



Summary Minutes

Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Services Planning Council Consumer Caucus

Location: Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

Date: September 16, 2020

Time: 12:08pm-1:50pm

Agenda Items

- I. Call to Order --- Timothy Webb, Chair
- II. Approval of Agenda --- Nathan Townsend, Vice-Chair
- III. Approval of Minutes --- Shekinah Thomas, CC Secretary
- IV. Planning Council Updates --- Sandra Vincent, Project Officer
- V. COVID-19 and Influenza --- Christopher Pride, MSN, AGPCNP-BC
Positive Impact Health Center
- VI. Housing Update --- Spencer Burton Webb, Chair Housing Committee
- VII. Open Discussion
- VIII. Adjournment

Interested in Planning Council Membership?

Register at the address below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020membership>

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order --- Timothy Webb, Chair
-Introduced new Consumer Caucus Vice-Chair, Nathan Townsend.
2. Approval of Agenda --- Motioned by Dwight Anderson and seconded by Timothy Webb.
3. Approval of August 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes --- Motioned by Nathan Townsend and seconded by Anthony Merritt.
Changes to August 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Misspelled word, “pasted” should be “passed”.
4. Planning Council Update --- Sandra Vincent, Project Officer
 - The Planning Council meetings are streamed live on both the Planning Council Facebook page and the Metro Ryan White Consumer Caucus Facebook page.
 - The Planning Council is currently in contract with RDE. RDE is a vendor that provides assistance with needs assessments. The Planning Council is in the process of developing a needs assessment. Consumer Caucus will be needed to get the needs assessment information out to different groups, stakeholders and individuals. The target number is a sample of 2,000.
 - If you know of organizations that could serve as a focus group or a distribution center for the actual survey, please contact Sandra Vincent, Project Officer.
 - The virtual Ryan White Planning Council meeting will be held tomorrow, September 17, 2020 at 9:00am. Please contact Sandra Vincent, Project Officer for Zoom meeting link.
 - There was a survey taken after the previous Ryan White Planning Council meeting to determine what should be done to make the planning council meetings more engaging and fluid.
 - Just completed the administrative mechanism evaluation. This is a requirement for evaluating how long it takes funding to get to agencies. Results from the administrative mechanism will be provided tomorrow during the Ryan White Planning Council meeting.

5. COVID-19 and Influenza --- Christopher Pride, MSN, AGPCNP-BC

- It is important to receive the flu vaccine to protect not only ourselves but others!
- Overlapping symptoms of COVID-19 and influenza [flu] are:
 - Fever or feeling feverish/chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue (tiredness)
 - Sore throat
 - Runny or stuffy nose
 - Muscle pain or body aches
 - Headache
 - Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults
- Difference between COVID-19 and influenza symptoms: with COVID-19 and not the flu, there is often a loss of smell and taste. The flu is less severe than COVID-19.
- COVID-19 and influenza [flu] are both spread through droplets i.e. coughing, sneezing, or talking.
- Only testing can determine rather you have COVID-19 or the flu.
- Antiviral medications have not been proven to prevent COVID-19.
- Protective mask:
 - N95 masks are the best masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 however these masks should be reserved for healthcare professionals.
 - Any two-ply masks will aid in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. Two-ply masks do the following
 - minimize the risk of passing on COVID-19 and other viruses to others
 - provide some protection to the person wearing the mask
 - reduce the severity of COVID-19 you have
 - Bandanas are not effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
 - Wearing masks from gas stations, hair stores and convenient stores are more effective than not wearing a mask at all.
- Must continue to practice social and physical distancing during the holiday season. Continue to wear masks during holiday gatherings and black Friday shopping.

6. Housing Update --- Spencer Burton Webb, Chair Housing Committee

- The Central Intake meeting two weeks ago concluded that there was a slight increase in homeless prevention request - STRMU funding.
- There are currently 1,698 new homeless prevention requests.
- Next Central Intake meeting will be held on September 18, 2020.
- There is a major shortage of affordable, quality housing in the city of Atlanta.
- To date, 135 people have been successfully housed--- another 225 people are on the waiting list for housing.
- HOPWA was able to collaborate with the City of Atlanta for the Ending the Epidemic funding to provide up to \$275,000 for emergencies and short term prevention. This funding is separate from HOPWA.
- Some of the major problems driving the housing crisis: ¹no affordable housing, ² agencies not having funding, and ³landlords' unwillingness to decrease rent.
- It is important to elect officials that will fight for our concerns.
- People living with HIV are not just limited to HOPWA funding. We must seek out other housing resources.
- Cities and counties in Georgia do provide home ownership programs.
- Need to have a meeting to bring in all the key players surrounding housing, the mayor, city council members, agencies, HOPWA etc.
- Consumer caucus' concerns will be expressed during the next HOPWA Advisory meeting.
- Housing Committee, Spencer Webb and Timothy Webb will meet to discuss ideas in order to draft a message to elected officials concerning the housing crisis.

7. Open Discussion

- AIDS Walk Atlanta will be held virtually this year!

Upcoming Events

- Virtual AIDS walk was scheduled for September 26, 2020.
- Virtual Ryan White Planning Council meeting will be held tomorrow, September 17, 2020 at 9:00am. Please contact Sandra Vincent, Project Officer for Zoom meeting link.

Adjournment

Motioned by Leroy Braxton and seconded by Anthony Merritt.