persons identified as homeless in Miami-Dade County, with approximately 150,000 vacant housing units. The issue remains finding housing at affordable rates. Vice Chair Synthia Mitchell encouraged members to attend Housing Committee meetings for more information.

▪ **Community Events Update**

All

- *National HIV Testing Day (NTD) in Florida City*

Ms. Bontempo reported that she and Dr. Robert Ladner attended the NTD health fair in Florida City. The event had good participation from providers, with on-site HIV testing, and Florida Department of Health (FDOH) volunteers distributed many condoms in the neighborhood. However, because the event was rained out, it did not turn out to be a good recruitment opportunity.

- *Other Events*

Ms. Mitchell announced she attended the Miami Speaker's Bureau Training and that she felt better prepared for public speaking following the training.

Ms. Bontempo advised she will attempt to secure a table for the Partnership at the August 1 ViiV event at Sandrell Rivers Theatre. A postcard announcing the event was passed around the table (copy on file). Several members are attending the event and will assist in staffing the table.

Partnership Vice Chair Travis Neff announced the PozConnect Retreat, September 21-23, in Sebastian, Florida. Mr. Neff gave a testimonial about the retreat's history and activities and how the event impacted him personally. This year the retreat is open to men and women (not just men) living with HIV/AIDS. Mr. Neff strongly encouraged members of the affected community, particularly LGBT, to attend. Transportation to the retreat, including carpooling with other attendees, is in the planning stages. A flier with further details was distributed (copy on file).

VIII. New Business

▪ **Strategies for Recruitment – What Can We Do?**

All

Members discussed the strategy of having staff go to where potential new members are instead of asking them to attend sessions at BSR, which has been unproductive in recruiting members. Possible venues for meeting members are subrecipient agencies; Empower U's Willow Program, Citrus Health, and AHF were noted. It was also suggested to have a Partnership table at the weekly Jackson Hospital AIDS Clinical Research Center (Elliott Building) meetings. The meetings take place every Tuesday in English and every other Wednesday alternating Creole and Spanish. Staff agreed to start with the English meetings and branch out from there.

Ms. Jefferson suggested giving an anonymous questionnaire as to what is preventing people from participating. Possible reasons may be fear of disclosure of HIV status and/or criminal record; lack of literacy (difficulty reading); not understanding what the Partnership is or does; travel or language barriers; or unstable housing. The questionnaire should also encourage write-in answers as to barriers and should ask if respondents understand what a planning council does and if they have ever been to a Partnership or committee meeting. Similar questions have been part of Client Satisfaction Surveys conducted by BSR and staff will review these in preparation of a questionnaire. A first draft will be distributed at the August 1 event (noted above) as a test. The draft and results will be brought the next committee meeting for review and revision.

IX. Announcements

All

Kristin Otero with The Village South announced the Healthy Alternatives Require Transitions (HART) program which provides in-home substance abuse services. A palm card was distributed (copy on file). Interested persons should contact the number on the card for additional details.

Mr. Collins distributed copies of the HOPE, Inc. quarterly newsletter, *Hope Forum* (copy on file).

Ms. Bontempo announced the University of Miami research study: STEP - Striving Towards Empowerment by Dr. Sannisha Dale. The study is seeking Black and African American female participants with HIV who have experienced abuse or trauma. Ms. Mitchell noted the study screens for women who are currently living in an abusive or traumatic situation. Fliers with details were available at the meeting (copy on file).

Ms. Jefferson advised of a study for person living with HIV/AIDS at the Jackson Hospital AIDS Clinical Research Center (Elliott Building); financial compensation up to \$150 is being offered for study participants.

Rudy Pierre announced a cervical cancer screening for women ages 25 to 65 through Segal Trials. Ms. Jefferson and Mr. Pierre were asked to forward details to staff for distribution.

X. Next Meeting

Ms. Jefferson announced the next meeting is September 24, 2018 at Behavioral Science Research (BSR). Members agreed they would prefer to continue holding meetings at BSR and expressed disappointment at the turnout of clients at the May meeting at Borinquen Health Care Center.

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Jefferson called the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.