Children’s Services Council
PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 23, 2014 - 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chair Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present: Ron Alvarez (arrived 4:52 p.m.), Dari Bowman; Vince Goodman, Greg Langowski, Thomas Lynch (arrived 4:56 p.m.), Shelley Vana, Tom Weber (arrived 4:35 p.m.)

2. Minutes of December 5, 2013 PRC Meeting

A motion by Goodman/Bowman to approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2013 PRC meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

3. A. Consent Agenda:

a) Additions, Deletions, Substitutions: None
b) Items to be Pulled from Consent Agenda – There were no agenda items pulled for discussion purposes
c) Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion by Goodman/Bowman to approve the Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

1. Warrants List-Program Reimbursements – Approved by Consent

B. Business Agenda

1. Resolution #14-001 Authorizing SAMIS Collaborative Amendment for Fiscal Year 2013/2014

Tom Sheehan, General Counsel stated that the reason this agenda item was now being presented was because SAMIS was a collaborative of various CSCs, and that it had been approved at the collaborative meeting of Executive Directors December 6, 2013 which was the day after the last Council meeting. Vince Goodman asked whether there were any other changes to the agreement. Mr. Sheehan stated that the budget was the same formula as used in previous years, with another change allowing for local funding partners. He stated that the County had become actively involved, and previously CSC had received the County’s invoice, CSC would pay on behalf of the County, then bill the County after which CSC would get paid. Now the County would receive its invoice directly. He stated that there was also special language in the agreement for Jacksonville regarding its local ordinances, and the SAMIS group had to ensure Jacksonville was in agreement before they could bring it to the Council for approval. Vince Goodman asked about the contingency plan and whether it was incorporated into the new budget. Tana Ebbole stated that
the agenda item was a line item of the budget that had been approved in September, 2013, and that the agenda item was not a discussion of the full CSC budget.

A motion by Vana/Goodman to approve Resolution #14-001 authorizing the SAMIS Collaborative Amendment for Fiscal Year 2013/2014, effective October 1, 2013 was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Investing for Results Update - N/A

E. System of Care Update

1. Palm Beach County Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) Analysis: Analysis of Infant and Fetal Deaths by Specific Periods in a Mother’s Pregnancy

Tanya Palmer, Director of System Performance introduced Jeff Goodman, Research & Evaluation Analyst; Regina Battle, Program Officer; and Inger Cheves, Director of Community Engagement for the BRIDGES. She stated that one of the primary outcomes of the Healthy Beginnings System was to achieve healthy births. She stated that data was collected in an effort to ensure that the pregnant mothers were as healthy as possible and ultimately ended up with a healthy birth.

Jeff Goodman stated that the Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis looked fetal infant deaths by analyzing the child’s weight at the time of delivery, whether the death occurred before, during or after delivery. He stated that when the periods of risk were identified they could have strategies in place to help mitigate the risks and reduce the fetal infant mortality rate in Palm Beach County. He stated that there were four periods of risk:

- Maternal Health and Prematurity – this was when the baby was stillborn or less than 3lb 5oz at birth: attributed to the mother’s health before she got pregnant
- Maternal care – deaths occurring before delivery to fetuses weighing above 3lbs 5oz
- Newborn Care – deaths to infants weighing more than or equal to 3lb 5oz before the infant is 29 days old (most occur before the baby is discharged from the hospital)
- Infant Care – deaths to infants born at least 3lb 5oz and occurring after the first 27 days of life to end of first year (majority occur after the baby leaves the hospital)

Mr. Goodman stated that they had looked at various ethnic groups, including a reference ‘benchmark’ group of where they would want to be. He stated that the State established a reference group of white mothers, non-Hispanic, at least 20 years old, with a minimum education level of a high school graduate. He stated that 44% of all the fetal/infant deaths in Palm Beach County (2008 to 2011, a total of 141 deaths) were due to maternal health, with only 27% of these deaths (16 deaths) being attributed to being part of the reference group, while Black mothers counted for 51% of this number (75 deaths). He stated that this was classified as the ‘excess death rate’ (preventable deaths), and that the non-reference group (all ethnicities) had an excess death rate of 4.9 per 1,000 deaths. He stated that if the excess death rate was zero, there would have been 140 less fetal/infant deaths for the non-reference group. He then gave the statistics specific to Black mothers, and stated that in this category the excess death rate was 7.8 per 1,000 deaths,
and if the excess death rate was 0, there would have been 96 less fetal/infant deaths to Black babies.

