

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**March 3, 2025**

**1pm-2:00pm**

**Zoom meeting**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kerry Thomas, Chair  
Pam Biafora  
Susan Baldrige  
Colin Pearsall  
Gregson Pigott, MD  
Joseph Pirone  
Sofia Porres  
Jacqueline Ponce-Rivera

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Nancy Duncan, Co-Chair  
James Colson  
Irina Gelman, DPM  
Cathy Martens  
Maria Mezzatesta  
Angie Partap

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Georgette Beal  
JoAnn Henn  
Nina Sculco, NCDOH  
Shauna Bednar

#### **STAFF ABSENT**

Andrew Knecht DO, NCDOH

#### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Thomas, Chair, began the meeting at 1:05pm by welcoming the members. He requested a moment of silence to reflect on why we are here.

#### **II. Approval of January 13, 2025 Executive Committee minutes**

Mr. Pearsall made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, Executive Committee meeting as read. Ms. Baldrige seconded the motion.

3 approvals    3 abstentions    0 Opposed

#### **III. Approval of March 12, 2025 Planning Council Agenda**

The original agenda included a cultural competency training. However, AETC is unable to present the training. In its place, the committee voted to have a Ryan White Data presentation. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will be set aside for any concerns Council members may have.

Ms. Biafora made a motion to accept the Planning Council agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Baldrige. All in favor-motion carried.

#### **IV. Administrative Update**

Ms. Nina Sculco shared that her duties within the county have expanded, and she will no longer be the Ryan White Project Director. Ms. Sculco introduced Ms. Shauna Bednar as the new Project Director, assuring the committee that she would work closely with Ms. Bednar during the transition. Ms. Jody Brinson was approved as an at-large member of the Executive Committee.

We have not received any specific HRSA guidance regarding changes as a result of the Executive Orders and will continue to conduct business as usual, unless otherwise directed. Mr. Thomas stated that Thursday's Child services are still available. A federal budget vote is

scheduled for March 14. The continuing resolution will likely need to be extended to avoid a government shutdown. A government shutdown and grant cuts will have a significant impact on services and benefits. Ms. Porres was concerned that the undocumented will be less likely to access services, for fear of immigration. It is important that individuals know their rights and that agencies have a plan to deal with the uncertainty and potential challenges.

**V. PC Membership**

The Planning Council membership will consist of 31 members at the end of March. Mr. Edward Soto, a substance abuse provider employed by Sun River Health has given notice effective the end of March. Members were asked for recommendations about how to fill the vacancy as well as for the housing/homeless category.

The unaligned consumer membership exceeds the 33% HRSA requirement at 48% (at 56% consumer membership; 47% unaligned). Five consumers will be cycling off their second term at the end of November. There are ongoing efforts to increase the Hispanic and Black, non-Hispanic to be reflective of the epidemic.

**VI. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Adjournment/Next meetings**

Ms. Biafora made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Baldrige, to adjourn the March 3, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2025, 1pm-2pm.