



Minutes ☘ Monday January 13th, 2025

4pm-6:30pm

Virtually through Zoom & in-person @ the Chinook Building downtown

Council Members Present: *Ron Padgett (+Caucus Co-Chair), Andrew Ashiofu (Council Co-Chair), Chelimo Chesire, Lina Stinson-Ali, Alma Garcia-Santos (Lifelong), Morgan Feder (Lifelong), Victor Velazquez (Seattle Roots), Genie Sheth, Katie Hara (Bailey Boushay), Gladys Wiessner (Center for MultiCultural Health), Jen Balkus (Dept. Of Public Health-Seattle & King County)*

Council Members Absent: *John Rodriguez (Dominican Association of WA), Eve Lake (Membership/Operations Co-Chair, Madison Clinic)*

Planning Council Staff Present: Karen Chung, Rose Pipkin

Recipient Staff Present: None

Visitors Present: *Carlos Delgadillo, Laura Jones (WA Dept of Corrections), Vanessa Leja (Gilead), Jen Balkus (Public Health-Seattle & King County), Ranadous Jones (Prospective Councilmember), Chris Wukasz (Prospective Councilmember, WA Dept of Health), Sara Magnusson (Public Health-Seattle & King County), Jenny McDowall (Merck), German Galindo, Abraham (English/Spanish interpreter), Becca Hutcheson (Public Health-Seattle & King County)*

Italics denote Planning Council Membership.

I. Welcome, Meeting Rule Reminder, Introductions and Announcements

No announcements

II. Meeting Agenda

Non-Medical Case Management Housing Reallocation was added to the agenda under VI. Recipient Report. The agenda was approved as amended by acclamation.

III. Meeting Minutes

The December minutes were approved as written by acclamation.

IV. Public Comment

- *Comment was provided requesting help from the Council to get a consumer connected to mental health services after being out of mental health care for several months now. Gratitude was given to Council staff for support already provided, and the consumer continues to attempt to get connected to services. Consumers are experiencing cancellation of dental appointments. Food for attendees both confirmed and not is key for public engagement with the Council.*
- *Public Comment was provided inviting Dow Constatine to come and find out about racism and discrimination a consumer alleges at Council meetings from Council staff. Issues regarding food at a Council meeting in December were brought forward.*

V. Staff Report

- *Telecom reimbursements are being received, with the next round after March 1st. Staff will begin requesting documents for final grant year 2024 reimbursements in February.*
- *Stipends are now going out through end of 2024. Those requesting to stay under \$600 in stipends will receive the highest number of stipends at their usual denomination to stay under this limit.*

- Staff will be sending out member specific annual paperwork packets with financial disclosures. Please reach out to staff with any questions, and staff will be sending out weekly reminders for those who have not finished their packets.
- Staff is open to ideas for events to host or support for the +Caucus this year, as discussions for the **International Day of Friendship (IDOF)** event are already happening.
- Staff is ordering business cards for the Council & +Caucus. If Councilmembers would like personalized business cards, please reach out to Rose to finalize information on cards which come in a minimum order of 200.
- Staff is updating King County emails for Councilmembers. If you have not yet received a KC email or are having technical difficulties accessing yours, please reach out to Rose for assistance.
- Staff is requesting input on committee membership, contact information, and communication preferences. Please reach out at any time to request changes to these.
- Staff prepared a debrief of the extensive list of Council work items accomplished in 2024, and these will be emailed out.

V. Recipient Report

- The Recipient Team is currently out on a team retreat. Council staff provided the report for them.
- There is an urgent need to review a reallocation request for approval regarding the **Shelter Plus Care (SPC)** program providing permanent housing vouchers which has been funded previously through **Non-Medical Case Management (NMCM)**-Housing. There is \$221,000 in unawarded funds allocated to Housing Services, \$121,000 of which can be reallocated to NMCM-Housing to support this program and vouchers. The previous provider did not apply for funds to provide this service, and no other HIV/AIDS Service Organization has applied to provide this service or will provide it with non-Ryan White funds. All NMCM-Housing funds have been awarded. This reallocation would continue housing stability for 46 clients currently utilizing these vouchers and preserve a vital component of housing services. These vouchers are for supportive services, not housing directly. These services help consumers get connected to housing.

