



**Executive Committee Meeting
 Stephen P. Clark Center
 111 NW 1st Street
 22nd Floor, Conference Room A
 Miami, FL 33128
 June 19, 2019**

Approved August 5, 2019

#	Members	Present	Absent	Guests	
1	Bennett, Brady	X		Marino, Sylvia	
2	Gallo, Giselle	X		Peppler, Mark	
3	Goldberg, David	X		Tesfazion, Andy	
4	Gonzalez, Victor	X			
5	Herz, Stephen	X			
6	Iadarola, Dennis	X		Staff	
7	Iglesias, Karen	X		Bontempo, Christina	
8	McFeely, John	X			
9	Neff, Travis	X			
10	Pierre, Rudy		X		
11	Puente, Miguel	X			
12	Troutman, Zena		X		
Quorum = 5					

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The chair, Travis Neff, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

II. Resource Persons

Mr. Neff indicated Behavioral Science Research staff as the resource individual.

III. Review/Approve Agenda

The committee reviewed the agenda. No changes were made.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved: Dennis Iadarola

Seconded: Miguel Puente

Motion: Passed

IV. Standing Business

There were no Standing Business items.

V. New Business

- **Information Session with Health Resources and Services Administration Monitoring Staff**

Mr. Neff opened the floor to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) staff. Each gave a brief personal introduction of their experience with HRSA and working in the HIV field, including Andy Tesfazion,

Project Officer; Mark Pepler, Southern Services Branch Chief; and Sylvia Marino, Administrative Consultant.

Prior to meeting with the Executive Committee, HRSA staff had met with Ryan White Program clients and shared some of the client feedback. In light of the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE) initiative, there is a focus on reducing barriers to care. Clients highlighted some of those barriers, including being unhappy with wait times to see doctors once in the waiting room. Clients noted they had reported this in Client Satisfaction Surveys and that there have been some improvements. Members were urged to work with the Recipient to find resolutions to this problem. Also, some clients felt they were treated with less respect because of their health care payer status. All clients should be treated the same regardless of health care payer source. This is also a quality management issue and will be discussed further with OMB.

Members were urged to review trends in funding and rates of infection and pay attention to any significant changes. Members noted many people test positive in Miami and then leave the county; HRSA noted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is considering future reporting based on current residence versus residence where a positive test result was first identified.

Members noted some of the successes and challenges of the Test and Treat/Rapid Access (TTRA) HIV testing protocol. As more people are testing positive, there is a greater need for access to prescription drugs. Many clients either cannot get to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) pharmacies during the work day, or cannot have medications left for them at their homes, due to stigma or lack of security.

As routine testing expands throughout the hospital systems, a comprehensive database is needed, particularly to address specific needs of clients with co-occurring conditions such as mental health and substance use issues. Without a database, it is easy to lose track of clients. Further, it is important that capacity is expanded to account for the influx of new positives. The EtHE funding should help with this and agencies are urged to plan for the influx of new clients.

Further regarding EtHE, members noted stigma is still a major concern, particularly in light of the state policy that students can be removed from school for identifying as LGBT. Other issues are that there is a vacancy for the Director of the state Department of Health; and non-staff physicians in Florida may not have admitting privileges, which results in clients being treated through emergency rooms by physicians who are not trained specifically in HIV care.

Another local concern is affordable housing. Members were encouraged to continue to advocate for affordable housing and continued funding of the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program.

The meeting time was about to expire. Mr. Neff called for a motion to extend it by 15 minutes.

Motion to extend the meeting until 2:45.

Moved: Miguel Puente

Seconded: Victor Gonzalez

Motion: Passed

It was noted that housing is a basic need and important for overall treatment adherence. Nationwide, basic needs are underfunded. Success stories of initiatives working in other cities will be shared by HRSA with OMB following the site visit.

It was noted that two things working well in the county are food services and transportation services; HRSA noted they heard otherwise from clients. Particularly, there is confusion by RWP subrecipients and clients as to qualifications for food bank for clients who also receive food stamps. Regarding transportation, there is confusion as to how many and what type of appointments are required to access transportation vouchers. Staff will provide HRSA with the latest service descriptions which clearly define both these issues.

HRSA noted they will be visiting subrecipients Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Care Resource, and Miami Beach Community Health Center (Biscayne location) as part of this site visit.

A comprehensive report of the HRSA site visit will be sent to OMB within 45 days of their exit interview. In conclusion, HRSA encouraged training on customer service, particularly for front line staff. Also, they emphasized the need for comprehensive annual needs assessment to include focus groups and key informant interview at least every three years.

Members thanked HRSA for their time and input.

VI. Announcements

Giselle Gallo announced the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County's Black Initiative Network is working with the Black Treatment Advocates Network (BTAN) for a comprehensive three-day BTAN training. Also, BTAN Miami-Dade Chapter and Clear Health Alliance will be hosting an upcoming free play called *You Shall LHVIV*. Details will be distributed in the *Community Newsletter*.

VII. Next Meeting

Mr. Neff announced the committee will resume a regular meeting schedule beginning in August. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2019 at Behavioral Science Research.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Neff called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: John McFeely

Seconded: Miguel Puente

Motion: Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.