



2021-2022 Term

Planning Council Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

.....

Welcome/Intro/MOS

4:00 pm

Kathy Lituri, PC Chair

Approve June 24, 2021 minutes

4:10 pm

Kathy Lituri, PC Chair

Introduction | Agency Representatives

4:15 pm

Alison K; Barry C; Melissa H; Cynthia Bell

Introduction | New Members

4:25 pm

Kathy Lituri, PC Chair

Introduction | Learning Circles

4:35 pm

Kathy Lituri, PC Chair

Discuss Propose Bylaw Revisions

4:50 pm

Masill Miranda, PCS

2021-2022 Term



Planning Council Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Spending and Utilization Update

5:00 pm

RWSD

Planning Council Timeline

5:30 pm

Masill Miranda, PCS

Announcements

5:50 pm

PCS & all members

Meeting Adjourn

6:00 pm

Next meeting

Thursday, October 14, 2021

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Zoom



Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2021
Zoom
4:00 - 6:00pm

Summary of Attendance

Members Present

Amanda Hart
Ayla Baraka
Alison Kirchgasser
Barry Callis
Brian Holliday
Bryan Thomas
Catherine Weerts
Cindi Bell
Damon Gaines
Darren Sack
Darian Hendricks
Ericka Olivera
George Diaz
Joey Carlesimo
Justin Alves
Kathy Lituri
Katie Keating
Keith Nolen
Manuel Pires
Mahara Pinheiro
Margaret Lombe
Melissa Hector
Michael Swaney
Noelle Hanney
Omar Martinez Gonzalez
Patrick Baum
Richard Swanson
Robert Giannasca
Serena Rajabiun
Stanley Flores
Stephen Batchelder
Stephen Corbett
Ta’Nisha Maitre

Tad Bailey
Tim Young
Wendy LeBlanc

Members Excused

Adam Barrett
Lulu Bethea
Lorraine Jones
Lamar Brown-Noguera
Lea Nelligan

Members Absent

Tai Tran

PCS

Masill Miranda

BPHC

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, BPHC Executive Director
Dr. Sarimer Sanchez, IDB Bureau Director
Tegan Evans, IDB Associate Bureau Director

RWSD

Eileen Merisola
Todd Foy
Melanie Lopez
Sarah Kuruvilla
Fabiola Catulle
Jasmine Thermitus
Irina Neshcheretnaya
Austin Hanna
Paola Rivas

Topic A: Welcome and Introductions

Kathy Lituri, Planning Council Chair, welcomed everyone, reviewed the virtual ground rules and led a moment of silence.

Topic B: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of June 24th, 2021, were reviewed. Members went on Basecamp to look at the minutes before motioning to approve.

New members were briefed on process to approve, oppose, or abstain from voting. Robert's rules of order do not prevent a person from voting to approve minutes if they were not in attendance at the meeting in question.

Motion to Approve: Darren Sack

Second: Richard Swanson

Result: The minutes were approved with (10) Abstentions

Topic C: Introductions and welcome

Kathy Lituri, Planning Council Chair, thanked past members that are no longer with us, welcomed new members, reviewed committee rosters and learning circles.

Masill Miranda, Interim PCS Manager, broke members into their learning circle and each circle were able to name their group. *The circle names have been updated and can be found on Basecamp.*

- Circle #1: The Brady Bunch
- Circle #2: Keeping up with the Joneses
- Circle #3: The EMazing Team
- Circle #4: Montero Hill X Elephant Storm
- Circle #5: Purple Reign

Lastly, BPHC leadership attended the meeting. The Planning Council welcomed them, and each member of leadership was able to speak to the Council and thank members for their commitment and service.

Topic D: Agency Reports

The representatives for Medicaid (Alison Kirchgasser), New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) (Cindi Bell), Massachusetts Department of Health (MDPH) (Barry Callis), Mayor Walsh's Office (Melissa Hector), Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)/Ryan White Services Division (RWSD) (Katie Keating) gave agency updates – SEE below.

**BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
INFECTIOUS DISEASE BUREAU, HIV/AIDS SERVICES DIVISION
REPRESENTATIVE: KATIE KEATING – DIRECTOR, RYAN WHITE SERVICES DIVISION**

- RWSD is working on the RW Part A Grant Application which is due on October 6th
- RWSD is almost fully staffed after experiencing significant staff turnover. We have hired the following new staff:
 - Eileen Merisola, Senior Program Manager Part A
 - Todd Foy, Senior Program Manager, EHE
 - Program Coordinators: Jasmine Thermitus, Austin Hanna, Paola Rivas, and Melanie Lopez
- RWSD is working with partners to distribute EHE resources
- RWSD is working with BPHC leadership and other partners on the HIV cluster response.

**MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF MEDICAID (MASSHEALTH)
REPRESENTATIVE: ALISON KIRCHGASSER – DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONS**

MassHealth continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the link below for information for MassHealth Providers, Members and Applicants.

<https://www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-masshealth>

In particular, MassHealth has announced an extension of its temporary telehealth policies through October 15th.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-324-temporary-extension-of-telehealth-policy-described-in-all-provider-bulletin-314-through-october-15-2021/download>

MassHealth also recently updated its policies with respect to coverage for gender affirming care.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-323-updated-masshealth-policies-on-gender-affirming-care-coverage/download>

MassHealth posted its proposal to extend the Commonwealth's 1115 Demonstration waiver from 7/1/22 to 6/30/27. The proposal is posted at

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/1115-masshealth-demonstration-waiver-extension-request>

Public comments will be accepted through September 20th.

