

Metropolitan Jacksonville Area HIV Health Services Planning Council

Council News and Updates

May 2022

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IN THIS ISSUE:

[**A Word from the Chair**](#)

[**New Faces: Get to Know a Member**](#)

[**Save the Date: Monthly Calendar**](#)

[**How to Attend Council Meetings**](#)

[**Meeting Minutes**](#)

[**Partner Announcements**](#)

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

By Dawna Cornelissen, Chair

This month the Planning Council is hosting two very important events to collect input from people living with HIV/AIDS in the Jacksonville area. The input helps the Planning Council perform its legislative responsibilities of identifying community needs, assessing the capacity to meet those needs, and allocating Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program resources. We hope you will join us and/or pass the information on to other community members impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Community Forum @ Community Connections

May 12, 2022 12 – 2 p.m.

515 W 6th St

Third Floor Conference Room

Jacksonville, FL 32203

Lunch will be available for the first 25 community members who register and show up.*
To register or for more information, please email Kandrade@coj.com or call 904-255-3346.

Community Forum @ Northeast Florida AIDS Network Luncheon

May 27, 2022 12 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

1415 McDuff Ave S

Jacksonville, FL 32205

Lunch will be provided.

No registration is required.

*Please note that the lunches provided at this event are for community members and Part A sub-recipient staff should bring their own lunch.

NEW FACES: GET TO KNOW A MEMBER

By Randal Lucero, Member & Priority and Allocations Co-Chair

It is an honor to have been approved by the Planning Council body and appointed by Mayor Lenny Curry to serve on the Metropolitan Jacksonville Area HIV Health Services Planning Council. I'm excited to be part of such an esteemed, integral, and robust group of individuals working together to improve services and the quality of care for individuals living with HIV in the Jacksonville area.

A native of New Mexico, I moved to the Jacksonville area in 2019. I have always enjoyed helping others; volunteerism has always been in the forefront of my professional experiences. As a Hispanic man living with HIV, living within a culture and religion that has been known to have a low level of tolerance towards the LGBT community and individuals affected by HIV, can almost be compared to the U.S. military's former policy commonly known as "Don't ask, don't tell." Nevertheless, I have learned to overcome obstacles and stigma associated with living with HIV.

Content warning: The following paragraph references violence and sexual assault.

In 1997 I was living in San Francisco. One evening as I was returning home from a dinner party, my life was changed forever. I was viciously attacked, rendered unconscious, sexually assaulted, and, after my skull was smashed in with a rock, left for dead. It was not my time to depart this planet and miraculously I was found by someone out for their morning run. Although the recovery from physical injuries took a year, the most difficult part of the healing process was overcoming the emotional trauma from the sexual assault and stigma of learning I was infected with HIV. I moved forward and it was during that healing period that I first began to become an advocate not only for myself as a man now living with HIV, but also for others.

When I was initially diagnosed, I was shuttled from doctor to doctor. I lost employment because of my status and unfounded bias toward those living with HIV. I had no outside help when I needed to find resources and organizations to help me while I recovered from my injuries and continued my battle with HIV. I took it upon myself to learn how to find assistance in the medical community for my injuries and HIV care. I became a self-taught expert in navigating the often-frustrating red tape that prevents many HIV patients from obtaining help and entering care. It was not easy, but I persevered, and now I am able to provide the rare combination of knowledge and firsthand experience when I provide help to a person living with HIV and/or their family or caregivers.

I took a horrible life threatening and life-changing experience and turned it into something productive and positive. Because of what I experienced, I chose to use my knowledge and experience to help others. I became a volunteer dedicated to combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic through advocacy and education. I have been an active advocate for fair and effective policy and funding for HIV programs and services. It is my love of people, as well as the injustices and barriers I encountered, that continue to motivate me to continue my work within the community. I have dedicated my life to confronting HIV stigma and educating people about HIV with bravery, creativity, compassion, and humor.

I have been extremely active in the national HIV community, and a leader on state, local, and national HIV policy issues. I have served as a board member on several well-known national and state HIV organizations, where I have worked for over 15 years advocating for individuals living with and communities affected by HIV. As the former Chair of the *National Quality Center's Consumer Advisory Board*, Co-founder & Program Director of the *New Mexico Aging and Long*

Term Services HIV Advocacy and Outreach Program and State Consumer Representative to the *New Mexico Department of Health HIV Services Clinical Quality Management Committee*, I created several programs and outreach events making an extensive impact within the rural Southwest Hispanic and Native American communities by improving the quality of care, access to services, reducing stigma, and creating effective and productive communication between individuals living with HIV and National, State, Tribal and Local Governments.

