

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2006  
11:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m. by Chair, Georgette King.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Georgette King, Andrew Maldonado, John Melartin, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Marylin Merida, Paul Watkins.

Members Absent: Mary Adams, Candi Clark, Gayla Cox, Edith Ellerson, Mary Francis Jones, Janet Kitchen, Kyle Lidge, Mac McDougale, Diondria Riley, Pat Riley, Gregory Ruffin, Lisa Sampson, Betty Sharp, David Stubbs, Robert Tate

Guests Present: Michael Amidei, Vivian Candelaria, Carla Foster, Vincent Lisbon, Dixie Morgese, Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres

Staff Present: Susan Josephson

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

There was one change to the agenda, omission of the meeting time survey since David Stubbs was not present.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were reviewed and corrections were noted in attendance and in the spelling of Marylin Merida's name. The minutes were not adopted (lack of a quorum) and will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

**CARE COUNCIL REPORT**

Susan Josephson reviewed the Care Council agenda and reported that there were three actions items—approval of RPARC's recommendation for Title II budget cut per the State's announcement that there would be a 5% cut, approval of RPARC's Reallocation Recommendations, and approval of membership for Linnwood Davis who will represent Polk Co. There was some discussion on substance abuse treatment options. Michael Amidei reminded everyone that Care Council has slots for 40 members and that we currently have 29. Suggestions for membership can go to Michael, phone (727) 543-2600, and he will

follow-up. Marilyn Merida passed on the announcement that the Hillsborough Co. Indigent Health Care Plan is limiting enrollment as of January 1, excluding individuals who have had three felony convictions. Vivian Candelaria said she had received clarification yesterday that the convictions have to have occurred since April 2005 in order for a person to be excluded from coverage. Vivian also passed on the announcement that individuals with a co-morbidity of Hepatitis must be very careful re nutritional supplements because of the strain that processing substances can place on the liver. The group suggested that providers receive training from a registered dietitian on this issue. Susan will pass this request on to the Health Services Advisory committee at their meeting on 1/19/06.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Report on meeting time survey will be deferred to the next meeting. Georgette King announced that the Connect to Protect program is publishing a directory in February. They would like additional information on alternative/holistic HIV care providers. If anyone is aware of such a provider, please supply contact information to Georgette or Mellita Mills-Kendrick by Tues, 1/17/06.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Susan Josephson announced dates for three public input sessions to be held with consultant, Bruce Strahl. Committee members expressed concern about the sessions and asked how much input there had been from consumers and committee members. Susan said she would have to research the origins of the project to give a complete answer.

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

Michael Amidei passed on information from some of the homeless advocacy groups he attends about telephone contacts. He said that it is valuable for social service agencies to have courtesy telephones available for clients who do not have home phone service to use. He also said that automated phone answering systems can be difficult to use via pay phones. He suggested telling callers how to reach a live person for help near the beginning of an automated answering message.

Georgette announced that a volunteer with their program has been given a scholarship to attend a Youth HIV conference in Philadelphia. She needs to

raise money for plane fare and other expenses. Several people made donations at the meeting and someone suggested seeing if airline miles might be donated for her plane fare.

**MAI CAPACITY BUILDING  
FOCUS GROUP**

Gilda and Dixie conducted a focus group re capacity building, asking members to consider access to services, barriers to care and strategies for improved service delivery for individuals who may be feeling fear, shame and denial regarding their HIV diagnosis. These themes have emerged in the capacity building interviews and observations.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Spring Oaks in Tampa.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.