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**Marin HIV/AIDS Care Council Meeting
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
4:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.
899 Northgate Drive – 4th Floor Conference Room
San Rafael, CA 94903
[Approved April 11, 2012]**

Council Members Present: Roy Bateman, Kevin Cronin, Trinity Dushon, Wade Flores, James Frazier, Walter Kelley, Jennifer Malone, Scott Marcum.

Council Members Absent: Elaine J. Flores (AU).

Staff Present: Chris Santini, Michael Schieble, Sparkie Spaeth.

Public: Paul Edson, Cher Evans, Leslie Gallen, Bobby Moske.

I. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to Order at 4:39p.m. by Co-Chair Cronin.

II. Roll Call.

Roll was called and quorum was established with 8 of 9 Members present. CM E.J. Flores (AU) was absent and unexcused.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda – VOTE

The agenda was reviewed. VIII. Membership interview and vote was tabled. Saulo Bonagrazia was not available to attend the meeting.

CM Frazier motioned to approve the agenda. CM Kelley seconded.

A voice **vote** was conducted. Co-Chair Cronin asked for objections. No objections were heard. The edited agenda was approved.

IV. Review and Approval of January 11, 2012 Minutes – VOTE

The minutes were reviewed.

CM W. Flores made a motion to approve the January 11, 2012 minutes.

CM Kelley seconded.

A voice **vote** was conducted. Co-Chair Cronin asked for objections. No objections were heard. The January 11, 2012 Marin Care Council minutes were approved.

V. General Announcements

CM Malone announced that the Marin AIDS Project / MAP will host a Latino/Latina Support Group on February 9, 2012. Maria Camacho will facilitate.

CM Frazier announced that the second annual Diva's Karaoke Contest will be February 16, 2012 from 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Stop AIDS Project.

CM Frazier announced that Black Coalition on AIDS will host "HIV & A Healthy Heart" in their lunch and learn series on February 17, 2012 from 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. at 2800 Third Street.

CM W. Kelley announced that a tax credit is available to individuals with SSI income who did not file a 2010 tax return. Contact Nicole Williams 925-752-6793 for details.

CM W. Malone announced an expanded Marin HIV Testing program. The program is aimed at “at risk individuals” and includes rapid response and remote testing.

CM W. Kelley reported on the following events; 1.) January 18, 2012, Our Love, “Want to make love like a porn star?” 2.) February 7, 2012, Black Coalition on AIDS, 3rd Annual - HIV Awareness Day March and Candlelight Vigil. 3.) February 10, 2012, Black Brothers Esteem – LGBT Black History Event.

CM W. Flores reported that Anne Donnelly is available to present information on Federal health care reform to the Marin Care Council at the March or April meeting.

CM W. Flores reported that the Transgender Taskforce has been meeting with Michael Spence as coordinator.

CM W. Flores reported that the San Francisco Council Steering Committee meets monthly as a work group.

CM W. Flores reported that the San Francisco EMA – HIV Advocacy Group interim Coordinator can be reached at the AIDS Legal Referral Panel. (514)-701-1200

VI. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

VII. Co-Chair Report

No report.

VIII. Membership

Membership Interview – Saulo Bonagrazia

Item tabled. Applicant not available to attend the meeting.

Discussion of Applicant and Membership Vote

Item tabled.

IX. Community Outreach and Advocacy

Discussion of Spring Community Forum

Dates were considered for the Community Forum.

CM Kelley made motion to approve Thursday, April 26, 2012 as the date for the Community Forum.
CM Frazier seconded.

Public Comment: None

A voice **vote** was conducted. All were in favor and none were opposed. April 26, 2012 was approved as the date of the Spring Community Forum.

The Health and Wellness Center was suggested as the Forum Location. The presentation topic of Health Care Reform was suggested.

A discussion about ADAP billing issues followed. Since January 1st, some clients are being told at the pharmacy that their coverage is terminated. Council Members shared their personal experience with the issue. It was concluded that there has been a change in the group number. Clients were not informed of the group number change, which has resulted in confusion and an increased need for benefits counseling and case manager contact.

