

Metropolitan Jacksonville Area HIV Health Services Planning Council

Council News and Updates

November 2021

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NEW FACES: GET TO KNOW A MEMBER

By Timmothy Mark-Scott Purcell, Priority and Allocations Co-Chair

I was born in Millington, Tennessee as a Navy Brat in 1974. My mom moved to Jacksonville, Florida, when I was four months old, where she met my late dad, Mark Purcell. To answer your questions now, Mark has always been my real father in my eyes, because he took me and my 3-year older sister in when he was only a 19-year-old Navy man himself.

My dad did everything that a dad normally tries to do with their sons growing up (i.e., playing catch, soccer, yard work, changing a tire, checking your oil or fluids, showing me how to fix the basic things around the house, and learn the value of a dollar). My dad later died at age 43 from colon cancer. I was 21, but before he died, I had my name legally changed to reflect his name. Growing up, I sang for the Walt Disney World Candlelight Ceremony, three years in a row during Christmas time. My first Job was at age 13, as a busboy at a Mexican restaurant.

I have been HIV positive since April 2000, when there was only one drug given at that time, AZT. It made many of us sick or even caused death. When I got my results, I just knew it was a death sentence. They set me up with a Make-A-Wish foundation representative. They gave you a permanent plastic Ryan White card with your name and Ryan White number. They set you up with case management and a doctor. They even had HIV/AIDS housing for those needing a place to live called St. Johns Horizon House.

Also, back then we use to have two different camps for HIV/AIDS patients one being in the Fruit Cove/Switzerland, Florida area, and the other was in Live Oak, Florida. I started going to a support group, "Positive Attitudes of Jacksonville" since day one of my positive results and I will always be with them. Frieda Saraga is the facilitator, and she is just wonderful and the best woman you would ever want to meet.

In 2009, I met my late husband, Garlyn, at a NFAN community luncheon, thanks to my dear friend Justin Bell. He was disabled, he could barely walk, he had some severe health issues (that no one knew about) and needed round the clock care. We had our commitment ceremony in 2010. Later we were the first gay couple to get married on the courthouse steps in Jacksonville, Florida, when the Supreme Court passed the law allowing same-sex marriages. Garlyn, died on January 12, 2018. He was my love, my life, my all, and my missing puzzle piece. In 2010, I graduated from FSCJ North campus, where I studied for Massage Therapy, so I could help those with HIV/AIDS, that couldn't afford to get a massage.

This is my first year serving on the Metropolitan Jacksonville Area HIV Health Services Planning Council. I was approached by CJ Osburn at AHF and he told me that I would be a great fit for the Planning Council. From that day forward I haven't shied away from the planning council or

any of its commitments. I can only promise that I will be a voice to all of us living with HIV/AIDS. I am getting myself more familiar with the process and who to talk to with certain issues.

People think that the medication is making us better, so we should be doing jumping jacks, running around, getting off our soap boxes and keep quiet and live life. That may be true for the newly diagnosed individuals with HIV/AIDS, however for those of us that are long-term survivors with HIV/AIDS, it's a totally different story. We have been through a lot more and our bodies have been through the mill, and we are still going through problems related to the past. Don't let someone tell you that you are getting better, you have a voice. Use your voice with your doctors, nurses, and most importantly your politicians. Don't let someone that may not have HIV/AIDS control what happens to your funding.

If you have noticed, things have changed completely since last year, five years ago, 10 years ago, all the way to 20+ years ago. I have seen all the changes and I have kept quiet, but no more. What's being done is not right and we need more voices of people with HIV/AIDS to stand up and do what we did in the past and that is to "ACT UP" (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). Maybe all our voices need to be heard – those long-term survivors and newly infected.

The more people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS that come to our meetings, committees, and give input, the better. This is your time to "ACT UP" and use your voice, come to the meetings either in person or via zoom, and make sure that your voice is heard. Just remember this one thing - Silence = Death!!!

SAVE THE DATE: MONTHLY CALENDAR – NOVEMBER 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4 Policies and Procedures Ad-hoc 1:30 - 4:30 pm 1809 Art Museum	5
8 Priorities and Allocations 2 - 4 pm University Branch Library	9 Needs Assessment Ad-hoc 2 - 4 pm 1809 Art Museum Dr	10 Membership Committee 2 - 4 pm 1809 Art Museum Dr	11 COJ Closed - Veteran's Day	12
15	16	17 Community Connections 12 - 1:30 pm 515 W 6th St	18	19
22	23	24 COJ Closed - Thanksgiving	25 COJ Closed - Thanksgiving - No Planning Council meeting	26
29	30			

HOW TO ATTEND PLANNING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council and Committee meetings. The current options for attending include:

- 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: At this time, the option for guests to attend electronically via Zoom is only available for Planning Council meetings and not Committee meetings.
- For more information, contact 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:

Trauma Informed Approach to HIV Care Webinar

November 9, 2021 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Register here: https://www.seaetc.com/event/?ER_ID=81550

12th Annual International Conference on Stigma (Hybrid)

November 15 – 19, 2021

Cost range \$10 - \$80

Register here: <http://www.whocanyoutell.org/2021-conference>

40 Years of HIV Epidemic in the US (Virtual)

November 16, 2021 2 – 3 p.m.

Register here: https://latinoaids-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y6hfG2kgR9-tzvAB-dyg3g

Save the Date - HAB You Heard Webinar

November 18, 2021 2 – 3 p.m.

Registration link is not out yet. Sign up for email updates here: [RWHAP Listserv](#)

Ending the HIV Epidemic in Area 4: Part 2 – Taking Action with Special Populations (Virtual)

November 19, 2021 8:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Register here: https://www.seaetc.com/event/?ER_ID=83224

Watch a recording of Part 1 here:

https://ufl.zoom.us/rec/share/MrTSQAwYxb3Z58SCJcxLYfYN65P7yLz_gZ9DUaAQX4pkMKRITb20ph_NeKVAvXdDE.ATJ9udVIUUTx8BjX

US Conference on HIV/AIDS (Virtual)

December 2-3, 2021

Registration is \$295

Register here: uscha.life

Northeast Florida World AIDS Day Community Awards Banquet and Luncheon

December 3, 2021 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Riverfront

Cost is \$40 per person

To register, call 904-356-1612 ext. 116 or email jkloke@nfanjax.org.

For more information, visit neflworldaidsday.com.

ONGOING EVENTS:

COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Locations in Jacksonville

Click here: <http://duval.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/COVID-19/index.html>

COVID-19 Antibody Treatment at Jacksonville Main Library

Click here: <https://www.coj.net/welcome/news/city-announces-details-for-covid-19-antibody-treat>

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 the Planning Council Support Staff at PlanningCouncil@coj.net or 904-255-3346.

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

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