



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
METRO CENTER- TAMPA  
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010  
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by John Melartin, at 2:13 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Edward Ford , David Hasiba, Denis Hayes, Natalie Jackson, Janet Kitchen, Marshall Lee, John Melartin, Andrew Paquette, Bill Quercia, Bob Reynolds, Wayne Fernald  
Members Absent: Vincent D’Agostino, Randy Masters, Darlene Smith, Tyrone Stamps, Tom Wood  
Guests Present:  
Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold  
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** Election of a new committee chair was added to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for February 15, 2010 were approved as written (**M:** Hayes, **S:** Quercia) with 11 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- ELECTION** Darlene Smith has resigned as the chair of the Client Services Committee. Members held an election and Denis Hayes was elected as the new committee chair. Randy Masters will continue as the committee’s co-chair.
- CONSUMER INPUT** Bob passed around information and fliers during community input. Janet spoke about her experiences at the Positive Living Conference and shared some information on client advocacy.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** It was announced that the Care Council has new national and state project officers. Our area has also received the Part A formula award but has not yet received the supplemental award. The needs assessment survey for people with HIV will be available community

wide in April.

**OUTREACH  
EFFORTS**

Members discussed community outreach and decided to visit a group called Pasco Inc that meets in Port Richey. Their meetings are the third Thursdays of the month and members would like to visit and provide education on the Care Council and answer any questions.

**OTHER  
COMMITTEE  
UPDATES**

Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families will be holding their mothers' luncheon on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Tampa.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee forwarded the Needs Assessment Resource Guide to the Care Council.

The Membership Committee is currently recruiting new voting Care Council members.

The Rural Issues Committee will be holding a community event on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Lakeland. The Committee will also be holding its May meeting in Highlands County.

**COMMUNITY  
CONCERNS/  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Information was shared on the Heart Song Retreat.

Local and state homeless funding was discussed. Bob shared that all state homeless funding is in jeopardy and he encouraged people to advocate for these dollars to be renewed.

Andrew shared that he attended the National Week of Prayer event held in Tampa. He said that while this was the state kick off it was not well attended. He also shared an observation that he feels stigma is still a major issue with only gay supportive religions in attendance.

Natalie stated that she was shocked to read an article in the newspaper that homosexuals are not allowed to donate blood. She was unaware of this and said that the article addressed how this practice might be changed. This brought up a discussion of other currently discussed issues surrounding stigma such as the don't ask, don't tell policy, Mississippi's laws for HIV positive individuals and the lifting of the HIV travel ban to the United States.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.