



**Community Coalition Roundtable Luncheon**  
**Behavioral Science Research Corporation**  
**2121 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 230**  
**Coral Gables, FL 33134 and via Zoom**  
**March 28, 2022**

*Approved April 25, 2022*

#	Members	Present	Absent
1	Burks, Laurie Ann	x	
2	Ferrer, Luigi	x	
3	Jones, Sandra	x	
4	McIntyre, Harold	x	
5	McMullen, Lamar	x*	
6	Perez Bermudez, Alberto	x	
7	Tramel, Alecia	x	
8	Vaughn, Sannita	x	
<b>16 Vacancies</b>			
<b>Quorum: 4</b>			
<b>*Zoom attendees</b>			

Guests	
Byamugisha, Acklynn	
Hodge, Vincent	
Nelson, Takisha*	
Perez, Lisa	
Woodard, Shirley	
Staff	
Bontempo, Christina	

Note: All documents referenced in these minutes are on file and were accessible to members and the public prior to (and during) the meeting, at [www.aidsnet.org/meeting-documents](http://www.aidsnet.org/meeting-documents). This roundtable was held in a hybrid format with attendance available in-person and via Zoom. Meeting documents were projected in the meeting room and on the Zoom shared screen.

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair, Alecia Tramel, called the roundtable to order at 12:15 p.m.

**II. Introductions (In-person attendees)**

Members, guests, and staff attending in person introduced themselves.

**III. Roll Call (Zoom attendees)**

Staff read the names of the Zoom attendees.

**IV. Housekeeping/Meeting Rules**

Ms. Tramel presented the PowerPoint, *Partnership Meeting Housekeeping – Hybrid Meetings*, including code of conduct, Behavioral Science Research Corp. (BSR) resource persons, and attendance. Members and guests were reminded that this meeting – including video, audio, and chat box input – is being recorded and will become part of the public record.

**V. Floor Open to the Public**

Immediate Past-Chair, Sannita Vaughn, 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. BSR has a dedicated telephone line as well as a general email address for statements to be read into the record. No statements were received via the telephone line or email.”*

Acklynn Byamugisha, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FDOH), made an announcement about the Miami Speakers Bureau; this will be covered during Announcements; the floor was then closed.

## **VI. Review/Approve Agenda**

The committee reviewed the agenda. There were no changes.

**Motion to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Moved: Sannita Vaughn**

**Seconded: Luigi Ferrer**

**Motion: Passed**

## **VII. Review the Minutes of February 28, 2022**

Members reviewed the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes. There were no changes.

**Motion to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Moved: Luigi Ferrer**

**Seconded: Sannita Vaughn**

**Motion: Passed**

## **VIII. Reports**

### **▪ Partnership Report**

The Partnership Report was posted online and a reference copy was available at the meeting. Ms. Tramel noted the Partnership has not met since the last meeting due to lack of in-person quorum.

### **▪ Membership**

Staff received a Committee membership application and a Partnership membership application. Ms. Tramel announced both applicants; neither were present. The item was tabled until next month.

Lamar McMullen announced John Frazier has withdrawn his application; members wished him the best and will welcome him back whenever he wishes to join as a guest or member.

## **IX. Standing Business**

### **▪ April - June Meeting Updates**

Ms. Tramel announced the next two meetings will be at Empower U, featuring presentations:

- April 25: ViiV Healthcare Presents a Different PrEP Option, by Matthew Tochtenhagen, ViiV; and
- May 23: Health Care Disparities Highlighted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, by Allison Ruby, Merck.

The June meeting falls on National HIV Testing Day. Ms. Tramel announced a Greater Than AIDS (>AIDS) event at Walgreens where Positive People Network will host a table; see Announcements for details. Members will participate in the Walgreens event or other National HIV Testing Day event to promote the Partnership, instead of holding a meeting.

- **AIDS Walk Miami Update**

Staff is monitoring the AIDS Walk Miami website for updates on the 2022 event; no details have been posted. Historically, the Partnership has hosted a table at AIDS Walk Miami. Members discussed hosting a table and having a team to participate in the walk.

