



ADOPTED - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services (CAC/HHS)

MEETING DATE and TIME: April 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM

MEETING LOCATION: Virtual & First Floor Conference Room – 2300 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

PERSON PRESIDING: Heather Tate-Boldt (Chair) (IP)

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: “Virtual” = (V) & “In-Person” = (IP): Dr. Merlene Ramnon (IP), Dr. Thomas Cleare (V), Randy Palo (IP), Anne Gerwig (IP), Dr. Constance Siskowski (V), Inger Harvey (V), Elisa Cramer (IP), Anne Caroline Valtin (IP)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Scot Kannel (V)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: James Green (IP), Taruna Malhotra (IP), Helene Hvizd (V), Meghan Parnell (IP), Stessy Cocerez (IP), John Hulick (IP), Ashley Pfister (V), Darlene Williamson (V), Seth Bernstein (V), Jennifer Rey (V), Karis Engle (V), Renee Constantino (V), Aruna Gilbert (V)

DISCLOSURES: Dr. Constance Siskowski is employed by the American Association of Caregiving Youth, which is a recipient of FAA funding dollars.

CHAIR & STAFF COMMENTS: None.

CONSENT ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: *2.A/B. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions / Adoption of Agenda*

Discussion: Adjustment to Regular Business items labeling and Future Meeting date for PDIC.

Action Taken: Motion was made to approve the agenda by Elisa Cramer. Second by Dr. Thomas Cleare. All in favor, motion passed.

REGULAR BUSINESS - ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: *3.A. Adoption of CAC Regular Committee Minutes from March 10, 2022*

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Motion was made to approve the minutes by Anne Gerwig. Second by Dr. Merlene Ramnon. All in favor, motion passed.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item: *3.B. PDIC Update - (Dr. Thomas Cleare and Randy Palo)*

- Dr. Thomas Cleare announced that the March PDIC meeting had been canceled.
- The Element introduction language is still live on the Google Drive and available for comments/suggestions through 12:00 PM on Monday, April 25, 2022.
- The next PDIC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 2:30 PM.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 3.C. *Presentation on the Behavioral Health System of Care (John Hulick)*

- Meghan Parnell introduced John Hulick and provided a brief recap of the purpose for the Behavioral Health presentations.
- John Hulick gave a brief background on his personal experience with substance use and behavioral health. Mr. Hulick then presented a PowerPoint outlining the following information related to the Behavioral Health System of Care –
 - Background context on Board of County Commissioner Strategic Priority Area of Substance Use and Behavior Disorders
 - Various bodies of work that have outlined root causes/common findings to consider when making common recommendations
 - Information on the Person-Centered, Recovery-Oriented System of Care that focuses on care coordination, a care providers network, and peer support/recovery capital.
 - The role of Recovery Community Organizations and Centers as well as intended outcomes for the community
- Mr. Hulick mentioned that the implementation process has shown the lesser efficacy to investing in deep-end care.
- Multiple committee members thanked Mr. Hulick for sharing his personal experience.
- Dr. Constance Siskowski asked if an age breakdown was available to share in relation to the efforts outlined in the PowerPoint. Mr. Hulick referred her to the Financially Assisted Agencies (FAA) Demographics and Outcomes report.
- Randy Palo asked if any part of the planning process would focus on pregnant women. Mr. Hulick mentioned that the system should be oriented towards individual care, which would include pregnant women.
 - Dr. James Green informed everyone that the County has previously assisted the Drug Abuse Foundation (DAF) with expanding their facility to address this issue specifically with pregnant women.
 - Elisa Cramer added that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) works closely with the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) on ongoing efforts to strengthen the child welfare behavioral health integration. One avenue is to do so through the newborn substance abuse prototype, which encourages efforts to assist with prevention versus family separation.
 - Dr. James Green also mentioned that the County is closely monitoring data from the Medical Examiner's office related to rising deaths from substance use disorders. Additional information/feedback will be shared with the committee.
- Dr. Constance Siskowski asked if there was additional information available about National Clean-Out-Your-Medicine-Cabinet Day on April 15, 2022. Mr. Hulick did not have any additional information about this particular event but shared that there are ongoing efforts countywide through the Palm Beach County Pill Drop program.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 3.D. *CAC Membership Matrix (Heather Tate-Boldt)*

- Heather Tate-Boldt presented the current CAC membership matrix and encouraged discussion related to the vacant seat, previously held by Alan Bottorff.
- Meghan Parnell gave additional information on the process for filling vacant seats and Dr. James Green reminded the committee of the domain changes that will be forthcoming in the Element update.
- Stessy Cocerez also mentioned that the Resolution states a memo needs to be sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to ask for potential committee nominations.

