



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 9:08 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Joselin Colon, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Jacqueline Tobar-Lax, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Members Absent: Carla Baity, Jeannie Lewis, Marylin Merida, Mellita Mills-Kendrick
- Guests Present: Ramon Benitez, Jeremy Davidson, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Aspen De Loach, Kourtney Howell, Johnnie Hurst, Riki Liff, Richard McNeil, Helene Neal-Ali
- Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The July meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** There was not a Care Council meeting held in August.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Patrick Mercier spoke about the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He said that they reviewed the FY2007 Executive Summary Report which was updated with current epidemiology and information from the community focus groups. They also discussed the upcoming expert survey that will be given to

case managers, Care Council and committee members. In addition, it was noted that Hillsborough County is drastically under represented in the Anonymous Needs Survey and that there are still efforts underway to collect in Hillsborough County.

John Melartin gave the Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) report. He said that the committee discussed allocations for the FY08 Budget. Our area's Part A grant award of 8.6 million is \$400,000 less than last year's award and there will therefore have to be funding cuts to some services. Funding reductions were reviewed for housing, food, transportation and substance abuse. There was also discussion on eliminating acupuncture and legal services.

MAI APPLICATION UPDATE

Aubrey Arnold gave an update on the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) grant award. He explained that this funding is now separated from the Part A funding and that while there is the same amount of federal funding five more areas are competing. He announced that our area received an award of \$525,592 for the year starting August 1, 2007. He said that our grant award will be very similar for the next three years. This funding will allow current MAI programs to continue but will not allow for expansion of services.

REVIEW OF MAI STANDARDS OF CARE DOCUMENTS

A review of the MAI standards of care was tabled until the September meeting.

CONNECT 2 PROTECT'S COMMUNITY PROMISE PROGRAM: LIPPS

Kourtney Howell gave a presentation on Connect 2 Protect's Community PROMISE Program called LIPSS (Ladies In charge Powerful Secure and Safe). She said this program focuses on prevention and risk education for black females ages 12-24 in Tampa. She also explained the program's use of peer advocates and role model stories to reach their audience.

THAP'S 3MV PROGRAM: BMAD

Johnnie Hurst shared information about the B.M.A.D. (Brothers Making A Difference) program. This program is for MSM (men who have sex with men) ages 18-24 and focuses on education about STI (sexually transmitted infections), risk behaviors and condom negotiation. This program is funded by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and has been used in other areas of the country. There is also free HIV and STI testing provided.

HIV PREVENTION AND CARE ISSUES FOR TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

There was a presentation made by Riki Liff and Aspen De Loach of WestCare on the transgender community. Riki shared some statistical information on the HIV infected transgender community as well as transgender definitions. Aspen gave information on some of the ways that HIV is

spreading and how outreach is done to this community. The two main modes of transmission were cited as being sexual contact and needle sharing for not only drug use but also silicone and hormones. WestCare leads three support groups in Pinellas County and more information can be found at www.copeoutreach.org.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John announced that congresswomen, Kathy Castor will be doing one-on-ones with constituents on August 17th from 10:00am – 12:00pm at Johnny Ruth Clark Health Center in St. Petersburg and August 30th from 10:00am – 12:00pm at the Jan Platt Library in Tampa.

John also shared articles on the Love, Protect, Respect program and Medicare Part D.

Janet Kitchen announced that THAP (Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan) is collecting children's clothing to help with back to school.

Ramon Baez shared the Mi Voz magazine which will be produced monthly. This is a Spanish language publication that is produced through the MAI program.

The Metro Center in Tampa will be distributing school supplies on August 11th from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

On Sunday August 12th from 12:00pm to 6:00pm there will also be a back to school event at Ragins Park.

Helene Neal-Ali shared information on the non-profits Family of Humanity and The Family Justice Center.

Jacqueline Tobar-Lax shared that the Brown Family Foundation is sponsoring a program called "Sista's Can We Talk" for HIV positive women at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in St. Petersburg from 11:00am to 1:00pm on August 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.