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND LABORATORY SCIENCES (BIDLS)
OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS (OHA)
REPRESENTATIVE: BARRY CALLIS - DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION**

- Continuation of EHE Resources, Year #2 Began August 1, 2021
- LGBTQIA+ Health Advisory Group

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE: CINDI BELL - MANAGER, NH RYAN WHITE CARE & TB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION & CARE SERVICES**

- Most of the Department are working hybrid remote schedules. COVID cases and transmission in NH mirrors what is going on Nationally
- We have heard that Dr. Itkin, a long-time specialist in Portsmouth is retiring soon. Wait times to get appointments with Infectious Disease in that region can be longer than usual. Clients can work with Case Managers if they need help reestablishing care with a new provider. Clients are encouraged to review their insurance plan provider networks before changing doctors.
- Current openings with NH CARE Program:
 - **NH CARE (NH RW) Manager, Public Health Program Manager** If you are interested in applying for this position, please follow link to apply: <https://das.nh.gov/jobsearch/>
 - To apply search for Job Number: 20909
 - **Quality Management Specialist, Program Specialist IV.** If you are interested in applying for this position, please follow link to apply: <https://das.nh.gov/jobsearch/>
 - Search for Job ID: 19231.
- NH CARE is updating the fee schedules for Methadone and Substance Abuse, to increase reimbursement for these services
- NH CARE is soon to launch a comprehensive online Case Manager training program for our agencies
- NH CARE is beginning to evaluate options for adding a statewide dental plan option for clients
- Preparing for ACA 2022 open enrollment which begins November 1. Current 2021 NH CARE ACA plans are Ambetter and Harvard Pilgrim
- HIV Planning Group hold the annual Fall funding streams meeting and will provide an Annual Epi Report Friday 9/17/2021 beginning at 9:30 am, and will also share a planning council film “Someone You Know and Love”
- HIV Medical Advisory Board meets September 20th. Will provide updates on Cabenuva billing for NH ADAP and host an update from the Statewide Needs Assessment project.

**CITY OF BOSTON
OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE: MELISSA HECTOR - DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING**

- The Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services and the Office of Public Safety released the FY2022 Youth Development Fund. Applications are due September 24th

<https://www.boston.gov/health-and-human-services/2022-youth-development-fund>

Topic D: Proposed Bylaw Revision

Masill Miranda, Interim PCS Manager discussed with Council members proposed changes to the Planning Council Bylaws. The 2020-2021 Executive Committee (last program year) revised the bylaws to ensure language is reflective of the current operations as we are virtual. Council will vote on the changes next month.

Following revisions consist of:

- Amendment and restoration of attendance
- Managing illness/emergencies and attendance
- Member code of conduct
- MNC meeting 9 times a year, rather than 8

Question/Comments

- (PC member) If I have an additional suggest or amendment to the bylaws, how do I propose them? (MM, PCS) It is recommended you review the bylaws first. Once you do, if there is a proposed change to the language, write it on the Basecamp Planning Council Message board to alert other members that you will be proposing an additional amendment. Then, the day of the meeting, you make a motion to add an additional bylaw revision. If the Council agrees, it will be voted. However, in this case there should be time for discussion.

Topic E: Client Utilization and Spending Report

Katie Keating, RWSD Director, BPHC, and her team presented the utilization and spending report to the Planning Council. In the report, spending trends were highlighted. In addition, service categories that need attention or reporting to the Council were spotlighted. Last, spending and utilization data was provided to the Council as a handout, and it can be found on Basecamp.

Topic F: The Year Ahead – PC Timeline

Masill Miranda, Interim PCS Manager, provided a timeline of what to expect this Planning Council term. The timeline served as a summary of the workplan, by highlighting important projects, presentations, and charges.

Topic I: Other Business, Announcements, Evaluation & Adjourn

Meeting to Adjourn

Motion: Richard Swanson

Second: Stephen Batchelder

Result: The meeting was adjourned.



Boston EMA Ryan White Planning Council

**Kathy Lituti, Planning Council Chair • Patrick Baum,
Planning Council Chair-elect • 09.16.2021**

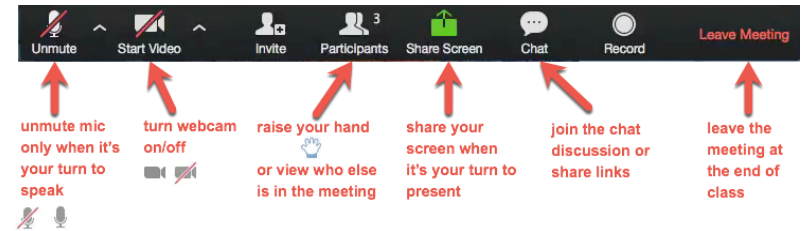
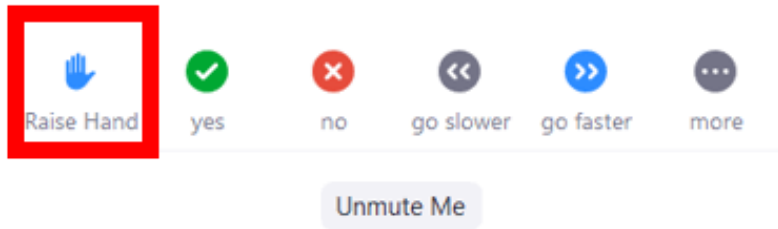
Moment of silence

At this moment, let's
take a **moment of
silence** in remembrance
of those who came
before us, those who are
present, and those who
will come after us.