**X. New Business**

- **Integrated Plan Roundtable Listening Session**

In previous meetings, members have provided feedback on barriers to care and issues around navigating the Ryan White Program (RWP) service system and related systems of care, such as Affordable Care Act doctors, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). Considering the identified problems, members brainstormed on solutions and actions that may be written into the 2022-2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, as follows:

- Establish Safer Sex Workshops that are targeted to all populations – by race/ethnicity; gender identification; geographic area; etc.
- Target Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) marketing to all populations, in English, Spanish, and Creole. Develop PrEP messaging for heterosexual men.
- Work with reproductive justice organizations to ensure pregnant women and other women in their care are educated on risk factors for HIV positive pregnant women, and also to dispel myths and misunderstandings about HIV transmission from mother to baby.
- Produce marketing materials specific to risk-reduction.
- Educate clients who are using ACA insurance on out of pocket expenses they should expect under each plan. For instance, for clients who are getting a colonoscopy, is the entire procedure covered or might there be a cost to the client for anesthesia? This is important to know, particularly for aging clients for whom routine screenings are recommended.
- Regarding medication and treatment adherence, better understanding is needed by doctors on which medications to prescribe based on a client's insurance. If a person takes a medication to a pharmacy and the pharmacy says the medication is not covered by insurance, that person may not be able to get back to the doctor or to pay out of pocket and may just decide not to take the medication. Clients should also be educated on which ACA doctors are best for treating people with HIV.
- Address issue of doctors not being able to or not wanting to treat HIV and/or prescribe HIV medications and instead sending clients to a specialist. This is an extra burden on clients and may lead to falling out of care.
- If possible, get messaging about treating people with HIV to major ACA carriers such as Florida Blue.
- Make basic and continued HIV training a requirement for medical professionals; offer CEUs as incentive.
- Continue messaging and education around mental health, aging and HIV.
- Continue messaging and education around the impacts of COVID-19 on people with HIV. It is likely free COVID testing and vaccinations will not be available for much longer – clients should be advised of payment options. Will the RWP pay for COVID testing and vaccines/boosters, for instance?
- Establish a one-stop resource center for people with HIV such as the Center for Positive Connections or the PWA Coalition which used to be in Miami; or modeled after the Boston Living Center. Determining a “central” location in Miami is difficult; a hub center with smaller regional centers would probably be needed. The centers would be a safe-space providing health, wellness, job training and continuing education, meals, and social services resources, as well as offering programs

and support groups.

- Hire more people with HIV at provider agencies at all levels, particularly for outreach. Hire from the community so staff are relatable to clients; avoid tokenism in hiring.
- Promote the FDOH Academic Detailing Program which educates on routinized HIV testing, PrEP and non-occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (nPEP); and test and treat/rapid access as the accepted standard of care.
- Review data on the treatment cascade to better understand why people are falling out of care.
- Promote and educate on the status-neutral approach to health care; regardless of a client's HIV status, each person is treated the same. Stop treating HIV as a death sentence; make sure a newly-positive person understands they have a treatable condition and can expect to live a long and healthy life.
- Let clients know about BSR as a resource.
- Provide funding for more people with HIV to attend a broad variety of HIV-related conventions and training.
- Make sure providers are taking advantage of the many resources of the AIDS Education and Training Centers.

Members understand some of these activities may be outside the purview of the RWP and FDOH, however, additional community partnerships and funding should be explored to broaden the scope of HIV prevention and care in Miami-Dade County.

## **XI. Announcements**

The Miami Speakers Bureau started in March. The next session is April 28; details on holding the training in-person or virtually are pending. Interested persons should contact Ms. Byamugisha at the Florida Department of Health.

Ms. Vaughn announced she may be able to bring a speaker to an upcoming meeting to discuss options for funeral services.

Several events are planned around Miami Pride, April 7-10; Empower U is planning National Youth HIV/AIDS awareness Day and World AIDS Day events. Details will be shared with staff and distributed to members.

WDNA, 88.9 FM, hosts a weekly 5 minute radio spot at 11:00 a.m. on HIV awareness.

Positive People Network, FDOH, and Midway Care will be at various Walgreens on June 27 for National HIV Testing Day. Staff will arrange for the Community Coalition to host a table at one of the sites.

## **XII. Next Roundtable**

Ms. Tramel announced the next Roundtable is scheduled for April 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Empower U Community Health Center; the address is posted on the calendar which was distributed at the meeting.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Tramel called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Moved: Luigi Ferrer**

**Seconded: Alberto Perez Bermudez**

**Motion: Passed**

The roundtable adjourned at 1:47 p.m.