



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
METRO CENTER - TAMPA  
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009  
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Janet Kitchen, Chair, at 2:16 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: David Hasiba, Denis Hayes, Natalie Jackson, Janet Kitchen, Marshall Lee, John Melartin, Andrew Paquette, Darlene Smith, Tyrone Stamps, Bill Thomas  
Members Absent: Bob Reynolds  
Guests Present: James Hamilton, Michael Hahn, Randy Masters, Don Metzgar, Tom Wood  
Grantee Staff Present: Teresa Newgent  
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for February 16, 2009 were approved as written (**M:** Hasiba, **S:** Melartin). There were 8 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- CONSUMER INPUT** A client present shared some of their issues regarding housing. They stated that they were in a housing program for ex-offenders and now that the program is no longer being funded locally they have had to scramble to find new housing.  
Another member announced that the Boley Center is now accepting applications for the Section 8 waiting list.  
Another client present asked where clients could get non HIV related medical care without insurance. Members suggested seeing if their doctor would be able to relate the needed care to HIV so that it would be covered or to have their case manager check into accessing the Direct Client Services Fund.

It was also shared by a client present that they have received a lot of help from Janet and the other members of the Client Services Committee and that they now feel that they are in a position to give back by being an active part of the committee.

## **CARE COUNCIL REPORT**

The Care Council approved an addendum to the 2008 Epidemiology and Demographics Report. Members will be holding a retreat in April.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWLY DIAGNOSED BROCHURE**

The brochure for the newly diagnosed was approved at the February meeting but has not yet been printed. Janet stated that she will send a copy of the completed brochure to the Grantee's office to be printed and to support staff to be posted on the web site.

Members discussed places for distribution of the brochure. After a list of locations was generated members decided to prioritize the locations for brochure distribution. These locations included all testing sites in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, doctor's offices, all Ryan White providers, local health departments, sexually transmitted infections (STI) clinics and mobile testing sites. In addition there were some secondary locations for distribution suggested: camp grounds, community centers, night clubs and community festivals and testing day events. There were mixed opinions among members as to whether distribution should be targeted or wide spread.

## **OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The Membership Committee is recruiting new Care Council members. Applications are due by May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) made recommendations to the Care Council on MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) reallocations of funding.

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John shared a concern about clients having to give thirty days notice to transfer case management services from one agency to another. He also stated that if that client participated in any activity at that agency then they would have to give an additional thirty days notice.

In addition John voiced concerns about clients getting bills from the hospital when the labs or treatment at the hospital was requested by an HIV clinic. He said that these delays in paying bills by local clinics can add unneeded stress to clients.

Flyers for a couple of out of state retreats were shared.

Andrew shared information on the Florida Medicare Part D Prescription Drug helpline. The helpline number is 1-800-436-6001.

Andrew also shared information on the Florida Statewide Consumer

Advisory Group (CAG) and Bill shared information on the Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network.

The Southeast Regional Gay Men's Health Summit will be in Fort Lauderdale August 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.