



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

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 9:13 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ramon Baez, Georgette King, Jeannie Lewis, Ivette Lopez, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Marylin Merida, Paul Watkins
- Members Absent: Carla Baity, Tonicia Freeman, Janet Kitchen, Debbie Langhorne
- Guests Present: Maria Aponte, Joselin Colon, Andrew McFarlane, Anil Pandya, Jacqueline Tobar-Lax
- Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold, Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres
- Health Councils Staff Present: Judit Hahn
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Minutes for January 12 were approved (M: Melartin, S: Mercier) with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Lewis).
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** There was no Care Council Report to present as the Care Council did not meet in February.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Patrick Mercier reported that the Planning and Evaluation Committee passed a motion to make a recommendation to the Care Council to consider pregnant women, infants, children and adolescents as special populations and exclude from the recommended service cap that allows no more than 25% of

total primary care contract to be used for patient education.

Marilyn Merida shared that the Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) has approved two allocation adjustment recommendations which have no impact on services, and become effective March 1, 2007.

The Grantee, Aubrey Arnold reported that from 8/1/07 there will be a separate funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) program and cumulative HIV and AIDS cases will be taken into consideration. In the past only diagnosed AIDS cases were counted. Title I is undergoing a major change: it will be a two tier system, with the traditional EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) and new, Transitional Grant Areas (TGA). The emergence of five new Title I Transitional Grant Areas will effect overall funding, as more areas will compete for funding, but the funding has not increased. The requirement for new areas to submit grant applications will slow down the grant process.

On March 1st the funded areas will receive partial awards, and supplemental awards will be received in April. The Grantee will shift funds in the Title I program to provide a bridge from March to July to fund MAI programs, as MAI funding will not be received until August. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will provide guidance for MAI grant applications which will have to be submitted prior to the start of the new grant year in August. 75% of MAI funding will have to be spent on core services. All existing MAI programs must be tied to medical outcomes. The Grantee stated that more coordination is needed with prevention. There is CPP (Community Planning Partnership) representation on the Care Council but increased coordination is needed.

MAI HISTORY AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres of RNT& Associates Development Group, Inc. shared information on MAI's history and programs. She also described how the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Rapid Assessment, Response and Evaluation (RARE) methodology was used to review MAI programs and fund allocations. In RNT's ensuing report, several recommendations were made, which were forwarded to RPARC and the CARE Council and shared with MAC members.

PROGRESS REPORT ON

Georgette King shared that MAC is currently in a stage of gathering background information regarding standards and

**WORK PLAN
GOAL**

protocols of care for Women of Child Bearing Age (WCBA). The Grantee stated that General Standards of Care developed by RNT can be used for WCBA. P & E will look at all developed Standards of care, before it goes to the Care Council to be adopted.

**NEEDS
ASSESSMENT
SURVEY FORM**

Patrick Mercier shared that HIV/AIDS Bureau wants to create a consistent survey form that can be used throughout the state Title II consortia areas. They are hoping to also coordinate with all Title I EMAs in the state. Feedback was provided on the form from members of the Minority Advocacy Committee. The State intends to use Survey Monkey to collect and analyze needs assessment data. As the local area will not receive feedback in time to use the data for local planning in the current year, Survey Monkey subscription will also be purchased for local use.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John Melartin shared that there is no more CARE Act (Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act): it is now the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006. John also stated that a pharmacy in Brandon has courier service, and they complete all paperwork and tracking for the Medically Needy. John can be contacted for further information.

Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres announced that on February 27-28 there will be an Advanced Case Management Training workshop for all interested parties (not just for case managers).

Interested parties can receive further information by registering on RNT & Associates Development Group's website.

Georgette King shared that training will be provided by Advocates For Youth in collaboration with the Connect to Protect Tampa Bay Coalition (C2PTB) on March 13-14 at the University of South Florida (USF) Business Center. It will be targeted to C2PTB coalition members.

ADJOURNMENT

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