On numerous occasions, I have been asked to testify and speak before The White House, members of the United States Senate and Congress, state and local legislative bodies, numerous conferences, and outreach events to address a range of HIV issues, including giving personal testimony of my journey living and thriving with HIV, support for scientifically proven interventions, and adequate resources to meet broaden HIV goals. I have made an extensive impact within the community as I have advocated and helped those directly and indirectly affected by HIV with peer support, assistance with case management including insurance enrollment and maintenance, coordination of medical and other health appointments, home-based life skill advocacy, client centered referrals, and coordination of a multitude of patient services.

What I am most passionate about is dispelling the myths and stigma that surround HIV/AIDS so that those who are directly and indirectly affected are not the recipients of unfair treatment and to help those individuals maintain a positive outlook which often results in a better quality of life. I am an individual living with HIV who strives to learn as much as possible and translate the knowledge into lay terms for others to understand the complexities of living and aging with HIV. **HIV50+ Strong and Healthy!**

SAVE THE DATE: MONTHLY CALENDAR – May 2022

Confirm dates, times, and locations of meetings with the Planning Council Support Staff at PlanningCouncil@coj.net or 904-255-3346.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5 Bylaws Committee 1809 Art Museum Dr 2 - 4 pm	6
9	10	11 Membership Committee 1809 Art Museum Dr 2 - 4 pm	12 Community Forum @ Community Connections 515 W 6th St 12 - 2 pm <hr/> CCC Committee* 515 W 6th St** 2 - 4 pm	13
16 Priority & Allocations Committee 3435 University Blvd N 2 - 4 pm	17 Executive Committee 1809 Art Museum Dr 2 - 4 pm	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 Planning Council UF Towers Charter Room 580 8 th St W 3 - 5 pm	27 Community Forum @ NFAN Luncheon 12 pm
30	31			

*CCC = Continuum of Care Coordination

**Note new meeting location at the FL Dept of Health Duval County



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.
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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-a-c-t,-part-a/planning-council/about-us#MEETING%20MINUTES>

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



UPCOMING EVENTS:

May HAB You Heard Webinar

May 19, 2022 2 – 3 p.m.

Register: https://hrsa.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FG9UbdF7S4-T_HpLt7kp6w

Charting the Course for the Next Five Years: 2022-2026 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (Virtual)

May 19, 2022 3 – 4 p.m.

Register: <https://targethiv.org/calendar/charting-course-next-five-years-2022-2026-goals-objectives-and-strategies>

National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS

May 25 – 28, 2022

New Orleans, Louisiana

Early Bird Registration Ends 4/11/22. Registration costs vary:

<https://viethconsulting.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=67998>

National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment

August 23 – 26, 2022

More info: <https://ryanwhiteconference.hrsa.gov>

Save the Date:

1st Annual 4K Walk/Block Party: Removing HIV Stigma

July 9, 2022

Contact havingincrediblevictory@yahoo.com for more information.

Save the Date:

26th Annual Infectious Diseases and HIV Conference of Northeast Florida: Pathways to Assuring Health Equity in HIV Care

October 28, 2022 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

More info:

<https://pediatrics.med.jax.ufl.edu/ufcares/annualhivconference>

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>

Additional Info on COVID-19 and People with HIV:

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/staying-in-hiv-care/other-related-health-issues/coronavirus-covid-19>

Positive Attitudes HIV/AIDS Support Group

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Christ Church of Peace

1240 McDuff Ave S, Jacksonville, FL 32205

For more information, please contact posatt123@aol.com.

Beacons of Hope HIV Support Group at Lutheran Social Services

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 3 – 5 p.m.

4615 Philips Highway Jacksonville, FL 32207

Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Matthew at 904-739-7019 or Patrick at 904-739-7015.

UF CARES Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Every 3rd Tuesday of each month 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. via Zoom

Email bonita.drayton@jax.ufl.edu or call 904-244-3044 for more information.

Northeast Florida World AIDS Day Committee Meetings

2nd Tuesday of each month 12 – 1 p.m.

Meetings are currently being held virtually.

Email timm.purcell74@gmail.com for meeting info.

HIVCareNow Testing and Events Calendar

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

New FDOH HIV 101 Video

<https://vimeo.com/651650169/db56daaa5a>

Archived Webinars from the Southeast AIDS Education & Training

Center: <https://www.seaetc.com/education-training/archived-webinars/>

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 an 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 information about Ryan White eligibility and services in our area, please visit <https://www.hivcarenow.com/get-treated/ryan-white-program.html>.

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

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