



Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, February 13th, 2020
Old South Church | The Guild Room
4:00 - 6:00pm

Summary of Attendance

Members Present

Barry Callis
Brian Holliday
Carolyn Smith
Christopher Cullinan
Ericka Olivera
George Diaz
Gertrude Lundy
Jessica Stewart
Kathy Lituri
Lorraine Jones
Manuel Pires
Michael Swaney
Patrick Baum
Ronald *Jazzzz* Bennett
Stanley Flores
Wendy LeBlanc
Robert Giannasca
Deb Winters
John Fabiano
Richard Swanson
Stephen Batchelder
Keith Nolen
Hariharan Shanmugam
Larry Day
Melissa Hector
Gelfi Colon

Mahara Pinheiro
Tim Young
Katie Keating
Lamar Brown-Noguera
Alison Kirchgasser
Jose Sostre
Stephen Corbett
Darren Sack
Christopher Lesley
Shawanna Smith

Members Present Remotely

Members Excused

Bryan Thomas

Members Absent

Adelina Alves
Margaret Lombe

PCS

Liz Rios
Masill Miranda
Tatiana Ramos

Topic A: Welcome and Introductions

Richard Swanson, Planning Council Chair, welcomed everyone, asked members to introduce themselves for the record, and reviewed the ground rules.

Topic B: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of January 16th, 2020 were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve.

Motion to Approve: Justin Alves

Second: Robert Giannasca

Result: The minutes were approved with (5) Abstentions

Topic C: Committee Updates

Executive (Brian Holliday, Chair Elect): Meeting evaluations were reviewed, and Chair-Elect Holliday had a budget meeting with BPHC.

SPEC (Michael Swaney, Vice Chair): Service categories were discussed, and SPEC decided to focus on three, though at the end of the day none were recommended to be added. At the next meeting, SPEC will look at categories to potentially remove. The first part of the AAM will be sent out next month.

Consumer (Ronald Jazzzz Bennett, Chair): Consumer chose a production team for the anti-stigma campaign, and hosted a topic panel on HIV in the immigrant community. Additionally, Adelina Alves was elected Vice Chair.

NRAC (Richard Swanson, PC Chair): Wording in the Funding Principles were discussed at the last meeting, though in the end it remained the same. MAI was also discussed, including who is and isn't eligible for the funding. A new intern has started and she will be working on the Needs Assessment survey, while 5 focus groups are upcoming for consumer feedback from the community.

MNC (Stephen Corbett, Chair): The progress of past outreach events were discussed, upcoming potential events were reviewed and last week, PCS/MNC members attended an event at APW. Member retention was also discussed.

Liz Rios, PCS Program Manager: Larger font, time for tech breaks/member discussion will be added to Planning Council meetings. SPEC and NRAC folders in Basecamp have been made available to everyone – going forward all PC members will have access to both folders and can see what the other sub-committees are working on, for better transparency.

Topic D: Knowledge Check!

Liz Rios, PCS Program Manager, led a recap quiz on main topics of discussion from January's PC meeting.

Topic D: FY21 Funding Principles

Lamar Brown-Noguera and Kathy Lituri, NRAC members, presented the FY21 Funding Principles recommended by NRAC. It was explained to the Planning Council that the funding principles are used by the recipient (BPHC) for contracting with and monitoring agencies. NRAC also uses the funding principles as a guide for all funding recommendations presented to the Planning Council and used by BPHC. The Funding Principles are also embedded in the language of any RFP at BPHC.

Motion to approve the FY21 Funding Principles as written and reviewed by the Needs, Resources & Allocations Committee: Ronald *Jazzzz* Bennett

Second: Harry Shanmugam

Yes: Unanimous

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Results: FY21 Funding Principles have been approved by the Planning Council by a unanimous decision.

Topic E: Standards of Care

Marcos Palmarin, Ryan White Program Coordinator III, and Katie Keating, RW Division Director, presented to the Council the Standards of Care expected to be distributed to Part A funded agencies in the beginning of FY20. The Standards of Care guides providers in implementing funded services. The standards address the elements and expectations for service delivery, such as service components, intake, eligibility, personnel qualifications and minimum requirements of a service.

Questions/Comments

EFA

- Is EFA a one-time offer or short-term?
 - KK: Either, it depends upon on the situation.
- MP: Clothing is not included in EFA. Items that are eligible must directly impact a health outcome.
- Can a client receive EFA support twice?
 - KK: Yes, they can. We work with agencies to develop some sort of guidance, but leave room for flexibility.
- KK: We may do a webinar on EFA.
- Propose to allow agencies to discharge a client after 6 months of no contact, and 3 outreach attempts. The previous time frame required for outreach was 1 year.
 - KK: Yes, per the consultant's suggestion, but we should leave it open per the agency's discretion.
 - PC Member: 6 months is too short.
 - PC Member: It could be after months of reaching out, and 6 months of complete silence, so it may be a year until they're considered inactive.
 - KK: We can change it back to 1 year.
 - PC Member: We should also consider agency's capacity to continuously reach out.
 - PC Member: I think the wording of only reaching out 3 times is concerning.
 - PC Chair: We can revoke this change leave it at 12 months.

VOTE to change the minimum standard time frame to outreach/discharge a client after no contact from 12 to 6 months

Approved: 31, Opposed: 2 Abstain: 2

The standard will be changed to 6 months.

MP: Language regarding the 3-phone call minimum will be reassessed.

