

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEST TAMPA NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER- TAMPA
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by John Melartin, Co-Chair, at 2:30 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Natalie Jackson, John Melartin, Aritus Miller, Bob Reynolds, Bill Thomas
- Members Absent: Janet Kitchen, Ken McCallister, Linda Rogers
- Guests Present: Dr. William Perry
- Grantee Staff Present: Teresa Newgent
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The March meeting minutes were approved with two corrections. The “HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS)” survey was changed to the “City of Tampa HIV/AIDS Housing Consortium” survey and “POS” was changed to “POZ”.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin shared that there was a full day retreat in place of the April Care Council meeting.
- TOWN HALL OVERVIEW** Natalie Jackson, Bob Reynolds and John Melartin attended the Client Services Committee town hall during the April FACT (For AIDS Care Today) dinner held at 6:30 p.m. on April 3rd at the St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in St. Petersburg. John and Bob spoke about the Care Council and Ryan White services. There were about 45 people in attendance and some clients raised issues about a few specific providers and the lack of evening Care Council committee meetings. Bob suggested that members of the committee attend again in a month or two as follow up and to be available for other questions or concerns. Janet Kitchen is still working to set up a town hall for the AIDS Partnership Dinner.

**NEWLY
DIAGNOSED
BROCHURE**

Janet Kitchen spoke to several members of the committee before the meeting and relayed that she is still working on the brochure for clients that are newly diagnosed with HIV. Staff also shared a newsletter published by the Veterans' Administration that had an article containing ten questions to ask when diagnosed with HIV. Bill Thomas said that he would check with the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast about printing the brochure once it is designed.

**COMMUNITY AIDS
NETWORK**

Bob started a discussion on the Community AIDS Network (CAN). CAN was an AIDS service organization serving clients in Manatee and Sarasota Counties that recently closed. John said there is no organization that is absorbing this agency and he is concerned about the impact on clients.

**OTHER
COMMITTEE
UPDATES**

Bob Reynolds gave an update on the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He reported that the Planning and Evaluation Committee is recommending to the Care Council that Goal 4 of the Comprehensive Plan be modified at the request of the Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families (WICY&F) Committee.

In addition the Membership Committee is recommending to the Care Council that there be a revision to the WICY&F Committee Purpose in the Bylaws.

The Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) discussed using carryover and additional funds to provide for eligibility specialists and additional case managers to help reduce the waiting list for case management in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. RPARC is sending their recommendations for an eight month allocation to the Care Council.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The WICY&F Committee Mother of the Year Luncheon will be held on May 11th from 11:00am to 1:00pm in St. Petersburg. Jeanne White Ginder will be the guest speaker.

Bill Thomas raised a concern about case management in Pinellas County. Bill stated that he heard a rumor that Gulfcoast/TBAN (Tampa Bay AIDS Network) will no longer be providing case management in Pinellas County. He said that Pinellas County already has a waiting list for case management and doesn't know what this will do to affect clients. Teresa Newgent offered to check into the issue and report back to the committee.

Dr. William Perry introduced himself to the group and passed out information on an organization he works with called Safety First.

Bob raised a concern as to why the Hernando County Health Department has to use Citrus County's pharmacy for HIV/AIDS medications.

Bill stated that in the new Part B eligibility law it states that eligibility is determined on the 2006 FPL (Federal Poverty Levels). The state will

have to go back and change the wording to allow for the current FPL to be used when determining eligibility in the future. Bill said that if not changed it will exclude otherwise eligible clients.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.