



**Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership Meeting Minutes**  
**Miami-Dade County Main Library, 101 West Flagler Street, Auditorium,**  
**Miami, FL 33130 and via Zoom**  
**April 18, 2022**

*Approved May 16, 2022*

#	Partnership Members	Present	Absent
1	Burks, Laurie Ann	x	
2	Downs, Frederick		x
3	Duberli, Francesco	x*	
4	Forrest, David	x	
5	Garcia, Ana	x*	
6	Goldberg, David	x	
7	Henriquez, Maria	x	
8	Herz, Stephen	x	
9	Hess, Amaris	x	
10	Hunter, Tabitha		x
11	Iadarola, Dennis	x*	
12	Laso, Carlos	x	
13	Machado, Angela	x	
14	McIntyre, Harold		x
15	Neff, Travis	x	
16	Perez Bermudez, Alberto	x	
17	Puente, Miguel	x*	
18	Romero, Javier	x	
19	Sarmiento, Abril	x	
20	Shmuels, Diego		x
21	Siclari, Rick	x*	
22	Tazoe, Roberto	x	
23	Tramel, Alecia		x
24	Wall, Daniel T.	x	
25	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
26	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
27	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
28	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
29	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
30	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
31	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
32	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
33	<b>Vacant</b> Representative of the Affected Community		
34	<b>Vacant</b> Representative Co-infected with Hepatitis B or C		
35	<b>Vacant</b> Other Federal HIV Program Grantee Rep. (SAMHSA)		
36	<b>Vacant</b> Hospital or Health Care Planning Agency Representative		
37	<b>Vacant</b> Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Representative		
38	<b>Vacant</b> Mental Health Provider Representative		
39	<b>Vacant</b> Miami-Dade County Public Schools Representative		
<b>Quorum = 13</b>			
<b>*Indicates attendance via Zoom</b>			

#	Alternate Representatives of the Affected Community	Present	Absent
1	<b>Vacant</b>		
2	<b>Vacant</b>		
3	<b>Vacant</b>		
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>			
#	Ex-Officio Members	Present	Absent
1	<b>Vacant</b> MDC Mayor Office		
2	<b>Vacant</b> Board of County Commissioners		
<b>Guests</b>			
	Darlington, Tajma*		
	Estevez, Sandra*		
	Mester, Brad		
	Muzeau, Naomi*		
	Poblete, Karen*		
	Quintero, Sam		
	Singh, Hardeep		
	Stonestreet, Stephanie		
	Valle-Schwenk, Carla		
	Varela, Chris*		
	Vasquez, Wanda		
	Vaughn, Sannita		
	Villamizar, Kira		
	Willacy, Kwesi*		
<b>Staff</b>			
	Bontempo, Christina		
	Kubilus, Barbara		
	Ladner, Robert		
	Smith, Esq., Terrence A.		

Note: All documents referenced in these minutes 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 meeting was held in a hybrid format with attendance 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, Travis Neff, called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

## **II. Moment of Silence**

Mr. Neff called for a moment of silence in recognition of lost loved ones.

## **III. Introductions (In-person attendees)**

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

## **IV. Roll Call (Zoom attendees)**

Staff read the names of members and guests participating via Zoom. Guests were asked to send a chat message to have their attendance recorded. Members were reminded of the requirement to appear on camera.

## **V. Housekeeping/Meeting Rules**

Mr. Neff presented the PowerPoint, *Partnership Meeting Housekeeping – Hybrid Meetings*, including code of conduct, 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.

## **VI. Floor Open to the Public**

Mr. Neff 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.”*

There were no comments; the floor was then closed.

## **VII. Review/Approve Agenda**

Members reviewed the agenda. Because there was a possibility of the meeting losing quorum, Standing Business (Officer Elections and Passing of the Gavel) was moved to earlier on the agenda, after Membership. Mr. Neff requested to add a report from the April Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) meeting to New Business. Members agreed to the changes.

**Motion to approve the agenda, as amended.**

**Moved: Daniel T. Wall**

**Seconded: David Goldberg**

**Motion: Passed**

## **VIII. Review/Approve Minutes of February 15, 2022**

Minutes of February 15, 2022 were posted for review and shown on the screen at the meeting; there were no changes or corrections.

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022, as presented.**

**Moved: Daniel T. Wall**

**Seconded: Alberto Perez Bermudez**

**Motion: Passed**

## IX. Membership

### ▪ Recognition of New Members

Mr. Neff announced Alecia Tramel was appointed by the Mayor to serve as the Non-Elected Community Leader/Not an HIV Provider. He welcomed Ms. Tramel and noted the Partnership has gained four new members this year.