Mr. Goodman outlined some of the causes/factors related to maternal health and prematurity deaths:

- Unwanted pregnancy and short inter-pregnancy intervals
- Genitourinary tract infections before and during pregnancy
- Maternal nutrition (he stated that they had taken a sample of pregnant mothers and it had shown that over 30% were obese)
- Anemia
- Smoking before and during pregnancy
- Pregnancies with late onset of prenatal care
- Inadequate systems for transfer of women in early labor to appropriate facilities
- Inadequate systems for transfer of ill premature newborns to appropriate facilities.

Mr. Goodman outlined some of the causes/factors related to maternal care and fetal deaths (fetus died before birth):

- Inadequate monitoring during pregnancy
- Inadequate systems for referral of high-risk women in labor to appropriate facilities.
- Delays in obtaining needed Caesarean deliveries
- Pregnancies with late onset of prenatal care or interruptions in care.
- Smoking before and during pregnancy
- Drug and alcohol abuse before and during pregnancy

Mr. Goodman stated that CSC funded FIMR (Fetal Infant Mortality Review) where they reviewed sample cases of fetal and infant deaths. He outlined one specific recommendation of both the PPOR and FIMR (reviews) as: continue to focus on pre-conception and inter-conception health.

Regina Battle, Program Officer stated that, in response to the information given by the data, they had worked to inform and educate the community, providing resources for a community consortium. She stated that the consortium was designed to maintain a two way conversation regarding the mutual needs of community members, and funders, providers, and stakeholders. She stated that the pilot had begun in January, 2013 with a small pilot in just 4 Zip codes. She stated that the participants were volunteers and met twice per month at BRIDGES locations. She stated that the over-arching theme of the consortium was to increase knowledge of healthy births and infant mortality. She stated that it was a great opportunity for community residents to learn and hear about data from CSC, and put those pieces into action.

Inger Cheves stated that when consortium members were given ‘Happily Ever After’ information they started talking about having individual pockets with a trained educator (possibly a resident) in order to impart the knowledge. She stated that consortium members were able to give them real-life perspective on how to go about engaging the community residents, because they lived in those neighborhoods.
Tanya Palmer stated that Palm Beach County had been one of four communities selected to participate in an equity institute in reducing racial disparities in birth outcomes, sponsored by CityMatCH. She stated that they had discussed the types of program interventions that needed to be in place to address individuals at risk, recognizing that there may be barriers to receiving services or being at optimal health before becoming pregnant. She stated that the consortium had been engaged in completing this work. Inger Cheves stated that there had been four focus groups conducted: African American, Haitian, teens, and men/fathers. She stated that in one of the focus groups there had been 45 members of a Lake Park community that had come together, and they all agreed that no-one had ever asked them their opinions about what worked in their community. She stated that the group had asked that before a flyer was created, for them to review them to determine whether the message was getting across, and whether it would resonate with the neighborhood and community residents. She stated that some of the questions had been too personal, and as a result of such community engagement, the questions had been tweaked.

Ms. Cheves outlined emerging themes from the focus groups:

- Importance of Customer Service
- Distrust of Helpers Invading Privacy
- Racial & Cultural Perceptions
- Interesting teen male insights – all teen male participants in that particular group resided with their grandparents and they shared how they had had to make a different choice than what they saw their peers doing, because their grandparents had not had an opportunity to have a life. She stated that these teen males had made a concerted effort not to have children at this time because they did not want to put their grandparents in the same position that their own mothers had.

Tanya Palmer stated that they intended to use the data to inform and strengthen services available, in addition to continuing to engage the community.

