



**Marin HIV/AIDS Care Council Meeting  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

**4:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.**

**899 Northgate Drive – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**San Rafael, CA 94903**

**[ Approved April 9, 2014 ]**

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR

Margaret Kisluk  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

**Council Members Present:** Roy Bateman, Kevin Cronin, Trinity Dushon, Elaine Flores, Deborah Kasel, Walter Kelley, Scott Marcum

**Council Members Absent:** James Frazier (LOA), Jennifer Malone(AE)

**Staff Present:** Cicily Emerson, Chris Santini, Michael Schieble

**Public:** Craig Combs, Jami Ellermann, Wade Flores, Gail Theller – Community Action Marin

HIV/AIDS Services

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**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Marcum at 4:36p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll was called and quorum was established with 7 of 8 Members present.

CM Frazier (LOA) effective March 1, 2014. CM Malone (AE) was absent and excused.

**III. Review and Approval of Agenda - VOTE**

CM Bateman motioned to approve the agenda. CM Kasel seconded.

CM Kasel voiced concern that she did not know that the Forum Planning Workgroup was going to meet, following the Care Council meeting and she was not prepared for the Workgroup meeting. Council Support encouraged all Council Members to review the agenda on the Wednesday before the meeting, when they receive the e-mail.

A voice **vote** was conducted. Ayes were heard and all were in favor.  
The agenda was approved.

**IV. Review and Approval of Minutes**

There were no draft minutes available to approve.

**V. General Announcements**

CM Bateman recognized Gail Theller, who was present and thanked her for her years of service. G. Theller is retiring from Community Action Marin / C.A.M. after 47 years, 36 years as the Director. CM Bateman acknowledged the long standing work of C.A.M. through the AIDS epidemic to today and the services they are currently providing.

CM Bateman reported that people who are eligible to move to public housing assistance, should begin the process of signing up on waiting lists to migrate from HOPWA. CM Bateman stated, "We don't know what the future of [HOPWA] funding will be from the Federal level". In the long term, it is anticipated that funding will shrink for PLWHA, who receive HOPWA rent subsidies.

CM Kelley announced, Community United will present a Health Education Conference on August 1 & 2, 2014, in Oakland, California. The Conference focus is, "Learning the ABC's on HIV/AIDS and STD's and Mental Health. Achieving an ADIS free Community".

CM Kelley reported that on February 21, 2014, members of Black Brother's Esteem/BBE attended "Generations 2014: Black LGBT History Experiences", a celebration and awards ceremony, celebrating Black

LGBT Lives and Histories.

CM Kelley provided Council Support with a DVD titled, "The Journey, portraits of people living with HIV". The DVD is designed to help HIV/AIDS Service Providers and Service Organizations understand common barriers to care and issues with stigma, isolation, disclosure, relationships, and acceptance for PLWHA.

**VI. Co-Chair Report**

No report from the Co-Chairs.

**VII. Public Comment**

Wade Flores "At the full Council meeting in San Francisco, the Office of AIDS made a presentation and they introduced, 'Linkage to Care'. Which sort of means, that we now get services in San Francisco and San Mateo, between the three Counties, which we were all hoping for. But there still is some sticklers. It was a nice discussion and everybody is going to discuss it some more, I guess in the later months, but that was a big step that we now can cross the three County lines to get services. Where, if we couldn't find it in Marin, they'll let us go to San Francisco or go to San Mateo. So, that's a big step."

CM Cronin asked C. Emerson, "Cicily, do you know anything about that?" C. Emerson responded, "No. I'll talk a little bit more when we reach the Public Health report. I don't want to respond to Public comment".

**VIII. Division of Public Health Report**

C. Santini reported, "...we did have a little unspent money from the Dental Clinic in Part B money, that is going to be used to buy food cards". The Council had previously voted to recommend that any unspent funds should be used for the purchase of food cards.

C. Emerson distributed "HHS Report March 2014" and reported: 1.) The prevention programs are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 5 year funding cycle. The Marin AIDS Project / MAP is working with the jails. A social networking program is being coordinated by Andy Fyne at MAP.

C. Emerson stated. "The Marin AIDS Project is launching a social networking program, where they have peers actually refer people into testing and Andy Fyne in now coordinating that program. We're also doing on-line outreach, so through geo-locating applications there is an outreach program presence on-line. That's something that we are modeling after San Mateo, the strategy. It's really hard to reach folks in a place where there is not a lot of gay identified places where people hang out, such as San Francisco, where you can actually do an outreach in a bar. Here that doesn't exist. So, we are really trying to reach that target population. So, we are really excited about that."