S. Spaeth suggested writing up the problem and forwarding the ADAP billing issue to the County Representative to the California Healthcare Executives for troubleshooting.

Public Comment: Jami Ellerman of the HHS Clinic advocated for benefits counseling funding. An increase in benefits counseling is anticipated during the transition from the Low Income Health Program / LIHP to the new CMSP / Path to Health program. Co-Chair Cronin reported problems with Moms Pharmacy coverage during the transition stating, "...they can't find the [new] Path to Health agreement".

X. Division of Public Health Report

C. Santini reported that the Client Satisfaction Survey had been mailed out. Clients were reminded to put their name on the outside of the envelope, so the incentive (food card) can be mailed.

S. Spaeth reported the restructuring of two departments. The Mental Health and Drug Addiction (ATOD/Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) services will be restructured into the new Behavioral Health group. The new department is based on the assumption that individuals coming into care have more than one problem.

Public Comment: None

XI. Implementation of Unspent Funds Reallocation FY 2011-'12 – VOTE

A handout titled, "Proposal for Implementation of 2011-12 Unspent Funds Reallocation" and a calendar illustrating monthly, the Part A and Part B budget timing was distributed and reviewed. The proposal developed by C. Santini had been e-mailed to Council Members on January 19, 2012.

The action item from the proposal was read:

"I propose that we substitute the unspent Part A money for the Part B money that we have been using to pay for food cards. We budgeted \$70,000 in Part B money for food cards for the contract year ending June 30, 2012 and we have been spending these funds since July 2011. Because of a time lag in billing the State for the Part B funds, we have some leeway to switch those expenses to Part A. If we substitute the unspent Part A funds to pay for food cards instead, this substitution will free up an amount of Part B funds equal to the unspent Part A funds, but we will have until June 30, 2012 to spend the money. This substitution could result in ending the Part B year (ending June 30, 2012) with unspent Part B money in the food service category. But by making this substitution now, we gain the flexibility to change the Part B budget to use the funds in other service categories that would be cut because of the reduction in Part A funds."

CM W. Flores asked if the Council could reallocate the unspent funds in the FY2011-'12. C. Santini responded that it was unrealistic to distribute and spend the money with only 21 days remaining before the end of the fiscal year. CM Frazier asked what would happen if the funds were unspent. C. Santini responded, "...we probably have to give it back". The substitution would "carry over" the unspent funds.

Co-Chair Cronin reminded Members that the unspent funds were from savings in the dental program, unspent Council Support and Residential Substance Abuse funds. CM Bateman added, "...this money is not a windfall, we are facing a cut in 2012-'13". CM Dushon summarized the proposal saying, "This is just a book keeping adjustment".

To implement the substitution, there would be book keeping adjustments made to the Part A and Part B funds that were used to purchase food cards. As a result, a lengthy discussion followed about the food card program and the M.A.P. food pantry program. CM Malone described the direct program costs and administrative costs associated with running the M.A.P. food pantry. Council Members shared their personal experiences and satisfaction levels with the M.A.P. food pantry. Council Support gave a history of the Food Service Category and its' evolution from the food box program to the current food card program.

CM Malone made motion to implement the substitution of Part A and Part B funds as detailed in the proposal. CM Kelley seconded.

Public Comment: None

A randomized roll call vote was conducted.

Vote:

Ayes: CM Bateman, CM Dushon, CM E.J. Flores, CM W. Flores, CM Kelley, CM Marcum.

Noes: None

Recuse: CM Cronin, CM Malone

Abstain: None

County Staff will implement the substitution of Part A and Part B funds as proposed. **6-0-2-0**

XII. Discussion of FY2012-'13 Funding Reduction Scenarios

CM Bateman suggested that given the funding cut, the Care Council strategy and request to the County should be "... to specifically fund cuts to the Ryan White system of care". C. Santini commented that the FY 2012-'13 starts on March 1st and the FY2011-'12 unspent funds of \$40,000, "...frees up March through June". There was a discussion and multiple calculations about the amount of the short fall. CM Frazier added, "We need to look at reality. Isn't there a possible State cut?" It was agreed that assuming a cut of \$142,000 and the "carry over" funds of \$40,000, the short fall amount would be estimated at \$100,000 for the period of July 2012 through February 2013.