Virtual Meeting Ground Rules

- Be on time and prepared
- Use headphones
- Silence Means Agreement
- Avoid using speakerphone
- Avoid multi-tasking
- Mute yourself unless speaking
- Do not put this conference call on “Hold”
- Identify yourself
- Speak slowly and clearly
- No one-on-one side conversations
- Use chat box to communicate with moderators and ask questions to presenters

Zoom protocol for discussion



Introductions

Phone

- Please state your name for the record

Computer/online

- No need to state, we have you on record
-

Overview

- Approve June 24th minutes
 - Introduction to ...
 - Agency representatives - provide update
 - Membership
 - Learning Circles
 - Welcome, BPHC Leadership
 - Discuss and present proposed bylaw revision
 - Spending and Utilization report, RWSD
 - The year ahead - Planning Council Timeline
-

Approving meeting minutes

June 24, 2021

Steps in approving minutes (POLL):

1. Review minutes
2. Make a first and second motion to approve minutes
3. Vote

All in Favor: Yes, I approve the minutes

Opposed: No, I do not approve the minutes

Abstention: Absent from previous meeting/ Decline to vote

Introductions

Kathy Lituri, Planning Council Chair

**Mayor's Office of Health and
Human Services - Melissa
Hector**

**MA Department of Public
Health, Office of HIV/AIDS -
Barry Callis**

**NH Department of Health
and Human Services, NH
Care Program – Cindi Bell**

**MA Office of Medicaid –
Alison Kirchgasser**

**Boston Public Health
Commission –Katie Keating**

**AGENCY
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORTS**

Thank you for your service!

- Michael A. Robbins
 - Jose Sostre
-

WELCOME

- Adam Barrett
 - Noelle Hanney
 - Tai Tran
 - Omar Martinez Gonzalez
 - Keith Nolen
 - Ta’Nisha Maitre
 - Lulu Bethea
-

Executive Committee

- Kathy Lituri, PC Chair
 - Patrick Baum, PC Chair-elect
 - Margaret Lombe, SPEC Chair
 - Darren Sack, NRAC Chair
 - Robert Giannasca, MNC Chair
 - Brian Holliday, Member-at-Large
 - Consumer Committee Chair:
TBD
-

2021-2023 Planning Council Membership

NRAC	SPEC	MNC	EXEC
Darren Sack	Margaret Lombe	Robert Giannasca	Kathy Lituri
Alison Kirchgasser	Adam Barrett	Brian Holliday	Patrick Baum
Amanda Hart	Ericka Olivera	Bryan Thomas	Brian Holliday
Ayla Baraka	George Diaz	Stephen Batchelder	Margaret Lombe
Brian Holliday	Justin Alves	Margaret Lombe	Robert Giannasca
Bryan Thomas	Keith Nolen	Cindi Bell	Darren Sack
Catherine Weerts	Lea Nulligan	Darren Sack	Melissa Hector
Cindi Bell	Lorraine Jones	Justin Alves	Katie Keating
Damon Gaines	Manuel Pires	Richard Swanson	TBD Consumer Chair
Darian Hendricks	Michael Swaney		
Joseph Carlesimo	Omar Martinez Gonzalez		
Lamar Brown-Noguera	Patrick Baum		
Mahara Pinheiro	Robert Giannasca		
Noelle Hanney	Stanley Flores		
Richard Swanson	Stephen Batchelder		
Serena Rajabiun	Stephen Corbett		
Tad Bailey	Ta’Nisha Maitre		
Wendy LeBlanc	Tai Tran		
	Tim Mercier		
	Tim Young		
	Lulu Bethea		

Learning Circles

Goal and Purpose

- Create community and supportive environment
 - Meet and engage with one another
 - Build, share, and express knowledge among your circle to best comprehend the content
-

Instructions: Introduce yourself, state county you live in, and collectively – **name your group!!!!**

LEARNING CIRCLES				
CIRCLE 1	CIRCLE 2	CIRCLE 3	CIRCLE 4	CIRCLE 5
Darren Sack	Stephen Corbett	Wendy LeBlanc	Kathy Lituri	Robert Giannasca
Alison Kirchgasser	Adam Barrett	Brian Holliday	Melissa Hector	Patrick Baum
Amanda Hart	Ericka Olivera	Bryan Thomas	Stephen Batchelder	Margaret Lombe
Darian Hendricks	Justin Alves	Cindi Bell	Michael Swaney	Ayla Baraka
Lea Nulligan	Stanley Flores	Katie Keating	Richard Swanson	Catherine Weerts
Keith Nolen	Lorraine Jones	Manuel Pires	Lamar Brown-Noguera	George Diaz
Mahara Pinheiro	Omar Martinez Gonzalez	Joseph Carlesimo	Ta’Nisha Maitre	Damon Gaines
Tim Young	Noelle Hanney	Tad Bailey	Tai Tran	Serena Rajabiun
	Lulu Bethea	Tim Mercier		Barry Callis
8	9	9	8	9

WELCOME

BPHC Leadership

- Bisola Ojikutu, BPHC Executive Director
 - Dr. Sanchez, IDB Bureau Director
 - Tegan Evans, IDB Associate Bureau Director
-

Proposed By-laws Revision

Masill Miranda, PCS

Bylaws

- Last term the Executive Committee revised the bylaws to ensure language is reflective of the current operations as we are virtual.
 - Following revisions consist of:
 1. *Amendment and restoration of attendance*
 2. *Managing illness/emergencies and attendance*
 3. *Member code of conduct*
 4. *MNC meeting 9 times a year, rather than 8*
-

Client Utilization and Quarterly Spending

Ryan White Services Division

Fiscal Year 2021
Quarter 1 Spending & Utilization Report
March 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021

