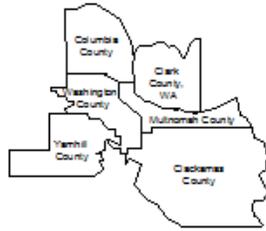




# Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council

*Advocacy and planning for people affected by HIV in the Portland metro area*

*Ryan White Program, Part A*



## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 5, 2022

Approved by Planning Council: May 3, 2022

Grantee: Multnomah County Health Department



**Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
 Virtual Zoom Meeting

**AGENDA**

Item**	Discussion, Motions, and Actions
Call to Order	Bri Williams called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Bert Partin shared a Land Acknowledgement (see slide).
Welcome & Logistics	<p>Bri Williams welcomed everyone to the Planning Council meeting. Aubrey Daquiz reviewed meeting logistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please say your name each time you speak</li> <li>• Please “raise your hand” or type questions in the chat box</li> <li>• We will mute and unmute folks as needed during the meeting</li> <li>• If you're calling in (not viewing slides), please mute yourself to minimize background noise, unless you have a question / comment</li> <li>• Meetings are recorded for accurate meeting minutes.</li> </ul>
Candle Lighting Ceremony	Michael Thurman-Noche led the lighting of the ceremonial candle in memory of all those we have lost through these last two years of COVID, as well as from HIV. In addition, Last month was the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Michael’s first long term partner.
Announcements	<p>Announcements:          See slides.</p> <p>The group reviewed the Council Participation Guidelines (see slide).</p> <p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Youth HIV &amp; AIDS Awareness Day is April 10 (shared short video)</li> <li>• April 18 is National Transgender HIV Testing Day (shared short video)</li> <li>• There is an event on Monday, April 18, at Oaks Park. Hosting roller skating (first 350 paid, additional people \$10) and providing education and testing.</li> <li>• HGAP may be a bit short staffed in the coming months             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aubrey Daquiz will be taking family leave starting around June</li> <li>○ Lisa Alfano is currently taking a leave of absence</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quest has recently opened its second recovery home for LGBTQ individuals, with special focus on transgender and non-binary individuals. First house is for people in treatment; second house is open to people not in full treatment, but still engaged in treatment with Quest</li> </ul>
Agenda Review and Minutes Approval	<p>The agenda was reviewed by the Council, and no changes were made.</p> <p>The meeting minutes from the March 2022 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.</p>
Public Testimony	None.