2.) The "Greater Than AIDS" campaign started in 2009. The current prevention campaign, "Speak Out", features real people. The outreach posters are in Marin Malls and transit centers. Co-Chair Kelley commented that he saw a poster at the San Rafael Transit Center. The net outreach campaign, "I Got Tested" will begin in June 2014. 3.) The Ryan White fiscal year 2014-'15 started on March 1, 2014. Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, all existing contracts go on extension, until the actual award is known. 4.) The Client Satisfaction Survey for FY2013-'14 has begun. 179 surveys, 17 of those in Spanish were mailed at the beginning of March. The survey can be completed on-line or by mail. To date, 48 have returned paper surveys and 5 have completed the survey on-line. Surveys are to be completed and returned by March 31, 2014. The incentive for completing the survey is a \$20 food card. C. Santini added that the ARIES database was used for the mailing to "share Clients, who permit mail to come to home and new this year, we put the survey on-line with Survey Monkey. People are given a postage paid addressed return envelope." A flyer was included with the March food cards, announcing the mailing.

CM Kasel asked how many "non share" Clients are in ARIES. C. Santini commented that for FY 2013, there were 251 total Clients in the ARIES database and 179 were mailed. Last year, FY2012, 189 surveys were mailed. It is hoped that the on-line option advertised in the food card mailing will get non-share Clients to participate. C. Emerson added, that when updates are done with Clients, "share" should be explained. Also, work could be done with Providers, to develop a separate list of Clients that only want to be contacted for the survey. CM Kasel stated, "If anybody is getting services, they should be required to fill out the survey". CM Bateman commented, "I'm really impressed with the strategic nature of electronic contact".

5.) February San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council meeting, "...I did not attend the February

meeting, so I'm not aware of any discussion about opening up the system wide or any official decision on that. It has been a topic of discussion. I know the Prevention program did do an update about their linkages, which would include inter-county linkages. So, I can tell you that I will look into it and get you an official answer. That would be a very large decision for the EMA to make, to be able to move between Counties for Ryan White Part A services. That has never happened before. There are certain services that are, like AIDS Legal Referral Panel, so there are some services like legal services, that are for the three Counties... I'll give you an update at the next meeting".

Public Comment: Wade Flores stated, "I'm just a little offended by her [C. Emerson] comment. I am a Member of that Council in San Francisco. I did attend the meeting. It was a ten minute discussion on the very topic of linkage to care, so it's being discussed. There's a lot of technicalities to it, but it's being discussed and that was the report. I'm not a liar. I didn't go and make it up. I was at the meeting. It was discussed. That's it!"

#### **IX. Marin County HIV System of Care Report**

C. Emerson reported, "In the Fall, you had approached Larry Meredith to do a backfill for the System of Care and asked Kaiser for assistance for services already provided. So, we met with Larry Meredith and conducted an assessment. I think we've shared the results with you and they are part of the public record now. We've shared them at the December meeting and we shared the Client portion of it at the January meeting, so I would ask everybody to refer back to those presentations. I'm not going to go over those presentations now about the findings. Just for you guys to understand that the goal behind that is, you know, we have decreasing Federal resources at about 30%. So, we need to look at what we can do to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the system. We also haven't put a RFP [request for proposal] out for many years for many of our services, in many years. How many years has it been?"

C. Santini, "We put out for testing [Prevention], but before that, it was for home based care when Hospice [By The Bay] got out of the business."

Co-Chair Kelley asked, "Should they be making presentations to us [the Care Council] as well? C. Emerson responded, "The contracting is the job of the Grantee, which is us [Marin County], so... once the award amount has been given, I do think any discussion should definitely happen with as many stakeholders as possible."

C. Emerson continued, "Usually how an RFP works; you put out what you are looking for and then people respond. There is a question and answer period that is transparent, so that people are asked to answer on-line. We may or may not have a bidders conference for people that are interested in bidding on it, come."

The RFP process was outlined; letters of intent, request for proposal, if multiple letters of intent are received, an independent panel would be convened, award, award announcement, contract negotiation, and final contract. The timeline of the process is based on having the new contract start on July 1, 2014.

C. Emerson continued, "The RFP will be for integrated HIV support services, so the RFP will go out as a bundle, not as individual service categories. Services will be bundled, so that it is going to be a more integrated model of services." Currently, each Service Category is a "mini contract" with each scope of work, which has resulted in fragmentation. The goal is to remove fragmentation and increase efficiency. Client feedback for the Scope of Work could be solicited at the Spring Community Forum. Everything will be "status quo" until July 1, 2014. All changes in service will include Client transition plans.

San Francisco is in the process of applying for a waiver for the 75%/25% requirement. If granted, Marin could be covered by the San Francisco waiver.