RYAN WHITE SERVICES DIVISION, INFECTIOUS DISEASE BUREAU
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021



Objectives

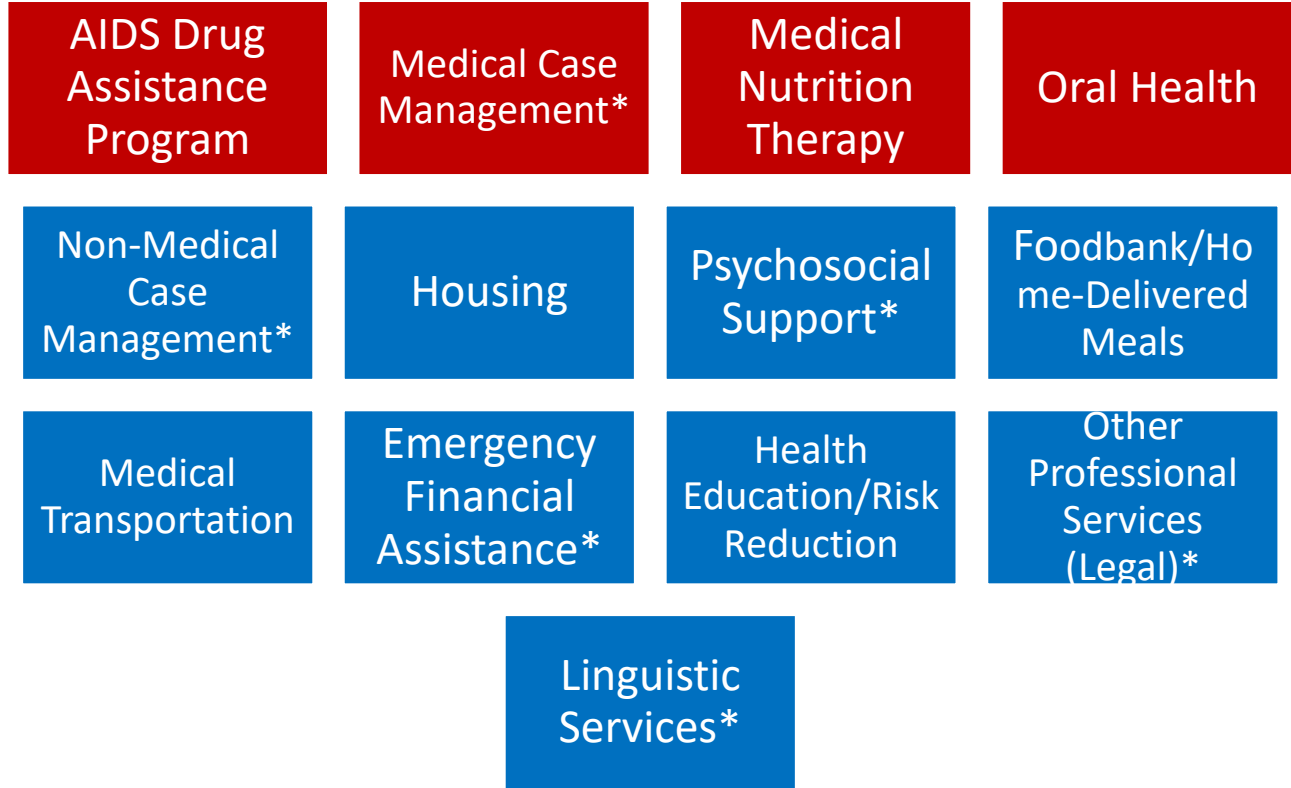
- Summarize spending and utilization data for Q1 FY21

Background & Overview

FY 2021

Overview

- ❖ \$14,954,148
- ❖ 34 funded agencies
- ❖ 13 services categories
- ❖ 3,586 clients to date

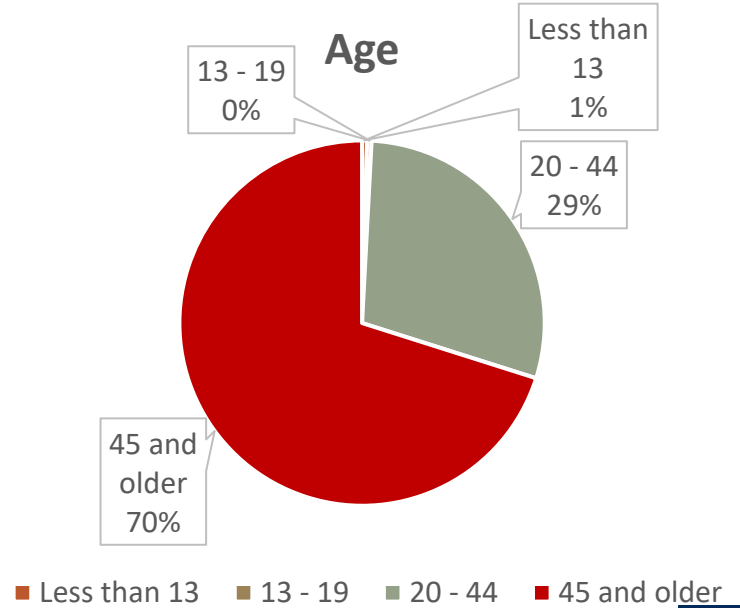
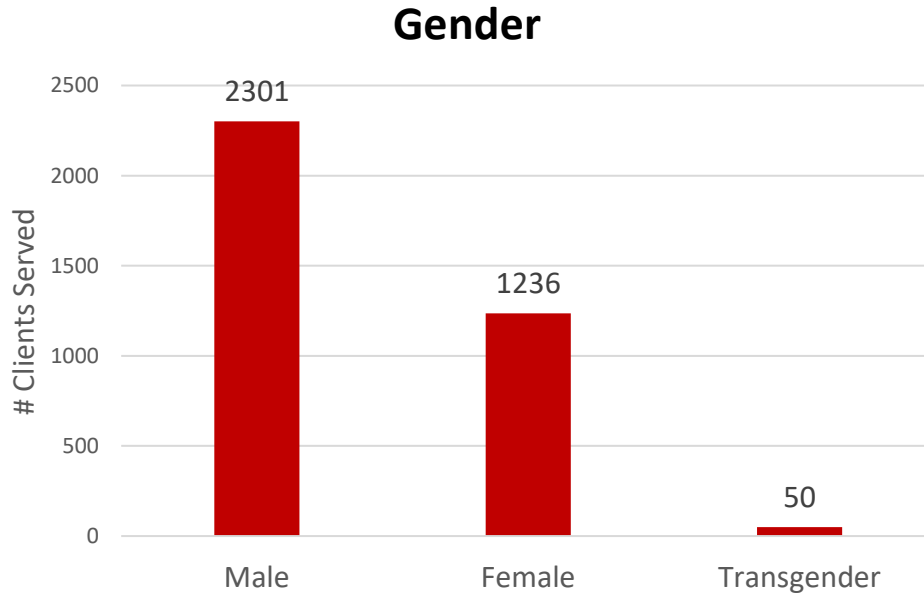


