

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEST VOLUSIA HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
DeLand City Hall
120 S. FLORIDA AVENUE
DeLand, FL
MAY 3, 2022
5:15PM
MINUTES**

CAC Members/Attendance:

Linda White
Althea King
Jenneffer Pulapaka
Jacquie Lewis
Asal Johnson
Taylor Hibel

Absent:

Patrick Rogers (Excused)
Christian Brown (Excused)
Ella Ran (Excused)
Willie T. Stephens (Unexcused)

Others Present:

Eileen Long, Dreggors, Rigsby & Teal, P.A.
WVHA Chair Jennifer Coen
WVHA Vice-Chair Donna Pepin

Call to Order

CAC Chair Linda White opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Chair White stated for the record that there was not a quorum established, but Member Pulapaka was expected to attend. She bypassed the approval of the agenda and CAC minutes until such time as a quorum could be established.

Citizens Comments

There were none.

Commissioner Coen's Site Visit Compliance Review of Funded Agencies – Historical

2020 & 2021 Contractual Site Visit Reviews (attached)

Chair White explained that the Commissioner Coen's Site Visit Compliance Review of Funded Agencies – Historical and Contractual Site Visit reviews were provided to the

Committee as further information to review while assessing and ranking the funding applications.

March Schedule I – Healthcare Expenditures

Chair White explained that this financial statement is being provided to the Committee so that they can see the funded agencies current WVHA budget utilization versus what they are requesting for 2022-2023.

Discussion/Q&A for current funding applicants

- a. Florida Department of Health Dental Services
- b. The Neighborhood Center Outreach-Access to Care
- c. The House Next Door Therapeutic Services
- d. SMA Baker Act
- e. SMA Psychiatric/Homeless Services
- f. SMA Residential Beds
- g. Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
- h. Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler and Volusia (HSCFV) Outreach
- i. HSCFV FSC
- j. HSCFV CHN
- k. Hispanic Health Initiative MRA/Education/Case Mgmt.
- l. Rising Against All Odds HIV/Aids/Outreach

The Committee went through each application in the order in which they were listed above.

Florida Department of Health, Tachara Ferguson-Reid

There were no CAC questions for this funding application.

The Neighborhood Center Outreach (TNC)-Access to Care, Waylan Niece and Joshua Vizcaino

Member Lewis asked Waylan Niece and Joshua Vizcaino if TNC was finding that they do not have enough beds available to meet the need?

Mr. Niece admitted that TNC was experiencing a shortage of beds to meet the needs. There are talks in the works with community partners and community leaders to address this need.

Member Lewis asked about TNC's recidivism rates?

Mr. Niece admitted that the increased rates for recidivism for the Homelessness and/or substance abuse community as they suffer frequent lapses.

Member Lewis asked if TNC was referring their clients over to The House Next Door (THND) to apply for the HealthCard (HC)?

Mr. Niece responded affirmatively.

Member Lewis asked if TNC made it a requirement for their residents to apply for the WVHA HC, if they have no other coverage.

Mr. Niece responded affirmatively.

Member Lewis asked if TNC targeted women's centered care?

Mr. Niece responded that TNC targeted population is any and all who need care. He went on to add that TNC has the only domestic violence rapid re-housing funding in Volusia and Flagler County. Next year they plan to double the housing that they currently have.

Member Johnson questioned TNC's underutilization in this current year's WVHA budget?

Mr. Niece explained that funding is level because of the measurement of each unit of service billed. He stated that TNC has seen an increase in need in the community and at a minimum they need to maintain their WVHA budget.

Member Johnson asked if TNC kept track of the referrals issued to THND for HC applicants and if there was a way that TNC could track that?

Mr. Niece said that TNC has no means to track that data and would have to rely upon THND to perform that service instead.

5:21 p.m. Jenneffer Pulapaka arrived to the meeting establishing a quorum.

Approval CAC Minutes March 1, 2022

Member Lewis motioned to approve the CAC Minutes of March 1, 2022. Member Hibel seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0-4 vote.

Approval of Agenda

Member Lewis motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Member Pulapaka seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0-4 vote.

The House Next Door (THND) Gail Hallmon

Chair White inquired about THND's lack of WVHA budget utilization?