### ▪ Committee Assignment

Mr. Neff called for a motion to assign Dr. Ana Garcia to the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Motion to approve Dr. Ana Garcia as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.**

**Moved: Daniel T. Wall**

**Seconded: David Goldberg**

**Motion: Passed**

## X. Standing Business

### ▪ Officer Elections

Staff announced that Dennis Iadarola and Alberto Perez Bermudez are the candidates for Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

**Motion to elect Dennis Iadarola as Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership Chair, and Alberto Perez Bermudez as Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership Vice Chair.**

**Moved: Daniel T. Wall**

**Seconded: Miguel Puente**

**Motion: Passed**

### ▪ Passing of the Gavel

Staff presented outgoing Chair, Mr. Neff, with a plaque reading, “The Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership Honors Travis Neff In Recognition and Appreciation of Your Tireless Leadership, Energetic Service, and Outstanding Dedication as Chair, 2019-2022”. Since incoming Chair Dennis Iadarola was participating via Zoom, Mr. Neff agreed to lead the rest of the meeting.

## XI. Reports

### A. Grantee/Recipient Reports

#### ▪ Ryan White Part A/Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)

*Daniel T. Wall*

Daniel T. Wall, Office of Management and Budget – Miami-Dade County (OMB), reported on Ryan White Part A/Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Program (RWP) updates. The latest expenditure reports and client count were projected on the screen.

The County is still in the close-out period for the fiscal year which ended February 28, 2022 (Year 31). There will be a sizable carryover due to the COVID-19-related impacts on expenditures. However, there were 8,421 clients served in Year 31, which is close to pre-COVID numbers for clients served. The number of clients has almost reached pre-COVID levels though the expenditures are not yet back to pre-COVID levels.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) issued a partial RWP award; contracted providers have been advised and contract finalization is in process.

Miami-Dade County and the HIV Section in Tallahassee are working on a data-sharing agreement, (data-to-care matching) for the state to identify clients who have fallen out of care in the county. To date, approximately one out every four clients lost to care has been matched using data-to-care matching.

The County is engaged in statewide and local integrated planning. At the state level, the FCPN has developed a high-level statewide plan. As soon as the draft statewide plan is finished a copy will be sent to BSR from the County. The FCPN will meet again in August and October to finalize the statewide plan. The state timeline is not meant to drive the local timeline for integrated plan development but should be considered for providing local feedback to the state. Mr. Wall noted the state representatives gave high praise to Mr. Neff for his participation in the meetings.

HRSA released a Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) regarding COVID-related waivers; the waivers are no longer in effect; subrecipients should be prepared to return to pre-COVID HRSA monitoring activities.

Mr. Wall thanked Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FDOH) and Ryan White Program Part A/MAI providers who participated in the listening session on Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) to inform funding decisions for the upcoming EHE Request for Proposals, including discussions on EHE Housing-related initiatives.

▪ **Ryan White Part B**

*David Goldberg*

David Goldberg, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FDOH), reviewed the *Florida Department of Health Expenditure/Invoice Reports* for February 2022, which is the latest completed month of data. The report will be posted following the meeting.

Mr. Goldberg noted the number of clients served and service units per category. The Emergency Financial Assistance service category covers the 30-day Test and Treat/Rapid Access (TTRA) medication supply; and has been updated to include rental assistance, food vouchers, and utility assistance as a payor of last resort, which is starting to see some utilization. Non-Medical Case Management Services includes TTRA screening and evaluation; referrals are nearing pre-COVID levels.

▪ **AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Miami**

*Dr. Javier Romero*

Dr. Javier Romero, FDOH-Miami-Dade County, reviewed the March 2022 AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Miami usage and expenditure data and program notes. The Premium Plus insurance program increased by more than \$2 million over the same date last year. More clients are on the Premium Plus insurance plans; the report includes a graph showing the Premium Plus expenditures increases over the past year.

Program updates include:

- Magellan RX PBM for uninsured clients began April 1. CVS Specialty Pharmacy is the single participating pharmacy through September 30, at which time additional pharmacies are expected to be added. Additional guidance from the HIV Section in Tallahassee is expected soon.
- As of March 2, 92 clients have received Cabenuva through ADAP Miami; 46 were direct dispense clients and 46 were Premium Plus clients.
- Guidance on the Affordable Care Act Marketplace (ACA-MP) Special Enrollment Period is pending; clients must be below the 150 percent Federal Poverty Guidelines to qualify.

▪ **General Revenue at SFAN**

Angela Machado

Angela Machado, South Florida AIDS Network, reviewed the General Revenue (GR) Report for February 2022; March is still being closed out. Client levels are continuing to increase. Ms. Machado read the client counts into the record. The GR fiscal year ends in June; expenditures have increased but not yet to levels in previous fiscal years.

▪ **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

Roberto Tazoe, City of Miami, Department of Housing & Community Development, reported the HOPWA Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) waiting list was able call additional households and is up to number 90, with approximately 135 more applicants still on the waiting list. The list has only called 90 households since 2020 due to funding limitations and the continually increasing rents in the city.

