



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
METRO CENTER - TAMPA
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Janet Kitchen, Chair, at 2:28 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: David Hasiba, Natalie Jackson, Janet Kitchen, John Melartin, Andrew Paquette, Bob Reynolds, Darlene Smith, Bill Thomas
Members Absent: Denis Hayes, Marshall Lee, Aritus Miller
Guests Present: James Hamilton, Michael Hayk, Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres, Tyrone Stamps, Tyrone Williamson
Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for November 17, 2008 were approved as written (**M:** Reynolds, **S:** Hasiba). There were 8 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- CONSUMER INPUT** Clients voiced concerns on issues facing HIV positive ex-offenders. They noted that in today's economy it is hard for clients to find housing and employment without the extra obstacle of being an ex-offender. Members shared resources in the community that specifically assist the formerly incarcerated. RESTORE, a new program through THAP (Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan), is specifically set up to help HIV positive ex-offenders. HERN (Hillsborough Ex-offenders Resource Network), a linking ex-offenders to HIV care group and the Pinellas Ex-offenders Coalition are community groups focusing on these issues as well. Gilda suggested that instead of creating a new committee to focus on these issues clients should create an independent white paper that can be shared with all groups including the housing coalition.

**CARE COUNCIL
REPORT**

It was shared that our area received a \$272,000 increase in Part B funding and that the Care Council approved allocations including \$100,000 in emergency housing assistance. In addition, all clients have a deadline of March 1, 2009 in order to have been deemed eligible through the state eligibility process. It was also discussed how the Treatment Modernization Act of 2006 sunsets on September 30, 2009.

CO-CHAIR

At the September meeting when elections were held for committee chair and co-chair someone who wished to be considered for co-chair was not then a member of the committee. Members elected Bob Reynolds as the co-chair but agreed to revisit the position of co-chair in a couple of months when Denis Hayes was a voting member. Bob resigned his position at this meeting and Denis, although not able to be present, agreed beforehand to be the new co-chair. The following motion passed (**M**: Reynolds, **S**: Thomas) with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions:

MOTION 01/09 - 01

TO ELECT DENIS HAYES AS THE NEW CO-CHAIR OF THE CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE.

**NEWLY
DIAGNOSED
BROCHURE**

The final draft of the brochure for the newly diagnosed was discussed. Now that there is an accurate list of Hillsborough and Pinellas County providers for case management and primary care the brochure is complete. Janet will get a final draft to Aubrey for both the English and Spanish versions so that Hillsborough County can print the brochure. Members would also like the brochure to be available on the Care Council website. The distribution of the brochure to testing sites, doctor's offices and agencies as well as some non traditional sites was briefly discussed.

**CLIENT
SATISFACTION
SURVEY**

Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres of RNT & Associates presented the client satisfaction survey for this year in English and Spanish and also shared reports from previous years. She gave an overview of the process and the time frame for clients to complete the surveys. Members suggested that the collection time be expanded to generate more responses from services such as nutritional supplements and pharmacy.

**OTHER
COMMITTEE
UPDATES**

Bob stated that the Minority Advocacy Committee had a proposal to change the name of the committee and their committee purpose but that in the end the committee decided to keep the name and purpose unchanged.

Bob also stated that the Planning and Evaluation Committee reviewed

the City of Tampa Housing Report.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THAP (Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan) will be holding events for National Black Awareness Day on February 6th from 10:00am to 3:00pm at their W. Ross St. location and on February 7th from noon to 4:00pm at their Spring Oaks location.

Bob shared that he would like to see some type of event organized at the AIDS Memorial Park in Tampa during the Gasparilla parade in 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.