



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 9:12 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Ramon Baez, Carla Baity, Tonicia Freeman, Georgette King, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Marilyn Merida, Paul Watkins
- Members Absent: Debbie Langhorne, Ivette Lopez, Janet Kitchen
- Guests Present: Maria Aponte, Keith Edwards, Sharon Jones, Jacqueline Lax, Sherri White
- Grantee Staff Present: Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres
- Health Councils Staff Present: Judit Hahn, Collette Tomberlin
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Minutes for December 15, 2006 were approved (M: Mercier, S: Baity) with 8 yes votes and 0 no votes.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT**
- Carla Baity reported that the Care Council approved a formulary revision to amend the formulary restriction on antiretroviral agents from a one month supply to a 60 day/2 month supply. They also adopted the final reallocations for 2006-07 and the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism.
- Carla also stated that the Grantee shared information on the Ryan White Reauthorization Bill: it has passed for a three year term. The Grantee shared that the internal audit has been completed on the RWIS (Ryan White Information System) and provider training will start in February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Planning and Evaluation committee, RPARC, and the Women, Infants, Children Youth and Families (WICY&F) committee did not meet in December. The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) also had no meeting in December. The Latino Advisory Group has postponed its next meeting to March.

John Melartin shared that the Membership and Client Services Committees held a joint meeting on December 18th for a presentation on Medicare Part D, and holiday celebration.

John Melartin shared that the Rural Issues Committee had a discussion on Medicare Part D and the status of the nine thousand disenrolled Medically Needy clients who no longer meet out of pocket expenses guidelines. The committee also had its holiday celebration.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WORK PLAN GOAL

Carla reported that she has found information on standards of care for women of childbearing age on Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) website. Copies of "Guide for Clinical Care for Women with HIV" are available for review. Carla also shared that the Boston Public Health Commission's AIDS program has a publication titled "HIV Case Management: Standards of Care" on assessments and intakes.

Paul Watkins shared that Tampa Bay AIDS Network (TBAN) has a sample tool for conducting assessments with women of childbearing age. The tool will be distributed electronically to MAC members for review at the next meeting.

Marylin Merida shared that there are existing assessment tools in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties that could be reviewed. Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres stated that the Title IV instruments will be used largely, as they tie in with the Quality Management program. John shared that last fall at the Patient Care Planning Group (PCPG) meeting Area 15 representatives presented a Treatment Readiness Assessment tool. They also have pictorially augmented HIV education materials for patients with limited reading abilities.

Members discussed the referral process in Pasco and Hernando counties. Paul reported that most clients from Pasco and Hernando counties travel to Tampa for services, as many physicians do not accept Ryan White payments, and there are no local specialists.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Collette Tomberlin, Staff shared information on the State's needs assessment component, the Client Survey form. The State would like to standardize the survey form. The form is

currently under revision; there will be a meeting on January 23rd involving state representatives, the Grantee and Staff. A draft copy of the survey form will be mailed electronically to MAC members for input and review.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

There were no community concerns that were shared.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John announced that in order to get meds faster, clients can prepare letters of prior authorization and just have the doctors sign them; insurance companies do not write the letters.

Members shared providers of life insurance for HIV+ clients. Quotes on life insurance premiums can be found at Selectquote on the internet.

Gilda announced that RNT and Associates had recently conducted an MAI Training on utilizing the MAI Assessment Form and Cultural Diversity training for service providers. A training notice on Advance Case Management was sent out to all providers for Title I and Title II for the trainings being held February 28th and 29th.

On January 24th there will be a meeting of the African American HIV/AIDS Coalition with a speaker representing one hundred black women. On the same date the Connect to Protect Tampa Bay Coalition meets in Tampa from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The two coalitions are engaged in collaboration to hold the two meetings together.

On February 3rd the Tampa Bay Community Event Planning Group is holding a Black Cultural Festival in the Robles Park area in recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Other community agencies are encouraged to participate in the event.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

3/9/07