

Metropolitan Jacksonville Area HIV Health Services Planning Council

Council News and Updates

August 2021

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

By Katrina Williams, MHA

My journey with the Jacksonville Planning Council began shortly after witnessing the struggles someone dear to me had endured when seeking HIV care. It was heartbreaking to see and experience the amount of stigma surrounding HIV. Ryan White was a small light in a dark tunnel. The light was hope and as we learned about all the services Ryan White had to offer, the light kept getting brighter. Our experience gave me the desire to be the change I wanted to see. I started attending Planning Council meetings and that led to other meetings. I realized that individuals affected or infected with HIV can have a voice in their care and the services they receive. This made me feel empowered and confident that we can fight the stigma around HIV if we unite and work together.



Through leadership in planning, developing, and managing human services, the Planning Council strives to assist Ryan White recipients and organizations in meeting human service needs. The Metropolitan Jacksonville Area HIV/AIDS Health Services Planning Council is a group of diverse community members who work to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of HIV/AIDS health services. As a Planning Council member, you have the great opportunity to participate in processes that identify community needs, the capacity to meet those needs and allocate resources to resolve conflicts. The Planning Council is responsible for ensuring all funds are managed appropriately throughout Duval, Clay, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties. We provide mentorship to new members of the Planning Council. Our meetings provide many opportunities for the public to speak up and share their concerns. We have a Community Representative that acts as a voice for those who are not comfortable speaking in public. If you have been looking for a way to help your community but are unsure where to begin, the search is over.

NEW FACES: GET TO KNOW A MEMBER

By Dawna Cornelissen, MSW, Vice Chair

I grew up in New Hampshire and moved to Nassau County when I was in high school. After high school, I moved to Orlando and then Dallas for school. My sisters lured me back to Nassau County with adorable small humans and now I live in Yulee. I started working with the Florida

Department of Health as an intern with Healthy Start while completing my Master of Social Work. After the internship, I was hired on as a Care Coordinator with the Florida Department of Health in Nassau County’s Ryan White program. I am responsible for Ryan White and ADAP eligibility and medical case management. I am the only full time Ryan White funded staff person in Nassau County.

I first attended Planning Council meetings in 2018 at the suggestion of my then supervisor Kim Geib, DNP, APRN, who was heavily involved with the Planning Council in the past. Attending meetings also helped me understand the scope of the Ryan White program in our area and allowed me to better serve my clients. I quickly joined the Integrated Comprehensive Plan Committee (now the Continuum of Care Coordination Committee) and became a Planning Council member in 2019.

With a background in advocacy and community organizing, I feel very at home as a member of the Planning Council. As the Vice Chair, my focus areas are communication, transparency, and breaking down barriers. It is my hope that this monthly newsletter addresses these areas and I hope that you enjoy it. I am looking forward to a successful year with the Planning Council.

SAVE THE DATE: MONTHLY CALENDAR

August 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9 Priority & Allocations meeting 2:00 pm - 4:00pm In Person (Location TBA)	10	11 Membership Committee 2:00PM—4:00PM (In Person)	12 Community Connections In person 12:00PM -1:00PM (Location TBA) CCCC 2:00PM -4:00PM (In Person—TBA)	13 ICP writing Ad-Hoc 11:00am-12:00pm (in person) Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism (in person) 12:00pm- 1:00pm
16	17 Executive Committee 2:00PM- 4:00PM (In Person)	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 Planning Council Meeting @ UF Health Charter Room 580 West 8th Street 2nd floor—Tower 1 3:00pm—5:00pm	27
30	31			

HOW TO ATTEND PLANNING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council and Committee meetings. There are two ways to attend:

- Physically Present: Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings in person. Due to COVID 19 distancing guidelines, meetings are taking place in several locations and masks are strongly encouraged.
- Electronically: Guests may also attend meetings electronically via Zoom.
- For more information, contact Lisa at PlanningCouncil@coj.net or 904-255-3346.

MEETING MINUTES

See what we've been up to! Read our [meeting minutes](#) here:

<https://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/social-services/ryan-white-c-a-r-e-act,-part-a/planning-council/about-us#MEETING%20MINUTES>

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City of Jacksonville does not endorse any of the following events.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Improving Community Health Webinar Series: Healthcare Expectations from a Woman of Trans Experience/Trans Woman

August 4, 2021 10 am – 12 pm Central Time

https://wihiv.wisc.edu/events.aspx?event_id=rXWG95AS1JuTXAllTUJ4VYJ@@12kr/3heQj5LYTWg==

Understanding the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Annual Planning Cycle Webinar

August 17, 2021 2:30 – 4:30 pm

https://jsi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CWWk9ugOSU2A8uDkRS35IA



UF CARES presents the 25th Annual Infectious Diseases and HIV Conference of Northeast Florida

September 17, 2021 8 am – 5 pm

UF Health LRC Auditorium 653 W 8th St, Jacksonville, FL 32209

Registration is \$10 and can be completed at UFHealthJax.org/HIVcare by Sept. 14.

ONGOING EVENTS:

Beacons of Hope HIV Support Group at Lutheran Social Services

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 3 – 5 pm

4615 Philips Highway Jacksonville, FL 32207

Refreshments will be provided. For More Information Please Contact James Perrigan at 904-739-7015.

UF CARES Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Every 3rd Tuesday of each month 11:30 am – 1 pm via Zoom

Email michael.kyger@jax.ufl.edu or call 904-244-5466 for more information.

HIVCareNow Testing and Events Calendar

<http://hivcarenow.com/calendar/testing-calendar.html>

The Planning Council is a legislatively mandated group of diverse community members who work to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of HIV/AIDS health services. The Planning Council members participate in processes including identifying community needs, assessing the capacity to meet those needs, and allocating Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) resources.

We are always looking for new members! Members go through a rigorous interview process and are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Jacksonville to represent a particular demographic.

For more information, please contact Lisa Holley, Planning Council Support Aide at PlanningCouncil@coj.net or 904-255-3346.

For more information about the RWHAP, please visit <https://hab.hrsa.gov>.

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