- *Red = Core Medical Services.*
- *Blue = Support Services*
- ** =Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI).*

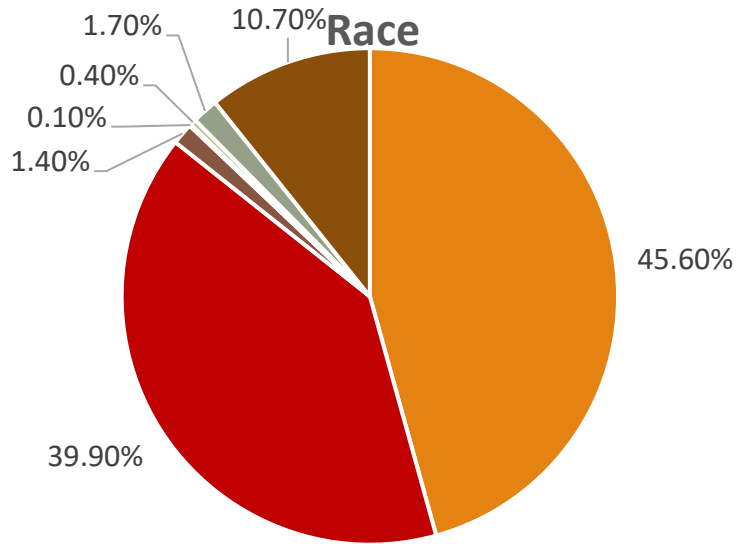
Considerations Due to Impact of COVID-19

- ❖ Delays and changes in service delivery-need to adapt services, build out telehealth, address other barriers to access due to safety concerns, access, and client communication/outreach
- ❖ Shifting guidance, policies and protocols
- ❖ Agency capacity to submit and process invoices and data
- ❖ Changing needs of clients
- ❖ Influx of other funds to respond to COVID-19

