

Central Florida HIV Planning Council

World AIDS Day (WAD) Workgroup Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2025

**Call to Order:** The World AIDS Day Workgroup was called to order by the Workgroup Chair, Rene Cotto-Lewis, at 2:06 PM at Heart of Florida United Way, located at 1940 Cannery Way, Orlando, FL 32804.

**Participants Present:** Rene Cotto-Lewis, Fred Cotto-Lewis, Andre Antenor (via teleconference), Anthony McNeil (via teleconference), Beatrice Boursiqot (via teleconference), Pedro Huertas-Diaz (via teleconference), Terrance Hunter (via teleconference), Ira Westbrook (via teleconference), Ida Starks (via teleconference)

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

<b>Approval of the Agenda:</b>	The workgroup reviewed the meeting agenda and approved it as presented.
<b>Approval of the October 10 Minutes:</b>	The workgroup reviewed the October 10 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>Awards</b></p> <p>The workgroup was informed that this meeting will focus on selecting the recipients of the 2025 World AIDS Day awards. Participants used Mentimeter to anonymously vote for who they believed met the award criteria and deserved the award the most. Rene Cotto-Lewis read out each submission and award description prior to each vote. Participants were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments before voting. The categories received the following number of nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service Award: 10</li><li>• Unsung Hero Award: 6</li><li>• Lifetime Achievement Award: 5</li></ul> <p>Each award category is defined as follows:</p> <p><i>The Service Award:</i> The annual Service Award is reserved for those in the HIV workforce who are unwavering in their dedication to improving the healthcare outcomes of the clients that they serve. They are committed to quality, equity and demonstrate integrity in the face of hardship. Those who qualify for the Service Award include, but are not limited to, Case Managers, Peers, Early Intervention Specialists, senior leadership, Referral Specialists, mental health or substance use providers, and any other individual in the HIV field who stands out for their dedication and</p>

	<p>passion. The Service Award recipient must not have received the Service Award in the past.</p> <p><i>The Unsung Hero Award:</i> Unsung Heroes are those who exhibit extraordinary courage, commitment, and selflessness for the cause without seeking credit or praise for the incredible work that they do. They lift others up without expecting anything in return because of their fierce compassion and care for those living with or affected by HIV. A person who demonstrates resilience and perseverance in the face of stigma and hardship and acts as a beacon to the community. Please note: the Unsung Hero Award recipient must not be employed by a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provider or HIV service provider and cannot have received the Unsung Hero Award in the past. If your nominee works for an HIV provider, then your submission will automatically be moved to the Service Award category.</p> <p><i>The Lifetime Achievement Award:</i> The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to those who have devoted their careers to ending the HIV epidemic through exemplary service, perseverance, and leadership. Eligible nominees have made a significant impact in the lives of both clients and colleagues by being exemplary role models via contributions that improve the system of care for all, increase access and health equity, and reduce stigma. Individuals eligible for this category must have at least fifteen (15) years of experience in HIV-related work and cannot have received the Lifetime Achievement Award in the past.</p> <p>The attendees also discussed the method for notifying the nominees and decided to get the winners anonymous for now to encourage more engagement and attendance at the event on December 6<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Announcements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no announcements.</li> </ul>

<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Friday, November 14, 2025 at 2:00 PM
<b>Adjournment:</b>	3:38 PM

**Prepared by:** Whitney Marshall **Date:** 10/30/2025

**Approved by:**  **Date:** 12/10/25