

July 18, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Medical Care Subcommittee of the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, I offer this correspondence for your consideration. This subcommittee is charged with reviewing medical care, oral health care, and provision of prescription drugs for over 8,000 clients served by the Miami-Dade County Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) every year. In our capacity overseeing these vital medical services, we agree and support gender-affirming care for transgender people who come to us for HIV care, and we wish to raise several issues that must be addressed if we are to provide effective services to our transgender clients. We hope that by addressing these issues, we can improve access to care, retention in care, and positive outcomes for transgender clients with HIV.

### **Care and Treatment Issues**

- Some Ryan White Program subrecipients and their staff members may not be thoroughly familiar with hormone replacement for gender affirmation, or the availability of payor sources such as Part A, ADAP, or General Revenue.
- Gender affirming care requires access to mental health clinicians well versed in transgender care. We need to develop a resource guide that identifies trans-friendly providers, with experience.
- Gender affirming hormone therapy must be provided in the context of accurate information about the interactions of these medications with other prescriptions used by the client, or with illicit substances.
- Providers of residential care for substance use disorder should be aware of the special needs of clients in the process of gender transition, so that clients who are transitioning while receiving help for substance use disorders receive care that takes into account mental health needs, substance use patterns, and the requirements of sobriety.
- It is important to have a peer or a designated transgender champion at each subrecipient service site since this allows for a relatable experience for clients.

### **Training**

- Continuous training is needed for all providers from the top down, to ensure lessons are reinforced, and care is delivered in an appropriate manner.
- Front desk staff and medical case managers need to be thoroughly trained in how to respond to transgender clients.
- The Recipient shall identify an entity to provide guidance, training, and/or educational resources to support staff to raise awareness and increase competency around transgender care.

### **Non-Matching and Changed Names**

- Non-matching names (and non-matching documents) are a problem with insurance. Clients are registered in the ADAP Program using the legal name shown in their official document (Florida Driver's License or similar). Sometimes there are discrepancies as the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Pharmacy receives prescriptions that have a different name than the one in the ADAP system (preferred name instead of legal name; unreported legal name change; other reasons).
- Some electronic medical records offer a "preferred name" field. This should be offered/used in electronic medical records and client data management systems." The "preferred name" should be used on the medication label, where legally allowed.
- The service delivery manual for the Ryan White program reflects name and gender identity changes as an allowable service under the other professional services category.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Robert Goubeaux, D.O., Medical Care Subcommittee Chair

Attachment: Transgender-affirming organizations which may serve as resources, and which maintain directories of transgender-affirming providers.

**Pridelines**

<https://pridelines.org/>

**TransSOCIAL, Inc.**

<https://www.transsocial.org/>

**TransSOCIAL Resource Guide**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b5dfce450a54f067497b8e1/t/61fc23df0040e11037a67ca9/1643914219731/TransSOCIAL.SoFloTransResourceGuide.Jan2022.Small.pdf>

**TransInclusive Group**

<https://www.transinclusivegroup.org/>

This is not an exhaustive list of trans-affirming organizations. If you are interested in being included in their directories, please contact the organizations directly.