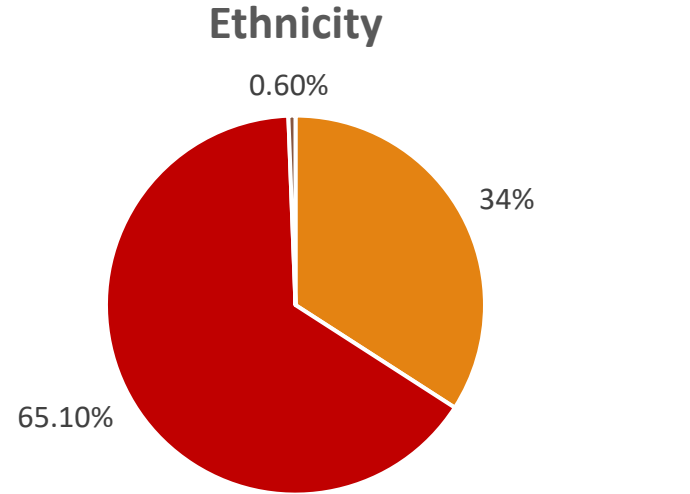
FY21 Q1 Demographics: Age and Gender



FY21 Q1 Demographics: Race and Ethnicity

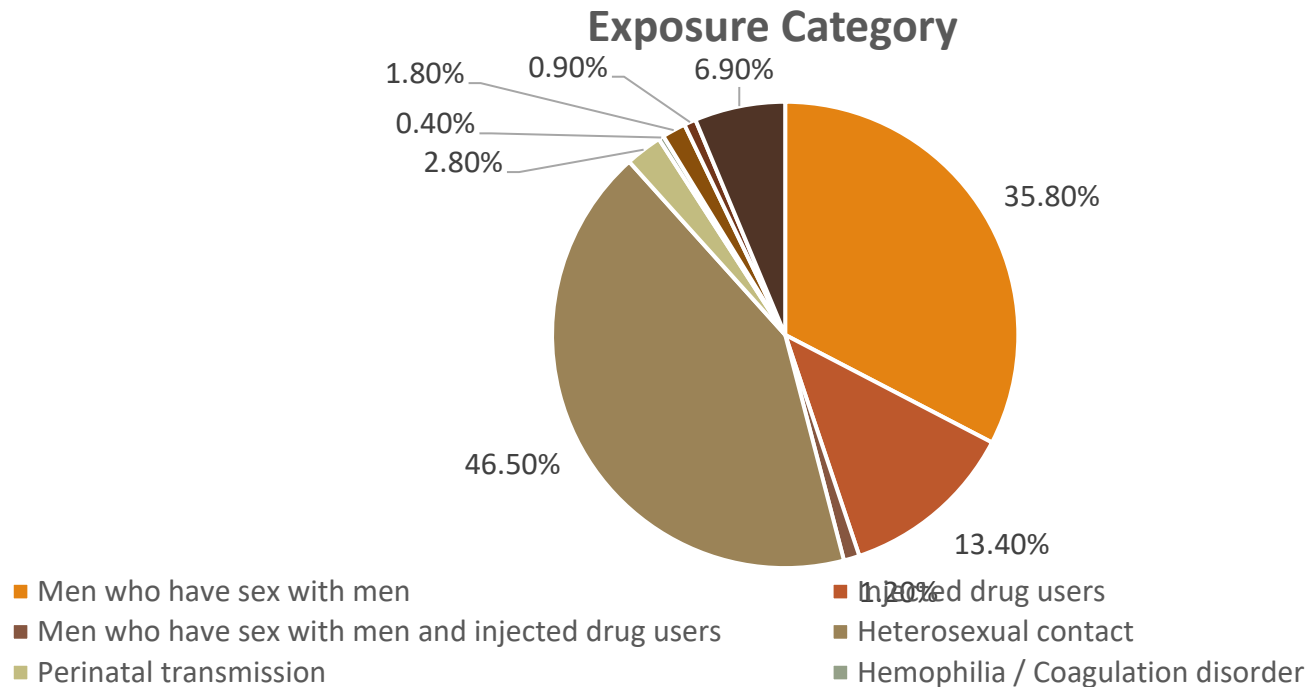


- White
- Black or African American
- Asian



- Hispanic or Latino/a
- Not Hispanic or Latino/a
- Unknown/unreported

FY21 Q1 Demographics: Exposure Category



Service Category Spotlights

MEDICAL AND NON-MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT, HOUSING,
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Medical Case Management (MCM)



18 funded agencies

3 of 18
funded under
Minority AIDS
Initiative
(MAI)



Provides services that link clients
with primary medical care and all
health-related support services

MCM: Spending and Clients Served

FY21 Q1 Spending			
	Allocated	Spent	% Spent
General	\$4,446,987	\$641,617	14%
MAI	\$442,599	\$51,622	12%

FY21 Q1 Clients Served			
	# Clients Served	FY21 Projection	%
General	1671	2427	69%
MAI	249	443	56%

Non-Medical Case Management (NMCM)



8 funded agencies

1 of 8 funded
under
Minority AIDS
Initiative
(MAI)



Provides services that improve
access to and retention in essential
medical and support services for
PLWH

NMCM: Spending and Clients Served

FY21 Q1 Spending			
	Allocated	Spent	% Spent
General	\$944,196	\$321,841	34%
MAI	\$171,620	\$51,622	30%

FY21 Q1 Clients Served			
	# Clients Served	FY21 Projection	%
General	390	550	70%
MAI	83	93	89%

Key Takeaways

Medical and Non-Medical Case Management

- ❖ Agencies faced difficulties filling vacancies and maintaining current employees engaged this year.
- ❖ Engagement and outreach has been more challenging given remote model of care and increased complexity of needs.

Housing



5 funded agencies



Provides short-term, emergency or transitional housing assistance



Provides housing search support and advocacy



Goal is to improve access, medical adherence and health outcomes

HOU: Spending and Clients Served

FY21 Q1 Spending			
	Allocated	Spent	% Spent
General	\$1,362,345	\$568,217	42%

FY21 Q1 Clients Served			
	# Clients Served	FY21 Projection	%
General	125	442	28%

Key Takeaways

Housing

- ❖ Housing supports continue to be a high need across the Boston EMA.
- ❖ As a result of COVID-19, there has been difficulty assisting clients with permanent housing placements due to the challenges accessing housing authority services and viewing apartments.

Psychosocial Support (PS)



11 funded agencies

3 out of 11
funded under
Minority AIDS
Initiative



Provides counseling
and emotional
support to PLWH

Support for
people who
experience
stigma,
isolation, and
behavioral
health issues



Individual and group sessions

PS: Spending and Clients Served

FY21 Q1 Spending			
	Allocated	Spent	% Spent
General	\$870,621	\$284,961	33%
MAI	\$153,554	\$45,739	30%

FY21 Q1 Clients Served			
	# Clients Served	FY21 Projection	%
General	285	600	48%
MAI	50	216	23%

Key Takeaways

Psychosocial Support Services

- ❖ Many agencies have successfully shifted to telehealth support groups
- ❖ Agencies were still able to meet with their clients on a virtual platform which helped address COVID barriers
- ❖ MAI agency spending, clients served, and units of service is significantly lower than non-MAI agencies. Barriers such as technology, access, comprehension, etc. contribute to the disparities.

Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)



11 funded agencies

2 out of 11
funded under
Minority AIDS
Initiative



Limited one-time or short-term
payments to assist the client with an
emergency need directly related to
health status



Services include essential utilities,
housing, food (including groceries and
food vouchers), transportation and
medication

EFA: Spending and Clients Served

FY21 Q1 Spending			
	Allocated	Spent	% Spent
General	\$122,917	\$68,693	56%
MAI	\$25,054	\$23,810	95%

FY21 Q1 Clients Served			
	# Clients Served	FY21 Projection	%
General	84	255	33%
MAI	8	88	9%

Key Takeaways

Emergency Financial Assistance

- ❖ Agencies continue to report a high need for EFA funds to increase client housing and food supports as a result of COVID-19
- ❖ EFA has been supplemented by other local and federal funding for some agencies, but the high need remains.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

