

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCAY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 11:25 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Vivian Candelaria, Carla Foster, Georgette King, Debbie Langhorne, Andrew Maldonado, John Melartin, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Marylin Merida, Paul Watkins
Members Absent: Mary Adams, Edith Ellerson, Natalie Jackson, Janet Kitchen, Kyle Lidge, Bob Reynolds, Diondria Riley, Betty Sharp
Guests Present: Gustavo Bardelli, Joseph Robinson
Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Dorinda Seth
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes were adopted unanimously.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Carla Foster gave the Care Council report. She stated that the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) presentation that Mellita Mills-Kendrick and she did went well and that all of the RPARC MAI funding recommendations passed. The annual half-day Care Council members retreat was also held following the meeting.
- RFA LANGUAGE FOR MAI PROVIDERS** Dorinda Seth was in the process of writing the RFA language for MAI providers and needed clarification on the committee's intent for several services.

Inpatient substance abuse treatment was discussed. A problem with PLWH entering residence substance abuse facilities is that clients don't feel comfortable sharing their HIV status and they require different care including continuing on antiretroviral medications. Due to funding restraints the committee does not foresee having a residence facility just for HIV substance abuse treatment. The committee is proposing that a substance abuse treatment agency collaborate with a PLWH residence facility to share costs. A client would live in a residence facility that understands the needs of PLWH and a substance abuse agency would create a special outpatient program that they would provide to the new residents. The

committee felt that outpatient substance abuse treatment is often not successful alone because clients return to the environment where they use drugs. This new combination of services will allow clients to focus on substance abuse treatment in a comfortable setting. The service will be open to both males and females, there is no limit on treatment time and transportation may be available through the Sunshine Line to transport a client to another county where the facility is located.

Primary care for women of childbearing age in Pasco and Hernando County was discussed. The RFA should be written to first request a needs assessment be done to identify the needs in the area. Once the needs are identified, the agency that completed the needs assessment will provide care coordination to allow women access to needed services.

The committee worked to distinguish between the two positions for the treatment adherence program. One position will be a medical educator and the other will be a peer counselor who will follow the train the trainer model. The aim is to hire a client as a peer counselor to motivate other PLWH to become advocates of treatment adherence in their community.

MAI LOGIC MODEL

The MAI Logic Model was tabled until the next meeting to allow more time to discuss the RFA language for MAI providers.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was discussed that a welcome packet and description of MAC should be available to new members. Mellita Mills-Kendrick and Marilyn Merida discussed the possibility of repeating the orientation session that they conducted in 2005, and providing some handouts for new members from that presentation.

An announcement was made that the Care Council is currently looking for new voting members. The committee members were encouraged to help recruit new members for all Care Council committees as well as new possible Care Council members who could help in fulfilling parity requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

11/7/06