Item **	Discussion, Motions, and Actions
Upcoming Elections (Co-Chair & Ops)	<p><i>Presenters: Julia Lager-Mesulam</i>  <i>Summary of Discussion:</i>  See slides.</p> <p>Positions available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Co-Chair position (currently held by Bri Williams)</li> <li>• 3 Operations Committee members (currently held by Tom Cherry, Robbie Thurman-Noche, and Scott Moore)</li> </ul> <p>Reviewed election process</p> <p>Nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robbie Thurman-Noche nominated himself and made a short statement.</li> <li>• Michael Thurman-Noche nominates Greg Fowler (and has confirmed that he is willing)</li> <li>• Further nominations are due by Tues. 4/26, and can be sent to Julia Lager Mesulam at <a href="mailto:lagermes@ohsu.edu">lagermes@ohsu.edu</a></li> </ul>
Panel: Mental Health Care & Access	<p><i>Panelists: Clay Robbins, Cascadia; Marissa Freeman, CAP; Jake Schmeider, Quest</i>  <i>Summary of Discussion:</i>  See slideshow.</p> <p>Panel Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the current mental health care and services for PLWH, (e.g., support groups for youth living with HIV, therapists knowledgeable about HIV, addiction service) &amp; how long does it take for client to be established with a MH provider?</li> <li>• What are the challenges of providing services and getting clients access to care, including disparities of historically marginalized PLWH populations? (e.g., BIPOC &amp; Transgender/Non-Binary communities' access to culturally responsive care)</li> <li>• What's being done (or what is needed) to address these challenges and limited access, and how do you balance supporting higher-needs clients and the wider base of clients with limited time and funds?</li> <li>• What tools are available to RW clients to process COVID pandemic trauma?</li> </ul> <p>Clay Robbins, Program Supervisor for Peer Services, Project Respond, Cascadia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to PR, I am a PLWH</li> <li>• Status – really hard right now</li> <li>• Capacity issues</li> <li>• Integrating peer services into crisis team to bridge gap until they can access care</li> <li>• Many in Mult Co doing great work to fix these problems</li> <li>• BH coord network – Beacon</li> <li>• Sobering center</li> <li>• Full coordination network – single point of access to care for substance use, mental health</li> <li>• First phase supposed to open Fall 2023</li> <li>• 988 new emergency number for behavioral health</li> <li>• How we can do our job better</li> <li>• Behavioral Health Center being built in downtown</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● My story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I was ready to access services, but didn't know where to go</li> <li>○ CAP connected me to Cascadia</li> </ul> </li> <li>● We need more culturally specific services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More people from those communities (and they should be compensated)</li> <li>○ Training current staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>● COVID trauma? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We're taking the things we learned in COVID and bringing them into our future services (telehealth)</li> <li>○ Men's group a place to process trauma</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Marissa Freeman, Peer Support Specialist, CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provides peer support for individuals with substance use and mental health challenges</li> <li>● Have definitely seen challenges</li> <li>● Departure of embedded MH provider (from Cascadia), haven't filled that position</li> <li>● Majority of my caseload was working with a provider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I am supposed to place my clients with a provider or a treatment plan</li> <li>○ Wait lists are into next year</li> <li>○ Having difficulty filling that need</li> <li>○ Project Respond has filled a niche, great to see expansion of the program</li> <li>○ Great to not have to call 911 and re-traumatize individuals with triggering experiences in the past</li> </ul> </li> <li>● BIPOC and Transgender / Non-Binary populations</li> <li>● Have had to place individuals in private clinics with providers who aren't versed in HIV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Am also PLWH &amp; understands it's difficult to go tell story again every time with a new provider – very triggering, can make people feel very othered</li> <li>○ Important to have providers who feel comfortable with conversations about topics such as HIV, sex work, drug use</li> <li>○ Wide divide between providers an individual would see regularly and providers for suicidal ideation – very few in between</li> <li>○ Many of my patients don't like Zoom or other online interaction, have had to get creative about how to meet their needs and support them in a way that feels organic and comfortable</li> </ul> </li> <li>● People are feeling very isolated</li> <li>● Not going to their regular support groups</li> <li>● Don't have their family and friends around them</li> <li>● We're going to feel the effects of that for quite some time, may never get to baseline</li> </ul> <p>Jacob Schmeider, Peer Support Specialist, Quest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provides peer support, co-facilitates Men's group on Friday afternoons, plans events, builds community, also PLWH since 2016</li> <li>● Significant lack of services for PLWH in our community; Increased need for services since pandemic, and decreased availability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Portland is really trying hard to solve these issues</li> <li>○ Need to be uninsured, uninsured, Indian Health</li> <li>○ Extremely long waitlists, directories not updated, providers wanting prepayment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Item **	Discussion, Motions, and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quest is lucky to have therapists, and gender affirming providers</li> <li>○ One of the challenges is no culturally responsive filter in directories, no way to search</li> <li>○ Lack of providers who accept Medicare</li> <li>● AR-TIC trainings happening – eye-opening</li> <li>● Services not necessarily reaching groups that need help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attitude is “take what you can get”</li> <li>○ Peer support is great point of contact while waiting for mental health services, to find services within community</li> <li>○ We need a lot more providers</li> <li>○ Zoom fatigue</li> <li>○ Assessing each person individually to determine their needs</li> <li>○ Texting and messaging helps, Emergency food</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Men’s group having back in person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have created a hybrid group</li> <li>○ Still a fear that we will go back to Zoom and they’ll feel abandoned</li> <li>○ These men are so supportive of one another</li> </ul> </li> <li>● While there is a significant lack of mental health services, there is a lot of peer support within the community</li> </ul> <p>Questions</p> <p>From your perspective and lived experience, when people are waiting, what do you feel is the thing that can help in the waiting game?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jake – helps a lot to be completely transparent in every detail, let them know the true state of things.</li> <li>● Clay – With a lot of individuals very close to a crisis, doing anything helps. Finding things for people to do in a positive direction. Focus on the needs of each individual.</li> </ul> <p>Q for Clay: refresher on Cascadia walk-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attached to Plaza Health Center. Full assessment; medication services the day you go in; resource room (peer support specialists, counselors providing resource connection); individuals in crisis. If you’re not sure, call the crisis line and consult.</li> </ul> <p>How do we stay up to date on the progress of Beacon?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email Clay at <a href="mailto:clay.robbs@ascadiabhc.org">clay.robbs@ascadiabhc.org</a>, he’ll connect you to someone with more information</li> </ul> <p>Q for Jake: why is there peer support only available Monday through Friday and not weekends? People in crisis may have a crisis anytime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As far as Quest goes, it’s a staffing thing. Also a boundary issue of turning off phone on weekends. It’s not necessarily that we’re not available on weekends, but it’s case by case.</li> </ul> <p>Q: Ban on evictions has been lifted. What’s the environment like now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jake – there is emergency financial assistance to apply for some funds to cover rent.</li> <li>● Marissa – CAP has emergency rental assistance funds available. Blanket moratorium is no longer existing, but if an individual had already applied for emergency rental assistance, they are not taking action against renters, as they are still waiting to see if they will get funds</li> </ul> <p>“Oregon Eviction Moratorium FAQ” from <a href="http://Portland.gov">Portland.gov</a> website:</p>

