

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEST TAMPA NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER– TAMPA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2006
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Janet Kitchen, Chair, at 2:30 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Janet Kitchen, John Melartin, Aritus Miller, Bob Reynolds, Linda Rogers
Members Absent: Natalie Jackson, Ken McCallister, Bill Thomas
Guests Present: Andrew Paquette
Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
Health Council Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** One item was added to the agenda.
XA. Medicaid Part D Update
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Aubrey Arnold pointed out a mistake in the Care Council report. The minutes were changed from “MAI funded RFA’s” to “MAI funded allocations”. The September minutes were adopted as amended.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Aubrey Arnold gave the Care Council report. He stated that in lieu of a regular meeting the Care Council had its annual member’s full day retreat. The retreat received good reviews and was informative to the group. The retreat was followed by a special business meeting. Dave Konnerth was named the new Care Council chair because of Mark Mischan’s resignation and Wendell Martin was elected vice-chair. The Care Council also approved budget allocations for 2007.
- WORK PLAN** The committee reviewed the work plan and made several changes. Bob Reynolds suggested adding a step stating that the committee will be an advocate for a continuum of services and it was pointed out by Andrew Paquette that two goals were reversed and should be listed under a different objective. In addition a goal

pertaining to the committee being an advisor to the Grantee on client satisfaction issues that was taken off at the last meeting was added back on.

Bob Reynolds requested to see the changes made before it is approved by the committee. A revised version will be presented at the November meeting.

**NEWLY
DIAGNOSED
BROCHURE**

Janet Kitchen shared that no changes have been made to the brochure for newly diagnosed consumers since the last meeting. Janet would like to set up a small group to work on finishing the brochure but was not able to get the group together last month.

**CO-INFECTED
CLIENTS**

Bob Reynolds discussed a concern that was raised at the membership committee meeting. It was discussed that there may have been some confusion about information on Hepatitis that was shared at the retreat. Some members of the Membership Committee will be collecting information on Hepatitis before sending it to Health Services for a review for accuracy.

It was also mentioned that the committee should look at the prevalence rates for the major co-morbidities. Andrew Paquette suggested that the committee look at co-factors and not co-infections because some common issues are not infections. It was suggested that some other co-factors should be raised to the awareness level of Hepatitis.

**OTHER
COMMITTEE
UPDATES**

No other committee updates were given.

**TOWN HALL
PREPARATION**

Janet Kitchen began discussion on having two client services committee town halls. The committee is looking to add two events to the work plan for 2006-2007. Members discussed holding the town halls in conjunction with already established groups. John Melartin and Andrew Paquette suggested the FACT dinner on the first Tuesday of the month for a winter town hall in Pinellas County. Bob Reynolds suggested holding the other town hall in Pasco County in conjunction with their support group.

NEW BUSINESS

Janet Kitchen asked the committee if they would like to have a Christmas party. She thinks that it would be fun for the December meeting and might entice more people to attend. Bob Reynolds suggested that Membership and Client Services have a joint meeting in December from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Janet shared that she would like to start a letter writing campaign to advocate for people with HIV/AIDS and the reauthorization of the CARE Act. Aubrey Arnold said that the AIDS Institute is good

about organizing letter writing campaigns and that he would give Janet their contact information.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Reynolds voiced a concern about the definition of “in care”. He shared that some people and agencies may look at the requirement of someone needing to visit a primary care doctor once a year to get services as not a minimum but the standard. Aubrey Arnold stated that the intent of that requirement was so that people receiving Ryan White funding would be in primary care and it was not set up as an ideal. Andrew Paquette also stated that some people perceive being in care as being on medications. Those things are different and even if someone does not want to be on medications they still should see a doctor at least once a year.

Bob announced that he will be attending a housing conference in Baltimore, MD. He asked anyone that has a housing issue or information they would like him to share to let him know. He will also be attending the Men’s Health Summit at the beginning of November.

Andrew shared his experience with the Pinellas County Housing Authority. He said that the application process for disabled individuals was for a brief time frame and required several pieces of additional documentation. He said that even with this process being difficult, the county received many more applications than spaces available.

Janet Kitchen voiced concern about the meetings being filled with acronyms and suggested that new people be paired up with an experienced buddy to help them through their first couple of meetings.

MEDICAID PART D UPDATE

Bob Reynolds reminded the group that it is almost open enrollment time for Medicaid Part D. The open enrollment period starts November 15th and will end December 31st. Bob is concerned that case managers are not getting the word out to their clients about the open enrollment period or that some of the plans may have changed. Aubrey Arnold said that there is a provider meeting on December 8th and Medicare Part D could be brought up as a reminder to providers.

Janet Kitchen suggested that the committee invite Joe Lennox-Smith back to the Client Services Committee in December to answer any questions people have about the Medicaid Part D plans. It was also mentioned that SHINE is a good resource to help people make a choice about their plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

11/30/2006