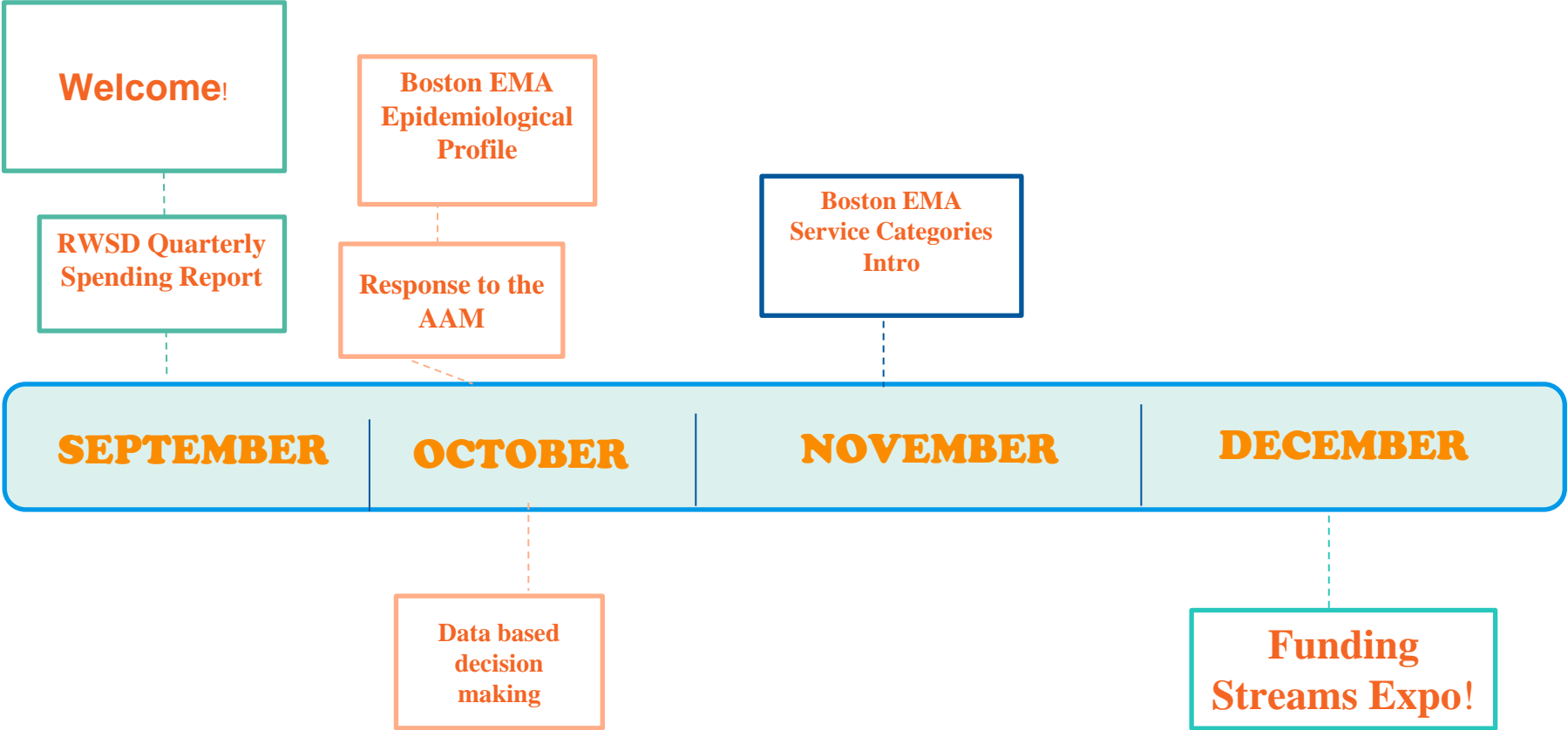
Please unmute yourself to ask a question or enter your question in the chat.

Thank you!