CM Malone asked when the best time would be to request County funding? S. Spaeth reported that the budget process was currently under way for the period starting July 2012. CM W. Flores suggested that the Co-Chairs review the prior request made in May 2007 by the Care Council to the County for \$150,000. Council Support agreed to provide the minutes from that period to the Co-Chairs for background information. Council Support and CM W. Flores will review their archives to locate a copy of the request letter sent to Dr. Meredith. There was a consensus that immediate action was needed and a letter should be drafted requesting that the County backfill cuts to Ryan White funding.

6:22p.m. Point of Order – Meeting time.

CM Malone motioned to extend meeting time to 6:45p.m. Seconded unknown.

VOTE - All in favor. Meeting time extended to 6:45p.m.

CM W. Flores made motion to authorize the Council Co-Chairs to draft a letter to be sent to Larry Meredith requesting County funding to back fill cuts estimated to be \$100,000 effective July 1, 2012. CM Dushon seconded.

A voice **vote** was conducted. All were in favor. No one was opposed. The Co-Chairs will draft a letter requesting \$100,000 in County funding to back fill Ryan White funding cuts effective July 1, 2012.

Following the vote, CM W. Flores voiced concern related to the Brown Act. If the Co-Chairs circulated the draft letter via e-mail to Council Members and solicited feedback, that could be perceived as an on-line meeting. Discussion about the Brown Act followed. Council Support, M. Schieble clarified the result of the vote stating, "...the Council voted yes, entrusting the Co-Chairs with this task". It was agreed that the Co-Chairs were empowered to draft the letter on behalf of the Care Council.

S. Spaeth suggested that the letter include an explanation of the July 2012 through February 2013 funding time frame. L. Meredith is aware that the other two Counties are back filling March through June 2012. The letter should explain the \$40,000 "carry over" money and the time frame.

Public Comment: *Meeting tape at 6:31p.m.*

Bobby Moske and Paul Edson were present to advocate for continued funding for the Marin AIDS Project. Each detailed their individual experiences and satisfaction with services provided by the Marin AIDS Project. Each described the importance and role of M.A.P. services in their success and wellness.

B. Moske concluded his comments stating, "These are vital, critical services. I hope that when you look at the budget and want to see where to put some of this money. I can speak not only as a Peer Advocate, but as a Client, these people [M.A.P.] have saved my life. I hope you will consider restoring some of this money.

P. Edson stated, "My success is directly tied to the Marin AIDS Project. All the other areas that M.A.P. gets funding is critical".

Based on the County response to the back fill request, Council Members acknowledged that an entire reallocation for FY2012-'13 may result. CM Bateman suggested a possible scenario that would fund all Core Services by cutting funding to Support Services. CM Malone expressed the need for Benefits Counseling. Council Members agreed that current units-of-service data was needed and the discussion would be scheduled on the March Care Council meeting agenda.

XIII. Review of Meeting Feedback and Recaps
2011 and 2010 Meeting Feedback and Rating Recaps
Agenda item tabled due to meeting time.

XIV. New Business

Next Meeting: **March 14, 2012**

Next Step / To Do's

- Agenda Item – Discuss healthcare reform proposed changes / Anne Donnelly.
- Agenda Item – Saulo Bonagrazia Membership Interview.
- Agenda Item – Approval vote Bylaw changes & revised Handbook.
- Agenda Item – [CS] CMSP presentation to Care Council – Overview and impact on RW funds.
- KC&SM – Co-Chairs draft letter to LM requesting funding for FY2012-'13.
- KC – Call Courtney at SFAF.org – ADAP billing issue “coverage terminated”.
- WF contact Anne Donnelly to present March or April meeting.
- WF Draft 04/26/12 Community Forum flyer.
- MJS – Research 05/2007 letter to LM. Review storage.
- SS – Forward ADAP billing issue to California Healthcare Executives

XV. Meeting Adjourned at 6:51p.m.