Item **	Discussion, Motions, and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Safe Harbor Protection for tenants who have applied for emergency rental assistance</li> <li>• Until July 1, 2022, a tenant can avoid termination and eviction for nonpayment of monthly rent if they have applied for emergency rental assistance and have provided documentation of their application to their landlord. This documentation must be provided to a landlord in a reasonable manner such as personal delivery, first-class mail or sending a copy or photograph of the documentation via text message or email. Documentation can be provided by the tenant up through the First Appearance court date in an eviction case.</li> <li>• A landlord is prohibited from taking any further enforcement action regarding nonpayment while the application is pending.”</li> </ul> <p>Thanks to our panelists for your work with the community &amp; sharing your stories!</p>
<p>Priority Setting &amp; Resource Allocation</p>	<p><i>Presenters: Aubrey Daquiz</i>  <i>Summary of Discussion:</i>  See slides.</p> <p>Aubrey reviewed the PSRA process for the group.</p>
<p>Preliminary 21-22 Expenditures &amp; Re-Allocation for 22-23 (if needed)</p>	<p><i>Presenters: Amanda Hurley, Jonathan Basilio</i>  <i>Summary of Discussion:</i>  See slides.</p> <p>Part A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current unspent funds for services \$227,764 (93.4% spent)</li> <li>• Current unspent funds for administration \$23,741</li> <li>• Subrecipients have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to submit final invoices</li> <li>• HGAP will have additional personnel expenses</li> <li>• HGAP expects to spend down at least 95% of total funds</li> <li>• No reallocations requested at this time</li> </ul> <p>Part B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current unspent funds for services \$667,895 (85.3% spent)</li> <li>• Current unspent funds for administration \$148,487</li> <li>• Larger amount of unspent funds for services, due to a few categories spending less than expected</li> <li>• Awaiting February administration expenses</li> <li>• We will submit a request for carryover of any funds remaining to the State of Oregon, to be spent during the next fiscal year</li> </ul> <p>CARES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current unspent funds for services \$12,312 (93.3% spent)</li> <li>• Current unspent funds for administration \$809</li> <li>• Awaiting one invoice</li> <li>• No carryover is available</li> <li>• Expect final unspent funds to be around \$7000</li> </ul>

<b>Item **</b>	<b>Discussion, Motions, and Actions</b>
Evaluation and Closing	<i>Presenter: Michael Thurman-Noche</i>  Thank you for participating in this meeting. If you have feedback / comments / ideas, please include them in your evaluation.
Adjourned	5:55 PM

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## ATTENDANCE

Members	Present	Absent*	Members	Present	Absent*
Emily Borke, she/her	X		Jamal Muhammad	X	
Tom Cherry, he/him	X		Bert Partin, he/him		E
Jamie Christianson, she/her	X		Laura Paz Whitmore	X	
Carlos Dory, him/his	X		Troy Preble	X	
Michelle Foley, they/them		E	Diane Quiring, she/her	X	
Greg Fowler, he/him	X		Jace Richard, he/him	X	
Taylor Gleffe, she/her	X		Tessa Robinson, she/her	X	
Dennis Grace-Montero, he/him		U	Michael Thurman-Noche, he/him (Co-Chair)	X	
Shaun Irelan, he/him	X		Robert Thurman-Noche, he/him	X	
Toni Kempner, she/her	X		Sam Wardwell, they/them		E
Julia Lager-Mesulam, she/her	X		Joanna Whitmore, she/her	X	
Heather Leffler, she/her	X		Abrianna Williams, she/her (Co-Chair)	X	
Marisa McDowell, she/her	X		Michelle Wilson	X	
Scott Moore, he/him	X				
<b>PC Support Staff</b>			<b>Guests</b>		
Lisa Alfano			Dennis Torres (Community Liaison, Gilead Sciences)		
Jonathan Basilio			Jake Schmeider (Quest)	X	
Laura Bradley			Clay Robbins (Cascadia)	X	
Aubrey Daquiz, she/her	X		Marissa Freeman (CAP)	X	
Jenny Hampton, she/her (Recorder)	X		Kevin Hockley (Optum 340B)		
Amanda Hurley, she/her	X		Vanessa Leja, Gilead	X	
Jenna Kivanç			Sydney Dutton		
Marisa McLaughlin, she/her			Heather Hargraves		
Kim Toevs, she/her or they/them			Rachel, ORAETC	X	

\* A = Unexcused Absence; E = Excused Absence; L = On Leave