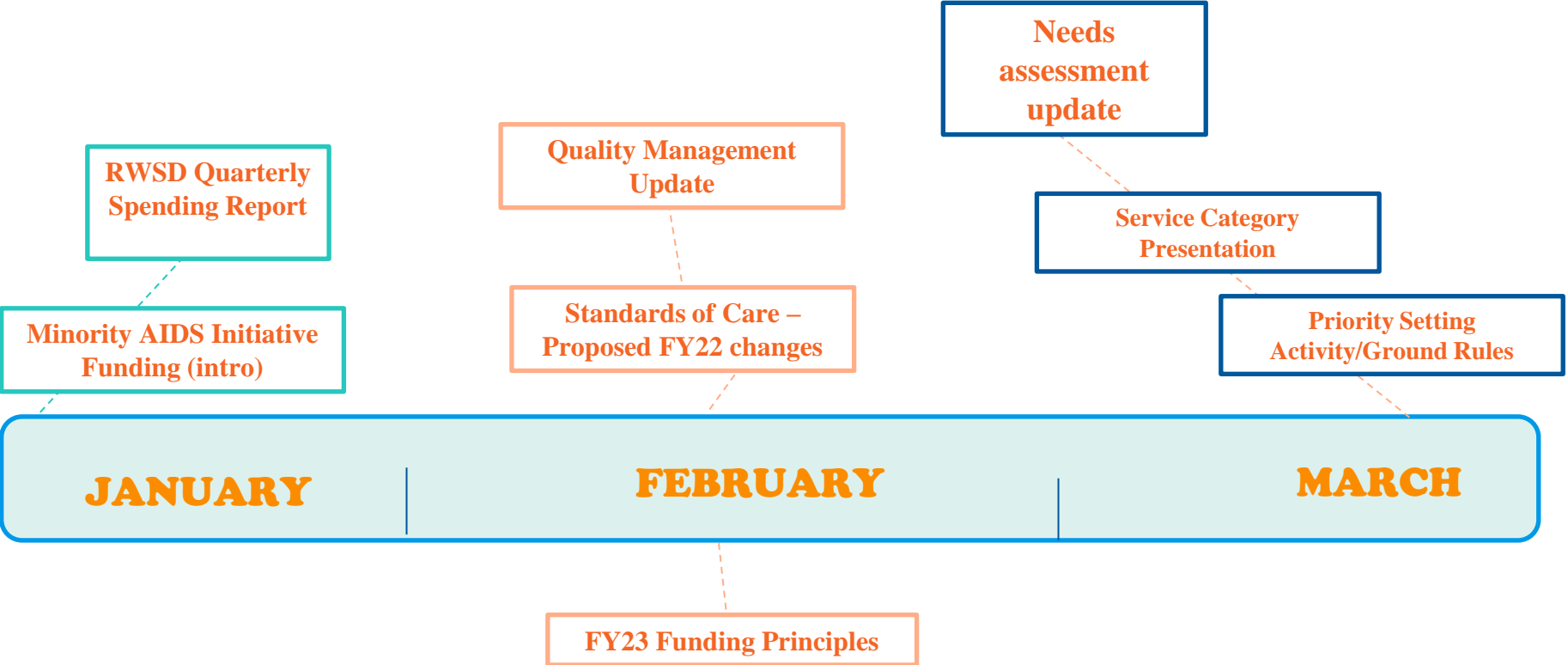
THE YEAR AHEAD: 2021-2022 PLANNING COUNCIL TIMELINE

Masill Miranda, PCS

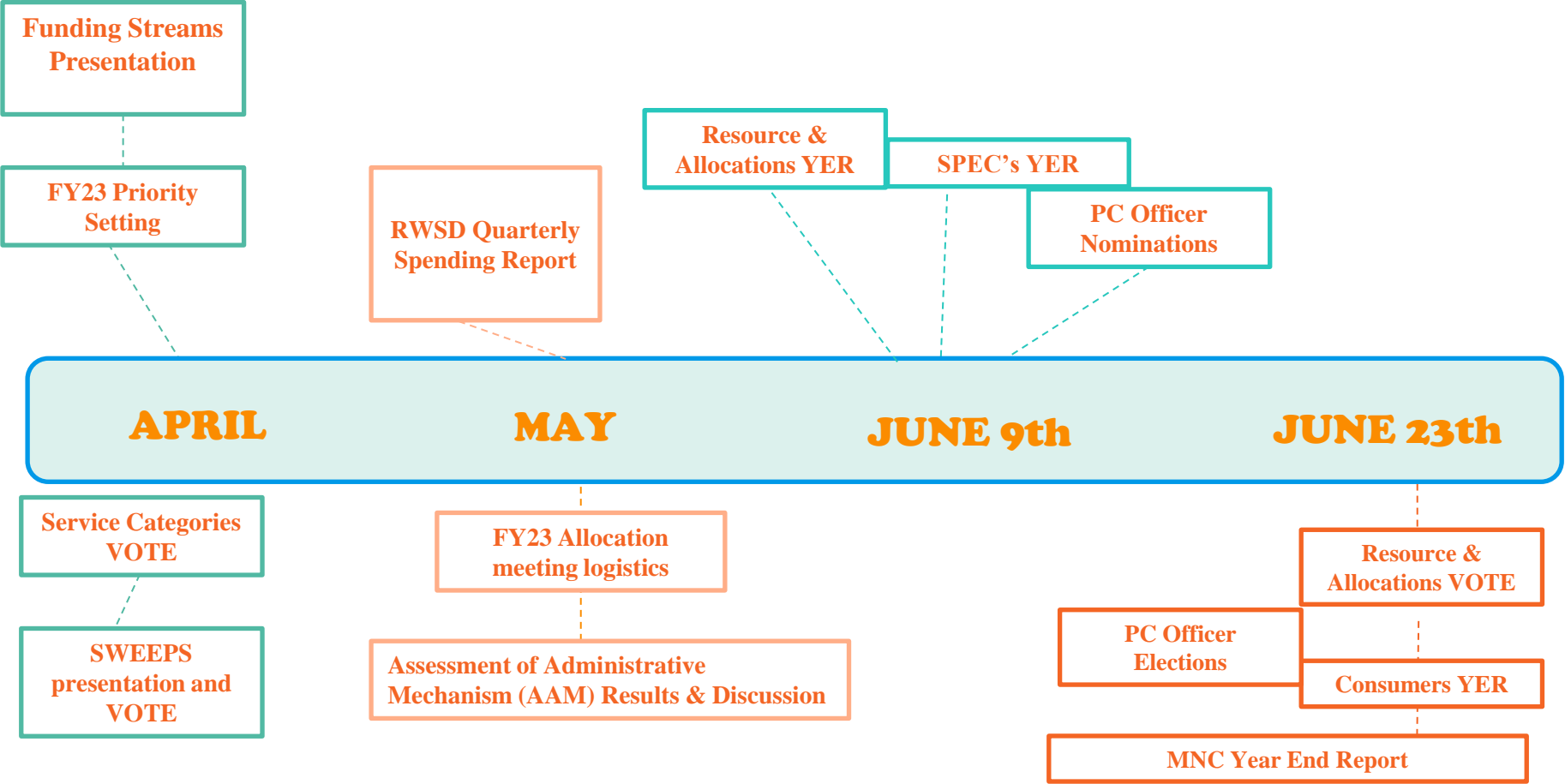
PLANNING COUNCIL TIMELINE



PLANNING COUNCIL TIMELINE



PLANNING COUNCIL TIMELINE



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS?

This is your chance to spread the word about community events, research studies, or other resources that are related to the Planning Council's work.

Dates to note

- Refer to the Planning Council Calendar Handout or Calendar invites sent...
- Dates that are out of our norm (due to holidays) are:
 - **November Planning Council meeting - Wednesday, November 10th 4-6 PM**
 - **November Executive Cte meeting - Monday, November 22nd 3-5 PM**
 - **December Executive Cte meeting - Monday, December 20th 3-5 PM**



JOIN US FOR THE AIDS WALK & RUN
BOSTON ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
AT DCR'S CARSON BEACH!

"Someone You Know & Love" Team's page to sign up for the AIDS Walk which takes place later this month.

Sign up link is on Basecamp and below!

<https://walk.aac.org/walkrun2021/someone-you-know-and-love>

You can join in person or even virtually. We hope to see you there!



IT'S NOT
Goodbye
IT'S SEE YOU
Later



THANK YOU!

EVALUATION AND ADJOURN

Please fill out your
evaluation forms!

**Google Form
evaluations will be sent
via email.**

