

## Health Care Advisory Board

Date: June 26, 2024  
Time: 1:00 pm  
Location: Community Support Services, Conference Room A  
218 SE 24th Street, Gainesville, FL 32641

Members Present Ayana Archer, Frank Catalanotto, Leilani Doty, William Garst, Aaron Jarvis, Krista Ott, Lindsey Redding, Amanda Reed, Catherine Striley

Members Absent Erica Barnard, Scott Darius , Jessica Forbes

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bill Garst at 1:01 PM.

Members Present: Bill Garst, Fank Catalanotto, Lindsey Redding, Ayana Archer, Leilani Doty, Amanda Reed, Krista Ott, Catherine Striley, Aaron Jarvis

Members Absent: Scott Darius, Erica Barnard, Jessica Forbes

Staff Present: Tom Tonkavich, Jaye Athy, Tyler Yeadon

Guests: Cherisse Britton, Christina Brown

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Catherine Striley moved to approve the agenda. Second: Aaron Jarvis motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Krista Ott moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Second: Catherine Striley motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Old Business

#### 4.1 Community Health Worker Program

##### CHW Administrator Update –

- Goal – Recruit, train, and employ Alachua County residents and place them at facilities where they can impact the community.
- Goal – 10 candidates trained and placed: currently at 7

- 13 Agencies have been contacted and 6 have shown interest in employing a CHW
- Q2 over 2,100 services provided. Increase from Q1 1,900 services.
- CHW in Alachua received “CHW of the Year” Award

#### **Proposals from the CHW Program:**

- \$5,000 budgeted for Communications is requested to be reallocated for trainings and guest speakers for the CHW’s
- Have a consensus where any Agency seeking partnership with CHW would be required to have an executed agreement or contract prior to receiving services from the CHW program. Agreement would ensure sharing of data and costs of CHW.
- Allow partner agencies to request up to 6 months or 1040 hours of wage reimbursement. This allows partner agencies to incorporate the CHW into their budget and gives a longer window to collect data.
- Allow agencies to have a WIOA candidate so they can request WIOA reimbursement and stagger it with the CHW Program funds. WIOA will cover 50% of wages for the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months and the CHW Program will cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months at 50% of wages. This provides a more flexible model for the funding.
- Allow smaller departments within larger Agencies request up to 100% of reimbursement from our Program if they provide services to high priority areas/clients under 150% FPL.
- Clarify the clauses within the OJT agreement, showing the CHW can attend trainings by the program and that agencies exhaust all efforts to seek sustainability for the CHW. Clarify termination clause for agencies who cannot retain the CHW.

#### **Q&A**

- Q: Why are there 2 different roles for administration of this program?

A: There is a mentor/recruitment position and an oversight position.

- Q: What is a service? A: Any contact with a client. Helping fill out paperwork, calling for an appointment, giving a flyer and talking about services etc.
- Q: Do CHW's at the Cancer Center count toward services? A: For the purpose of reporting, the CHW's at the Cancer Center are not counted.
- Q: Do the Cancer Center CHW's count towards the 7? A: No, the Cancer Center CHW's are employees of the Cancer Center, not counted in the 7.
- Q: Once a CHW is placed is the agency responsible for them? A: We reimburse the agency 50% of the CHW salary if they are eligible for the Federal funding.
- Q: Would the \$5,000 be expected each year or a one time? A: Would need further discussion later in funding cycle, but this is a one-time request of reallocations
- Q: Who certifies the CHW? A: Statewide agency Florida Certification Board, every 2 years recertification required
- Q: Would the \$5,000 cover all costs such as travel? A: Travel to out of town could be covered under the \$5,000
- Q: What if a CHW is trained but not placed, could another entity hire that trained CHW and not partner with the program? A: If the CHW training is funded through the program, that would create a barrier. If they were funded outside of the program, that would not be under our control.
- Q: Is the program providing any legal guarantee the CHW will receive employment? A: No
- Q: Is the program training specific CHWs for specific locations? A: No all CHWs receive the same training, and the Agency can provide further training for location specific necessities.
- Q: Are CHW positions advertised on typical job searching sites? A: They are available, but not through this program.
- Q: Is the CHW employment hinged on grant funding? A: Agencies are advised to hire the CHW's themselves, CHW positions will not be forever dependent on grant funding.

- Q: How does wage reimbursement create job stability for a CHW?  
A: The CHW impact will hopefully push the Agency to seek further funding or incorporate the CHW into the budget.
- Q: The agencies that CHWs are placed at, are they expected to provide 40 hours per week? A: No, it can be part time work, this is dependent on the agency.
- Q: Would you stagger a CHW with another agency to work the full 40? A: Yes, but some are not interested in working 40 hours and some agencies do not have the capacity
- Q: What is the program doing to support the CHW if the agency decides to terminate? A: Program will take the CHW back and replace them. Career Source is in constant contact to maintain their employment desirability.
- Q: What accountability does the agency have to report if they cannot maintain a CHW? A: It is expected of the Agency to share if they cannot maintain a CHW and will be further clarified in the clause fixes in the OJT agreement.
- Q: What technical assistance does the County provide to the agency to track data? In lieu of that, is there something the agency is required to measure to show change in outcome? A: CHW Administrator is responsible for collecting data, the process is specific to each agency. Currently, outcomes at the agency are not required to be collected.
- Q: What are the WIOA qualifications? Has this impacted CHW recruitment? A: Highschool diploma, family income, and background checks. Agency may also have specific qualification requests. No, the program is still able to recruit and train a suitable number of CHWs.

Lindsey Sterling motions to support the proposal to reallocate the \$5,000 from Communications to Training. Second: Catherine Striley motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.2 Workplan and Accomplishments**

- Dental Therapy Legislation was successfully passed by 2 legislative committees in 2024 Add: And urge BoCC to continue supporting the new legislation in 2025

- Develop an advocacy plan for appropriate reimbursement of services provided by CHW; add to monitoring bullet point
- Encourage the BoCC to legislate/advocate legislation of reimbursement for CHW
- Delete the increase awareness of platform portion

Catherine Striley moved to approve the amended plan. Second: Aaron Jarvis motion passed unanimously.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Program Updates**

- Syring Exchange program update – Program has been put together and approved by board; Out of Harms Reach are operationalizing the program under the umbrella of Florida Harm Reduction Collective. The goal is that Out of Harms Reach will grow and mature enough to take over the program on their own. The referral process for Hep C procedures is going to be worked out at the next program meeting. Working on partnering with MAT program that is also being implemented. There will be an annual report on August 1<sup>st</sup> for the Syringe Exchange Program.
- Review CHOICES RFP for input
- City and County have declared gun violence crisis, review initiatives and participate as appropriate

## **7. Adjournment**

The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting, but some members had to leave at 2:05 PM and the quorum transitioned to a workshop.

Bill Garst motioned to adjourn. Second: Aaron Jarvis adjourned at 2:32 PM