<Mark Baker joined the meeting.>

- All agencies eligible for these possible reallocated funds are currently funded **Ryan White Part A (RWPA)** agencies. Capacity for providing the Shelter Plus Care Program would be assessed by ensuring understanding of this program, as well as the existence of a relationship with Plymouth Housing which provides the housing part of these services. This funding would provide SPC vouchers to 46 **People Living with HIV (PLWH)** as allocated by Plymouth Housing. Some of these may shift out of the voucher program to other programs or out of the region. This would open one of the 46 vouchers to other consumers. The vouchers value over \$1 million per year. Plymouth Housing has provided their top 3 choices of HIV/AIDS Service Organizations they would like to partner with through this funding, the Recipient Team is discussing this with them, and there are other agencies which can be partnered with on this if needed. As a last resort the contracting department within Public Health-Seattle & King County will be asked for a waiver. The timeline for getting these funds in place is 6 weeks.

MOTION: Victor moves to accept the proposal as presented. Andrew seconds.

Discussion: Those with conflicts in Housing and NMCM-Housing are unable to vote.

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 5 – Jen, Victor, Andrew, Ron, Lina
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -6- Alma, Morgan, Katie, Genie, Chelimo, Gladys

<Mark Baker left the meeting.>

VI. Executive Committee Report

- The Council is in need of a second co-chair. A request for any nominations for this position was made.
- *Chelimo* was highlighted as an ideal candidate for the role, with significant experience in HIV work.
- *Chelimo* accepted the nomination.
- A request was made for any other nominations, and none were made.

MOTION: Ron Moves to Elect Chelimo as Council Co-Chair. Victor seconds.

Discussion: None

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 11 – *Genie, Ron, Jen, Morgan, Victor, Alma, Andrew, Lina, Katie, Gladys, Chelimo*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-
- Gratitude was expressed to *Andrew* for chairing the Council solo for quite some time.

VII. +Caucus Report

- There was significant discussion on the IDOF event to be held around the beginning of August. Conversation is beginning this early to create a very positive event with significant engagement from community partners.
- There was discussion and information shared on telecom reimbursements, stipends, business cards, and financial disclosures.
- There is a need to update the +Caucus brochure, and this will be moving forward in 2025.

VIII. Membership/Operations Committee Report

- *Eve* was not able to join the meeting today, and there are 2 applications which the committee interviewed and would like to bring before the Council for review for approval.
- *Chris Wukasch* is a representative of **Ryan White Part B (RWPB)** at the **WA State Dept of Health (DOH)** with over 17 years of experience in HIV work coming from a perspective of lived experience. He is excited to work with the Council and Public Health-Seattle & King County to partner support and funding for services.

MOTION: Chelimo moves to accept Chris's application for Council membership. Victor seconds.

Discussion: None

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 11 – *Genie, Ron, Jen, Morgan, Victor, Alma, Andrew, Lina, Katie, Gladys, Chelimo*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-
- *Ranadous Jones* is applying as a consumer. He was a member and finance chair of the Kansas City RWPA Planning Council. He is excited to bring his perspective from another jurisdiction and to work with this Council if accepted.

MOTION: Ron moves to accept Ranadous' application for Council membership. Katie seconds.

Discussion: None

The motion passed with the following vote:

- In favor – 11 – *Genie, Ron, Jen, Morgan, Victor, Alma, Andrew, Lina, Katie, Gladys, Chelimo*
- Opposed -0-
- Abstaining -0-
- Staff will send these applications to the King County Executive's Office for final approval.

IX. System of Care Committee Report

- This committee has not met since the last Council meeting.
- *Ray* stepped away from Council membership and was the only co-chair of this committee.
- This committee created the 4 newly funded service category standards.
- This committee will now begin the annual review of all funded service standards and measures.

X. Needs Assessment, Priority Setting & Resource Allocation Committee Report

- This committee has not met since the last Council meeting.
- *Sam* stepped away from Council membership and was the only co-chair for this committee.
- Once the Recipient Team has finished the contracting process, this committee will be carrying out the assessment of the administrative mechanism.
- After this would be planning for needs assessment in the coming years.

XI. Adjourn

XII. Action Items

- **Staff will send out the 2024 debrief of Council work accomplished through email.**
- **Staff will forward the applications for Chris and Ranadous to the King County Executive's Office.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 10th, 2025 virtually through Zoom and [downtown at the Chinook Building](#).