The Care Resource HOPWA Short Term Rental, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) program is still active and providing resources using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding which end July 30.

To be eligible for HOPWA LTRA, applicants must have an AIDS diagnosis. In order to apply, a medical form confirming an AIDS diagnosis must be submitted. The diagnosis is only confirmed by HOPWA when a person is called off the waitlist. Applicants are given two weeks to obtain the record of their AIDS diagnosis. When a person's AIDS diagnosis is very old, obtaining the medical records could be a barrier and discourage applicants from completing the application process. Records kept by the RWP could assist establishing a person's AIDS diagnosis.

Persons leaving mental health or substance abuse facilities may be eligible for HOPWA assistance if there is a transition plan in place.

For homeless persons, the Homeless Trust is a more appropriate resource since the LTRA waitlist is not currently open and vouchers are limited by limited funding, as noted above. The Section 8 housing program is also a different funding stream and is available to persons who qualify, regardless of HIV status.

Attendees were encouraged to learn more about HOPWA funding at the upcoming HOPWA Hearings; details are posted on AIDSNET.org.

**B. Committee Reports**

*Committee Reports to the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership* were projected on the shared screen. There were no action items from committees. Mr. Neff announced the next Community Coalition Roundtable is April 25 at Empower U Community Health Center featuring a presentation on long-lasting injectables for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Attendees had a copy of the meeting flyer in their packet.

**C. Approval of Reports**

Mr. Neff called for a motion:

**Motion to accept the Membership, Grantee/Recipient, and Committee Reports as presented.**

**Moved: David Goldberg**

**Seconded: Steven Herz**

**Motion: Passed**

## **XII. New Business**

### **▪ Florida Comprehensive Planning Network (FCPN) Report**

*Travis Neff*

Mr. Neff reported on the Spring Conference of the FCPN and noted these highlights:

- More funds are being allocated to EHE; \$70 million increase from the previous year, including increased funding to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded initiatives, the Ryan White Program, and community health centers.
- The White House has proposed other increased funding, including \$16 million for RWP Part C, \$5 million for HOPWA, and additional funding for substance use disorder programs.
- The PrEP Delivery Program to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States is proposed as a mandatory program to be administered by states over the next ten years. The program will fund PrEP at no cost and establish culturally appropriate services to areas of severe need.
- Statewide, additional funds are being directed toward telehealth and enhancing the availability of devices (phones, tablets, etc.) as well as internet access.
- When Medicaid Emergency in response to COVID-19 is lifted, the service system needs to be prepared for a significant influx of clients who no longer qualify for Medicaid.
- Housing is healthcare.
- More education on HIV is needed, including hiring peer counselors and funding community education.
- Integrated Plan development is underway at the state and local level.

Staff will post the full FCPN meeting slide show. The overarching message is one of hope and Mr. Neff commended members for all they do.

### **▪ Other**

Staff requested members consider returning to fully in person meetings, effective May, 2022, due to the poor quality of sound and the lack of ability for meaningful participation by Zoom attendees, the difficulty in achieving quorum in the hybrid format, and the concerns about violations of Sunshine Act laws specifically relating to Zoom chat messaging. Assistant County Attorney, Terrence A. Smith, noted that other boards have returned to the in person only format. Also, the only reason there is a provision for hybrid meetings is that the Mayor of Miami-Dade County has issued an Emergency Order allowing this format; once the order is lifted, there will be no option but to hold meetings in person.

The meeting time was set to expire. Mr. Neff called for a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.

#### **Motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.**

**Moved: Maria Henriquez**

**Seconded: David Goldberg**

**Motion: Passed**

Some members said they would only be comfortable returning to in person only meetings if everyone was required to wear a mask. ACA Smith advised the board could not mandate masking; however, staff would strongly encourage all attendees to wear a mask, particularly in light of concerns of members who may be immunocompromised.

#### **Motion to hold Partnership, Committee, and Subcommittee meetings in person only.**

**Moved: David Goldberg**

**Seconded: Angela Machado**

**Motion: Passed**

**Opposed: Dennis Iadarola, Miguel Puente, Rick Siclari**

#### **Motion to begin holding in person meetings, effective May 1, 2022.**

**Moved: Dr. David Forrest**

**Seconded: Stephen Herz**

**Motion: Passed**

**Opposed: Dennis Iadarola, Miguel Puente, Rick Siclari**

### **XIII. Announcements**

Sam Quintero, Field Director for Janssen Infectious Diseases & Vaccines introduced Wanda Vasquez as the new Miami contact for Janssen (Johnson and Johnson).

### **XIV. Next Meeting**

Mr. Neff announced the next meeting is Monday, April 20, 2022 at the Miami-Dade Library.

### **XV. Adjournment**

Mr. Neff called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Moved: David Goldberg**

**Seconded: Stephen Herz**

**Motion: Passed**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.