The Benefits Counseling and Mental Health Service categories were discussed. Consolidation of multiple Service Providers to a Lead Contractor, who could subcontract, was given as an example of increased efficiency in the system of care. The "Payer of last resort" requirement would still apply. CM Bateman stressed the need for continued Client and Service Provider education about Medical Case Management services verses Non-Medical Case Management (benefits counseling) services and the services provided in each category. HHS Clinic cost savings were discussed.

Co-Chair Kelley asked C. Emerson to address the rumors that MAP was closing down. C. Emerson stated, "I've heard that rumor. Jennifer [Malone] shared with me that that was a rumor. There is no reason to believe that the Marin AIDS Project is closing. We are under contract with them. They are delivering services. I know

that there has been furloughs, but there are no plans to close that I know. I've actually met with their Board Members and they've assured me that they have no plans to close."

Public Comment *None*

**X. Membership - VOTE**

Leave of Absence – James Frazier

Council Support announced that CM Frazier had submitted a three month leave of absence request, dated February 12, 2014, with a start date of March 1, 2014.

Membership Recruitment Flyer

CM Kasel volunteered to "captain" the project to update the Membership recruitment flyer. The draft will be submitted to the Council for approval.

Public Comment *None*

**XI. Community Outreach and Advocacy**

Review of 2014 Community Forum Planning Workgroup Summary Notes

The Workgroup summary notes for February 2, 2014 and February 26, 2014 were reviewed by the Council. CM Kasel voiced concern that she did not know that the Workgroup would be meeting, following the Council meeting and she was not prepared. There was a brief discussion of what could be accomplished at the Workgroup meeting.

Public Comment Wade Flores stated, "For the Forum, I think you should really explain what's going on with the RFP process and all the changes that are going to be happening. Because, when that happens, it's going to be confusing to everybody. What services are going to go where, why they got changed. You're going to have all those kinds of questions, so you should make time for that."

**XII. 2014 Care Council Calendar – VOTE**

2014 Calendar Review and Approval - VOTE

The following suggestions were made regarding the Allocation and Prioritization process and meetings:  
CM Kasel – Split the Council into small groups to develop proposals to be presented to the total Council. Co-Chair Kelley – Marin Council Members to attend the San Francisco Allocation training workshop. CM E.J. Flores – Make sure the graphics have definitions and are sent out in advance of the meetings. CM Cronin – A County proposal that include narratives from the RFP process, so cost savings and other changes were fully understood.

CM Cronin stated, "One thing I want on the minutes here; we asked for backfill and we didn't get it. Now, we have people sitting here talking about where MAP is closing. There have been some serious ramifications about not knowing when to ask for money and the County not backfilling has had some serious impact on everybody. M.A.P. has been around for thirty years and now it kind of looks like a shell [referring to Co-Chair Kelley's inquiry, "...rumors that MAP. was closing down" see IX. *Marin County System of Care Report*] and nobody knows if it's going to be around. People have lost jobs and everything has been cut back. So, when I said last year that we need to backfill to keep the system going, so we know what things will look like after the ACA was implemented, the answer was no. I think the consequences that I argued, that we should try to avoid, have come to fruition and it has had a serious impact. I want to criticize the County and the Department for not supporting us at that time. I want it on the record that we asked for a backfill, we didn't get it, and the consequences have been dire."

A discussion followed about Council Members role in the Allocation process as Client advocates. The Council Member's responsibility of representing all Clients in the system of care when making Allocation decisions was discussed. The Marin County maintenance of effort amounts were noted.

The 2014 Calendar was not finalized. There was agreement that the April Council meeting would include a review of all the Prioritization and Allocation documents. Any additional resources would be established at the April meeting.

Public Comment

Craig Combs [Tape inaudible] *I think it's a great idea to meet twice in July for the Allocation.*

Wade Flores [Tape inaudible] *For the Allocation, focus on the categories that you had the most trouble with.*

**XIII. Next Steps – New Business**

**Next Care Council Meeting:** April 9, 2014 – 899 Northgate 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 4:30p.m.- 6:30p.m.

**Workgroup Meeting:** March 26, 2014 – Spring 2014 Community Forum Planning - 899 Northgate 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 4:30p.m.- 6:30p.m.

**Next Step / To Do's**

- Agenda Item – List of P&A resources and documents
- Agenda Item – Client education on money management.
- DK – Membership recruitment flyer for updating.
- CE – San Francisco FY 2015-'16 Allocation timeline and key dates.
- CE – Report updates to EMA wide access via linkage to care.
- CS – ? Does OA-HIPP require Clients to be “share”?
- MJS – Facilitate KC renewal.

**XIV. Meeting Adjourned at 6:08p.m.**

*The Community Forum Planning Workgroup met following the Care Council meeting.*