

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
SPECIALITY CARE CLINIC-BARTOW
SEPTEMBER 20, 2005
1:30-3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by James Brandon, Co-Chair at 2:00 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: James Brandon, Ovidiu Cotea, Brenda Davis, Linnwood Davis, John Melartin
Members Absent: John Halman, Jan Neeson, Gail Prichard, Deborah Reinhardt, Woody Wilbanks
Guests Present: King James, Patricia Mayid, Linda Rogers
Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Wilma Genter, Teresa Kelly
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes from the meeting held on July 19, 2005 were approved by those in attendance. Due to a lack of a quorum, a phone vote will occur to adopt the minutes. (achieved)
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Two new voting Care Council members were approved. There was also a discussion about the need for affordable housing and ways the Care Council could work with other community housing advocacy groups.
- ELECTIONS/ DATE, TIME, LOCATION** Gail Prichard and James Brandon were re-elected to be Chair and Co-Chair. To keep consistent for the members and the public no changes were made to the time, date or location of meetings.
- WORK PLAN** The committee reviewed the work plan and agreed to adopt it. The following motion carried. (5 yes)
- MOTION 09/05-02** **THAT THE WORK PLAN BE ADOPTED AS WRITTEN.**
- PLANNING & EVALUATION UPDATE** Teresa Kelly explained that the Planning and Evaluation Committee is responsible for the needs assessment, comprehensive plan and program evaluation. The methodology and time frame for these planning tools was discussed.
- PHONE TREE** The idea of a phone tree was developed to have a system of reminding community members about support groups and

committee meetings. It was suggested that providers call to remind other providers and clients call other clients because of confidentiality. Linnwood Davis offered to call clients about the meetings and committee members that are providers would work on compiling a providers list to call.

OLD BUSSINESS

James Brandon said that he will work on making posters to encourage attendance at this monthly meeting and support groups.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The need for more timely transportation was discussed. There is now a bus that runs a couple of times a day from the Polk County Courthouse to the Polk County Health Department. James Brandon said that it is not enough to meet the community's needs. There is no public transportation in Hardee and Highlands County. Medical transport is given to some Medicaid patients and a state program called ATC Para transit may be able to help some clients if there was Title II money for transportation available. In Hillsborough and Pinellas County there is also concern about transportation because of Medicaid changing its procedure and only giving daily bus passes and not monthly passes for clients.

James Brandon highlighted that the community clinic supported by the Polk County Health Department is a good resource. The clinic services are offered at various locations for clients with transportation issues. Brenda Davis mentioned that they recently changed the income requirements making it more accessible.

John Melartin spoke about Medicaid changing their formulary and no longer covering some seizure medications.

John Melartin also spoke about the housing concerns, especially for single males. The Client Services Committee made a recommendation to the Planning and Evaluation Committee to look into this community concern. He also shared that in October HOPWA is planning to form a coalition to look at the housing issues for people with HIV/AIDS.

John shared that the state of Florida is changing it managed health system to a HIV HMO where physicians would have to ask to be enrolled. He encouraged the group to talk with their primary care doctor to see if planning to enroll. He said you may be able to opt out of the HMO but it could take several months.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.