Motion to adopt the Standards of Care with the phone call minimum to be re-evaluated and 6-month minimum to outreach before discharging a client from services: Ronald Jazzz Bennett

Second: Deb Winters

Approved with (1) Abstention

Action Steps

RWSD to re-evaluate phone call minimum wording in Standards of Care

Topic F: RFP Results/Update

Katie Keating, RW Division Director, presented RFP results detailing funding considerations, funding strategies, and final FY20 funding allocation per service category. All but one agency submitted their proposals electronically.

Questions/Comments

- For Psychosocial Support, were all applications from within Boston only?
 - KK: All but one were from Boston.
- KK: Some agencies have been notified of funding awards, and next week the rest will be notified.

Topic G: Agency Reports

The representatives for Medicaid (Alison Kirchgasser), New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) (Christopher Cullinan), Massachusetts Department of Health (MDPH) (Barry Callis), Mayor Walsh's Office (Melissa Hector), Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)/Ryan White Services Division (RWSD) (Katie Keating) gave agency updates – SEE below.

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND LABORATORY SCIENCES (BIDLS)
OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS (OHA)**

REPRESENTATIVE: BARRY CALLIS - DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

- Funding Announcement: U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PS20-2010 – Integrated HIV Programs for Health Departments to Support Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States
- Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan – Suffolk County (continuing)

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF MEDICAID (MASSHEALTH)

REPRESENTATIVE: ALISON KIRCHGASSER – DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONS

On January 22 Governor Baker introduced his proposed budget for State Fiscal Year 2021, which begins on July 1, 2020.

The FY21 budget includes targeted investments in behavioral health as part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s commitment to **establishing a true system of ambulatory behavioral health treatment** that includes a working “front door” for consumers who need help accessing any type of behavioral health service; real-time access to treatment where needed; much stronger integration of behavioral health treatment into primary care settings; and a functioning system of crisis and specialty outpatient behavioral health.

- o In FY21 MassHealth will invest more than \$60M through:
 - § Dedicated **funding to support Executive Office of Health & Human Services behavioral health redesign initiatives: \$40 M**
 - § Annualizing rate increases for payment of psychiatry in community health centers at parity with other services: \$3 M
 - § Increasing rates for Intensive/Community-Based Acute Treatment (I/CBAT) programs: \$3 M
 - § Increasing rates for fee-for-service inpatient psychiatric hospitals: \$11 M
 - § Annualize investments in the Emergency Services Program (ESP) to expand access to mobile and community-based treatment: \$11 M
 - § Continued support for telehealth and the development of an ambulatory behavioral health treatment system.

Additional details about the budget can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-baker-files-fiscal-year-2021-budget-proposal>

In early 2020 the Flexible Services program will begin for certain eligible members. Through this program, MassHealth may pay for health-related nutrition and housing supports for certain members enrolled in an Accountable Care Organization. For information about this program see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/flexible-services-program-summary/download>

CITY OF BOSTON – MAYOR’S OFFICE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE: MELISSA HECTOR – DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING

In an effort to center mental health during the SCOTUS ruling window, we are sharing the following resources that may be helpful for impacted communities:

- Informed Immigrant Resource Library – Mental Health: Taking Care of Yourself and Loved Ones – A comprehensive information center that includes journal articles on topics such as suicide and substance abuse, state-specific resources, and a national directory of Latinx therapists for the Latinx community. (Source: *FWD.us/Informed Immigrant*)
- Coping with DACA and Immigration-Related Stress (attached) – A one-pager developed by Informed Immigrant listing simple and practical coping strategies and skills that impacted individuals can incorporate into their daily lives. (Source: *FWD.us/Informed Immigrant*)
- United We Dream UndocuHealth Initiative – The UndocuHealth Initiative aims to support impacted communities experiencing stress and anxiety related to their immigration status. Their Emergency Toolkit provides information on the correlations between trauma and the physical effects of stress, tools for stress reduction, including breathing exercises, as well as a list of online resources. (Source: *United We Dream*)
- KCRW Greater L.A. Podcast - The Mental Stresses DACA Recipients May Endure – UCLA professor of psychiatry, Dr. Emanuel Maidenberg, discusses the harmful impacts that prolonged uncertainty and instability may have for DACA recipients, including high levels of stress, depression, anxiety, and sometimes long-lasting trauma. (Source: *KCRW Greater L.A. Podcast*)

**BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
INFECTIOUS DISEASE BUREAU, HIV/AIDS SERVICES DIVISION
REPRESENTATIVE: KATIE KEATING – DIRECTOR, RYAN WHITE SERVICES DIVISION**

- We have completed the RFP process and made funding decisions
- We have not yet received the Notice of Award for Ryan White Part A funds or Ending the HIV Epidemic (as of 2/7 but maybe that will change by next week!)
- We are working on developing a Shared Eligibility module in e2boston

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTOPHER CULLINAN – RYAN WHITE CARE PROGRAM**

- NH CARE Program Standards of Care are complete and will be presented at the next NH HPG (planning group) meeting
 - Work has begun on a NH client satisfaction survey. Survey will combine with focus groups and an updated needs assessment.
 - New Ryan White CARE Program Manager will start on 3/6/20
 - All FY 2019 Part A funds for NH DHHS were expended, all of it in the drug reimbursement category.
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Topic H: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn

PC reminded to reach out to PCS within the next two weeks if they are interested in attending the Ryan White Conference.

Meeting to Adjourn

Motion: Tim Young

Second: Ronald Jazzzz Bennett

Result: The meeting was adjourned.