Ms. Hallmon explained that they had a hard time retaining Therapists. THND currently has 2.5 Therapists; they hired just this week 2 more Therapists, and their goal is to have a total of 6.5 Therapists; thus, they hope to increase their utilization in the future, but THND decreased their WVHA funding request for 2022-2023.

SMA Baker Act, SMA Psychiatric/Homeless Program, SMA Residential Beds, Nicole Sharbono, Julie Carter, and Andrea Schweizer

Chair White stated that SMA Baker Act has exhausted their annual budget.

Ms. Sharbono explained that's a function of the WVHA providing a LIP (Low Income Pool) match and front loads that dollar amount up to the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA).

Member King asked where does SMA Baker Act pull down additional funding when this budget has been exhausted?

Ms. Sharbono responded that SMA Baker Act receives State Funding, they receive insurance payments for those who have insurance, they receive some funding from the County of Volusia.

Member King compared the utilization last year to the current year and asked Ms. Sharbono what has changed causing the current year's utilization coming in higher.

Ms. Sharbono said that utilization has changed during the height of the peak of the Covid pandemic. Utilization decreased compared to what they are experiencing now.

There was CAC expressed concern that there were not enough mental health and/or substance abuse programs available for women in Volusia County.

Ms. Sharbono responded that SMA has a 70 bed women's residential facility in Flagler County where women are able to bring their infants and children under the age of 6 years old through the program with them. They have a childcare facility right on sight. They accept women from all over, not just Volusia or Flagler County.

Member King asked a question about care for teen girls?

Ms. Sharbono responded that they have a residential adolescent treatment program located out at Tiger Bay, located near Daytona Beach. It is a substance abuse program, but mental health is also addressed.

SMA Psychiatric/Homeless Services SMA Residential Treatment Beds

There were no further CAC member questions.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF), Lisa Garren, Danielle Harris

Member Lewis asked if CLSMF if they were seeing an increase for benefits for Veteran's Affairs (VA) recipients?

Ms. Danielle Harris responded that CLSMF does serve the VA community, but she would have to double check before she could respond specifically.

Member Johnson asked what other programs does CLSMF qualify these HC members for?

Ms. Lisa Garren responded that CLSMF qualifies the HC members for Social Security Disability (SSD), Social Security Insurance (SSI), Spousal Benefits, etc.

Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler and Volusia (HSCFV) Outreach, Thalia Smith
HSCFV FSC
HSCFV CHN

There was CAC discussion specifically related to the HSCFV CHN program that had zero utilization for this current year. Ms. Smith explained that HSCFV cannot invoice the WVHA for the CHN because these individuals qualify for Medicaid. Medicaid does not reimburse for a CHN. Ms. Smith explained further that HSCFV was providing these CHN services, they just are not able to invoice for them due to the contractual language in the WVHA Funding Agreement.

Member Pulapaka asked if the CAC could make a recommendation to the Board to have this contractual language changed?

The response was yes, the CAC can make that recommendation.

Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI), Peter Willems

Member Lewis asked Mr. Willems if HHI was experiencing any overlap of services with AdventHealth now that services are resuming post-pandemic?

Mr. Willems explained that HHI would never experience any overlap with AdventHealth as the clients that they bill the WVHA for are uninsured and/or have an active WVHA HealthCard. For the uninsured clients they refer them to the WVHA Community Partners for additional services.

Member Pulapaka congratulated HHI as she has received a lot of really good feedback from the community in this past year. She wondered what had changed in this past year?

Mr. Willems explained that HHI is partnering with the WVHA miCare Clinics, they are planning on opening their own food pantry, they are getting out more now post-pandemic, all of these measures have optimized their utilization.

Member Pulapaka suggested that HHI might want to provide a Spanish interpreter that could be used, if necessary, remotely, to ensure that there are not any language barriers for the Spanish speaking population in seeking healthcare, and that this would be a benefit for the community.

Member King suggested that if HHI decides to provide this translation service, to make certain that it's provided by a qualified interpreter.

Mr. Willems agreed and stated that there are 22 different Spanish dialects.

Rising Against All Odds (RAAO), Brenda Flowers

There were no questions from the Committee.

Member Johnson commented that RAAO is requesting annual funding that is less than what it would cost to treat one HIV patient.

CAC Comments

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Linda White, CAC Chair