

## Central Florida HIV Planning Council

### World AIDS Day (WAD) Workgroup Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2025

**Call to Order:** The World AIDS Day Workgroup was called to order by David Bent, Planning Council Support Coordinator at 2:05 PM via Webex.

**Participants Present (all via Teleconference):** Rene Cotto-Lewis, Gabrielle Rodriguez, Sueanne Vazquez, Andre Antenor, Rochelle Joe, Yasmin Andre, Sarah Southern, Emma Bailey, Yasmin Andre, Carlitos Diaz, Anthony McNeil, Lynnea Crawford, Pedro Huertas-Diaz, Kara Johnson Williams

**PCS Staff Present:** Whitney Marshall, David Bent, Laura Perez

<b>Special Order of Business:</b>	<p>David Bent explained that although the workgroup meetings are open to public participation, the Chair of the WAD Workgroup must be a member of the Central Florida HIV Planning Council. He listed the attendees that were eligible for nomination. Sueanne Vazquez and Andre Antenor nominated Renee Cotto-Lewis for the Chair of the workgroup.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Anthony McNeil made a motion to elect Rene Cotto-Lewis as the Chair of the World AIDS Day Workgroup. Sueanne Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion was adopted with a unanimous vote.</p>
<b>Approval of the Agenda:</b>	<p>The workgroup reviewed the meeting agenda and approved it as presented.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Rene Cotto-Lewis made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Andre Antenor seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously without debate.</p>
<b>Approval of the November 20 Minutes:</b>	<p>The workgroup reviewed the November 20 minutes and approved them as presented.</p>
<b>Open the floor for Public Comment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There were no public comments.</li><li>• PCS did not receive any comment cards.</li></ul>
<b>New Business:</b>	<p><b>Overview of Workgroup Purpose</b> David Bent gave an overview of the purpose of the World AIDS Day Workgroup, and gave a timeline of when key decisions need to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Venue secured by mid-July</li><li>• Entertainment secured by mid-August,</li></ul> <p>Members were also encouraged to start thinking about ways to market the event, what kind of media involvement is desired, and what kinds of vendors are desired. David shared that HFUW's Events team will take care of securing the vendors.</p> <p><b>WAD 2024 Recap Exercise</b></p>

Members discussed last year's event, covering what they liked, did not like, what they would like to see changed or done differently, and what they would like to see at this year's event.

Liked about WAD 2024:

- Venue was beautiful, including courtyard area
- Parking flowed smoothly
- Well organized flow of checking in and entering the event space
- Spoken word performer
- Length of the event (programming was between 1 to 1.5 hours)

Disliked about WAD 2024:

- Venue was not visible/accessible to the public and thus did not allow for passersby to see and participate in the event
- Quilt ceremony execution – not enough space and not as smooth as in previous years
- There were more vendors and agency employees in attendance than clients
- Lack of accessibility for the stage
- Difficulties for some attendees in finding the location of event

What could be changed or done differently?

- Publicize/market the event better
- Add more interactive and/or educational pieces to the event
- Name of the event (stigma behind the word "AIDS")
  - The event could be named something different like a "Celebration of" something in honor of WAD
- Coordinate better with commemorative quilt display honoring community member so it feels less disconnected from the event

Desires for this year's event:

- Have more clients attend
- More educational opportunities around HIV (e.g. advancements in HIV field)
- Call to action or advocacy component given the current political climate
- Incorporate art pieces like Her ART Works; WAD 2023
  - Maybe a fashion show?
- More visibility of impacted communities (e.g. Latinx, African American communities)
- Involvement from the other counties that the Planning Council serves

**Establish Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

Members discussed the cadence of future meetings and decided to hold all future workgroup virtual meetings on the second Friday of each month at 2:00 PM.

**Motion:** Sueanne Vazquez made a motion to have the World AIDS Day Workgroup virtual meetings on the second Friday of each month at 2:00 PM. Rene Cotto-Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was adopted with a unanimous vote.

### **Six Hats Overview**

Whitney Marshall gave an overview of the Six Hat Thinking model, which is a tool to facilitate decision-making by encouraging participants to consider problems and decisions from different perspectives.

### **Begin Planning WAD 2025**

Members discussed the following regarding the selection of a date for the event:

- December 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Monday, and if the event is held on that day then it must be an evening event
- There's usually more participation when events are held on the weekend
- If it was held on a different day, we could highlight the events that happened in all the other counties
- There is usually a tree-lighting ceremony that takes place on December 1<sup>st</sup> that local elected officials attend which may impact the availability of those people and certain venues
- December 1<sup>st</sup> is three days after Thanksgiving and that may impact attendance
- The event could be a week of HIV awareness kicked off by World AIDS Day, then the Planning Council event could be the following Friday or Saturday and could highlight events that happened in the community throughout the week
  - Clarifying that Planning Council would not necessarily have to attend every event happening throughout the week, but could instead spotlight the events on social media and the newsletter
  - Some of the events focus on specific populations, and highlighting those could bring awareness to the diverse range of people that are impacted by HIV
  - HFUW Events team shared that they've seen other organizations do similarly
  - If sticking with this idea, potential dates would be Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> or Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>

Members discussed the following regarding the selection of a theme:

- The name of the event should stay the same in order to help normalize the conversation around HIV/AIDS and reduce stigma
- A Met Gala-style theme to have people dress up and make it more of a celebration
- A winter wonderland theme with everyone dressed in white

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme can be more than just décor and aesthetics; what is the takeaway or call to action for the event? What is the intention and goal?</li> <li>• ACT Up inspired theme</li> </ul> <p>Members discussed the following regarding selection of a venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Shakespeare Theater was a popular venue previously</li> <li>• PCS shared that \$18,000 was spent on WAD 2024</li> <li>• Potential venue in Winter Park</li> <li>• An open venue with visibility to the public</li> <li>• The venue should accommodate up to 150 people (including parking)</li> <li>• United Way cannot solicit sponsorships from a liquor company</li> </ul> <p>Members were encouraged to return with ideas on theme, sponsors, and venues for the next meeting.</p>
<b>Announcements:</b>	No announcements.

<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>Yasmin Andre</b>	Share information on a potential venue with PCS
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Friday, June 13, 2025 at 2:00 PM
<b>Adjournment:</b>	3:30 PM

Prepared by: Laura Perez Date: 5/23/2025

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 6/25/25