Dari Bowman stated that she had heard Northwood and Lake Park referenced, and asked where else the consortiums were active. Inger Cheves stated that they were in Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach BRIDGES.

**Recommendation: For informational purposes only; no action required.**

2. **Description of Upcoming Requests for Proposal**

Tana Ebbole stated that there were upcoming Requests for Proposals outlined in the PRC notebook which were as a result of the direction agreed upon at the Planning Session.

**Recommendation: For informational purposes only; no action required.**

3. **One-E-App** – Beverly Auerbach, MPA, Director of Provider Professional Development; Kasha Owens, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Palm Beach County

Beverly Auerbach, MPA, Director of Provider Professional Development stated that in 2008 they had been asked by several funders to look at the application process for various local, state, and
federal programs. She stated that a committee had been created to maximize access to health and human services to the broadest population possible through a simplified and efficient single application process which they called One-e-App. She stated that they had engaged in an extensive process including a needs assessment, one on one interviews, webinars, demonstrations, and a request for proposals for such a tool. She stated that representatives from Miami-Dade and Broward counties had also been included in the process. She stated that the One-e-App, a vendor from California, had unanimously been voted as the appropriate service provider. She stated that the South Florida Planning Council had performed a gaps analysis on the One-e-App which had verified that without the tool there would be millions of dollars of available funding given back to the government. 

She stated that United Way had served as the oversight agency for the project and the fiscal agent. Kasha Owers, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Palm Beach County stated that the One-e-App was the name of the tool that was being used, and that she did not want to confuse the name of the project with the name of the tool being used. She stated that it was a multi-benefit platform developed by Social Interest Solutions, and that they were very active in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where they had done similar work. She stated that the tool had gone live in July 2012 and had been active for 18 months. She stated that it was a tool for health and human service organizations in Palm Beach County to screen for eligibility for 12 state and federal programs. She stated when an individual is determined likely to be eligible they could then electronically submit the application through an interface with the Department of Children and Families to assess whether or not they would ultimately be approved for food stamps, Medicaid, and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). 

Ms. Owers stated that there were currently 20 active organizations using the tool in Palm Beach County and that over 5,700 individuals had been screened so far, connecting them to over 13,000 programs. She stated that, together with DCF and the Health Department, they had been able to determine that the estimated benefit value of such connection was over $13 million. She stated that there was still a long way to go, because the gaps analysis had revealed gaps of from $100 million to $300 million, particularly attributed to Medicaid, TANF, and Kid Care. She stated that it was a collaborative with multiple funders committed for multiple years, and they hoped to see it grow in the future.

Tana Ebbole stated that Ms. Auerbach and Ms. Owers had been tenacious in pursuing the tool, and without their work it would not be in place. Shelley Vana stated that 20 agencies were using the tool. Ms. Owers stated that 20 agencies were *actively* using the tool, but that they had trained many more than that. Ms. Vana asked why others were not using it. Ms. Owers stated that they had consciously *not* made it a mandate (as a funder) to use the tool, because if it were mandated it usually didn’t work long-term. She stated that some funders had stated that they were doing a lot of double-entry, they may have their own database system, or may use Access Florida. She stated that by using Access Florida they could apply directly for food stamps, Medicaid and TANF, but what they failed to understand was that it was a holistic, client-centric approach towards determining eligibility, eligibility in not just the 3 programs mentioned, but a total of 12 programs. She stated that they had received numerous testimonials from the folks using the tool that it had changed the way they did business because it was much more efficient. She stated that it was not
meant to be a replacement for the DCF access system but an enhancement, because you were assessing for a far greater number of programs. She stated that the Glades Initiative had been doing phenomenal work, and had exceeded the other agencies with their number of applications. Shelley Vana asked to be provided with a list of agencies actively using the One-e-App. She stated that 2-1-1 was also working with them so that they provided the most up to date information to their clients.

F.  **Evaluations** - N/A

G.  **Presentations** - N/A

4.  **Adjournment**

   The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.