

## Central Florida HIV Planning Council

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

August 22, 2025

**Call to Order:** The World AIDS Day Workgroup was called to order by the Workgroup Chair, Rene Cotto-Lewis at 2:00 PM via Webex.

**Participants Present (all via Teleconference):** Rene Cotto-Lewis, Sueanne Vazquez, Ira Westbrook, Richelle Joe, Sarah Southern, Yasmin Andre

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

<b>Approval of the Agenda:</b>	The workgroup reviewed the meeting agenda and approved it as presented.
<b>Approval of the August 8 Minutes:</b>	The workgroup reviewed the August 8 minutes and approved them as presented.
<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>Event Programming/Event Flow</b> The workgroup chair reviewed the draft event flow. The committee discussed what kind of music to have playing at the event. Suggestions included upbeat, chill, a mix of different cultures, Spanish music, top 40s, Afrobeats, nothing explicit. It was suggested that more upbeat music be played during the social hour and then calmer music during the event. The chair suggested playing lo-fi music during transitions so it is not silent while people are walking to and from the stage. In regards to funding, updates from HFUW regarding sponsorship information is still pending. Members were encouraged to submit any recommendations for DJs to PCS. There is a specific song that is usually played during the quilt ceremony that will be used again this year.</p> <p>The discussion then shifted to the event's host. Suggestions included Darcell Stevens, past chairs of the Planning Council, and Koiya, who hosted the event last year. Anna Eskamani was suggested, but she is a politician, and this is a non-partisan event; however, she is welcome to speak as a guest. The chair suggested Monica May, and both he and Yasmin Andre have her contact information. The idea of co-hosts was also suggested, with one host possibly being a Planning Council member who can speak to the work that the PC does. The chair also suggested his husband as a potential host.</p> <p>The discussion then shifted to the long-term survivor testimonial. Charlie Wright (Planning Council member) was suggested, as well as Tito from Carlito's LTS study. Dr. Richelle Joe stated that she has at least one</p>

person from her Long-Term Survivors study willing to provide a testimonial. Pictures from the study will also be displayed at the event. It was also suggested that speakers could be filmed providing their testimonial ahead of time, and they can be played on the large screen behind the stage; members expressed enthusiasm about this idea, and also suggested that a slideshow of LTS be displayed, or a combination of a video followed by someone speaking. The members then discussed how a long-term survivor is defined.

Members then provided suggestions for the HIV Service Provider testimonial: Vickie Cobb-Lucien from Embrace Health, and Judith Alvarez from the Florida Department of Health, who can speak to how the ADAP program has evolved over time.

Members were encouraged to submit nominations for the three awards that will be presented at the event, and were reminded that the deadline to submit nominations is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For the final testimonial of the event, the chair suggested reaching out to the Zebra Coalition to see if they had a suggestion for a Youth Advocate to speak. Yasmin stated that, while speakers over 18 years old are preferred, younger than 18 would be possible, but would require additional considerations to receive parental permission. Planning Council members could be asked to volunteer to speak at the next Planning Council Business Meeting.

The workgroup chair is willing to provide the closing remarks, and the raffle for this year's event will most likely be gift cards.

#### **Translation Service**

Members were informed that Spanish translation services have been used at past events based on need and could be acquired for this year's event if there is a need. Sueanne Vazquez offered to translate during the event.

#### **Decorations**

Members discussed potential colors to use for event decorations. Red, green, brown, beige, and gold were suggested. Members were informed that round tables will be used at the event. Sueanne offered gold flickering lanterns for centerpieces and green and gold runners for the tables.

#### **Swag Items**

Members discussed suggestions for swag items for the event. Suggestions included cookies, a swag bag, red ribbons, and a commemorative pin, but with no year on it so that it can be reused. FDOH has provided pins in the past. Members wanted items that are meaningful and useful to people.

*Additional items that were discussed:*

	<p>Members discussed what kind of food to serve at the event. They first discussed what food was served in previous years: Italian Food, Zaza's, White Wolf Café, and BBQ. The workgroup chair suggested southern comfort food and soul food. Sarah Southern shared that the HFUW events department has catering companies that they use for larger events. Members were reminded that any food decisions must consider dietary restrictions with vegetarian and vegan options as well.</p> <p>Yasmin also shared that updates regarding sponsorship information should be available by Labor Day.</p>
<b>Announcements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next Planning Council Business Meeting will be Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.</li> <li>• The Bylaws Ad Hoc Meeting that had been scheduled for next Tuesday was cancelled.</li> </ul>

<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>Rene or Yasmin</b>	Provide PCS with contact information for Monica May
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Friday, October 10, 2025 at 2:00 PM
<b>Adjournment:</b>	3:17 PM

Prepared by: Laura Perez Date: 9/5/2025

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 10/14/2025