- The committee members identified Transportation as the main underrepresented domain from the matrix.
 - Dr. Merlene Ramnon mentioned that she and Elisa Cramer were currently serving on the Transportation Disadvantaged Committee.
 - Randy Palo suggested recruiting someone from Palm Tran and gave direction to staff to conduct further research into this.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 3.E. *Membership Recruitment & Re-appointments (Stessy Cocerez)*

- Stessy Cocerez shared that there were currently two (2) committee members with terms set to expire on September 30, 2022: Dr. Merlene Ramnon and Dr. Thomas Cleare. Ms. Cocerez asked that both members reach out to her by April 30, 2022 if they wish to remain on the committee.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 3.F. *Summer Meeting (Stessy Cocerez)*

Discussion: Stessy Cocerez asked the committee to discuss if they would like to cancel one of the summer CAC meetings. The committee members discussed whether to cancel the June or July meeting.

Action Taken: Motion was made to cancel the June meeting by Dr. Merlene Ramnon. Second by Anne Caroline Valtin. All in favor, motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 4.A. *Staff Information Updates*

- Meghan Parnell shared that John Dlugosz had resigned from the department and the Strategic Planning, Research, and Evaluation team was in the process of hiring new employees.
- Ms. Parnell also requested a volunteer from the CAC to serve as a reviewer for the Intellectual Developmental Disabilities subcategory panel on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Any interested members should reach out to Ms. Parnell as soon as possible.
- Dr. James Green briefly summarized the discussion on housing supply in the County and encouraged participation in the BCC workshops that specifically address housing.
- Taruna Malhotra shared that the Community Services Department is launching a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) replacement program for homeowners. The goal is to assist low-income and senior communities within unincorporated areas first, and then the program will open up to the rest of the cities.
- Ms. Malhotra also mentioned that the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is launching soon and, as a result, the intake for rental assistance applications through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will close today (April 14, 2022). The application portal will re-open on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 for assistance through the ESG.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 4.B. *Member Comments on Non-Agenda Items*

- Heather Tate-Boldt announced that she would be stepping down as Chair and from the CAC/HHS altogether due to an increase in work and personal responsibilities.
 - Ms. Tate-Boldt informed everyone that, pursuant to the Resolution, “if a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chair, then the position shall be assumed by the vice chair for the remainder of the term and any remaining vacancies shall be filled through a majority vote of the Committee”. As a result, Dr. Merlene Ramnon will step in as the new Chair.
 - Stessy Cocerez also mentioned that the vote for Vice Chair will be done at the May meeting and asked the members to come prepared to discuss nominations.
 - Stessy Cocerez and Dr. James Green thanked Ms. Tate-Boldt for all her dedicated work both on and off the committee and encouraged her to continue to participate in the meetings when she is able to.
 - Dr. Merlene Ramnon also thanked Heather and expressed that she felt honored to step into the role and would do her best with staff’s guidance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 4.C. *Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items*

- None

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 4.D. *Good News Item(s)*

- Dr. Merlene Ramnon shared the following updates:
 - The Department of Health (DOH) officially launched the Health Equity Team for Palm Beach County.
 - The Diabetes Prevention Program launched two (2) weeks ago at the Arc of Palm Beach County to include persons with disabilities.
 - The Diabetes Prevention Program in Palm Beach County was selected to serve as a “Hub” to provide technical assistance to other
 - Bethesda Hospital has been named the third Safe Sleep ambassador.
- Meghan Parnell announced that Dr. James Green successfully defended his dissertation on Poverty Simulations and the shift they had on the attitude and social empathy of governmental employees.
- Anne Gerwig shared that Wellington won the Let’s Move Challenge.
- Dr. Constance Siskowski announced the upcoming Caregiving Youth Conference that will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022. Dr. Siskowski also mentioned that, for the first time, Community Service hours were awarded to a student in New Jersey who was a caregiver in their home.
- Taruna Malhotra broadcasted that Community Services Department staff would now be available at the Glades Library to help residents with applying for assistance.
- Dr. Thomas Cleare shared that Grab and Go Narcan is now available at Healthcare District sites.
- Dr. James Green mentioned that the Securing Our Future Economic Mobility Summit would be held on September 28, 2022 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 4.E. *Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings*

- Heather Tate-Boldt briefly shared the updated Presentation Schedule and reiterated that the presentations would be focused on Behavioral Health and Substance Use in order to help inform the upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Stessy Cocerez confirmed with Dr. Merlene Ramnon and Dr. Thomas Cleare that they would be available to present on the Department of Health (DOH) and Healthcare District (HCD) Needs Assessment in July 2022.

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: 5. *Meeting Adjournment*

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Anne Gerwig. Second by Anne Caroline Valtin. All in favor, motion passed.

Future Meetings: CAC/HHS Regular Meetings (9:00 AM): May 12, 2022; July 14, 2022
CAC/HHS Executive Meetings (if needed – 8:15 AM): May 12, 2022; July 14, 2022
PDIC Meetings (2:30 PM): April 28, 2022; *Additional meetings TBD*

*Finalized by SC and MP on 05/05/2022
Prepared by SC on 04/14/2022*