



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, MARCH 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 9:10 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Carla Baity, Georgette King, Jeannie Lewis, Janet Kitchen, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Marylin Merida, Paul Watkins
- Members Absent: Ramon Baez, Tonicia Freeman, Debbie Langhorne, Ivette Lopez
- Guests Present: Sonya Bufe, Joselin Colon, Mellita Mills-Kendrick
- Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Collette Tomberlin
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The February minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Carla Baity gave the Care Council report. She stated that the client focus groups report and revised minimum standards of care were approved. There was also an exception made by the Care Council to consider pregnant women, infants, children and adolescents as special populations and exclude them from the service cap that allows no more than 25% of a total primary care contract to be used for patient education. The Care Council also reviewed two funding alignments. At the Grantee's request one alignment was voted down since it did not align with current procurement practices. The other

funding alignment to combine two contracts was approved. The Ryan White Information System (RWIS) was also discussed at the Care Council. Providers are currently being trained on the system and it should go live sometime in April. The Grantee's office has received positive feedback on the new system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Patrick Mercier reported that the Planning and Evaluation Committee is recommending to the Care Council that they remove the service cap that allows no more than 25% of a total primary care contract to be used for patient education. He said the decision made by the committee was more to prevent the unintended consequence of the service cap on Pinellas County Medicaid patients. Private clinics receive less money for treating a Medicaid patient than local Health Departments, therefore patient education funds have been used to supplement reimbursement for services of HIV/AIDS Medicaid clients.

The Grantee, Aubrey Arnold gave an update on changes due to the new legislation. He said that our area received the formulary award and should expect the supplemental award in April. He also stated that he does not anticipate a funding decrease and our area should receive what was requested in the grant application process. The Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) now has separate funding with a grant year starting in August. The Grantee plans to use carryover funds to provide a bridge from March to July to fund MAI programs. This will allow for no lapse in service to clients. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has not yet provided guidance for the MAI grant application which will have to be submitted prior to the start of the new grant year in August. Georgette requested that Aubrey send the MAI section of last years Title I application to the committee so that they could review it and possibly add information about the migrant communities in our area. Aubrey will be putting the application together and thinks that the one application may be used for the next three years of funding.

Aubrey also announced that HRSA has created two new mandatory spots on the Care Council. One for a Native American representative and one for Hepatitis Co-infection.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WORK PLAN GOAL

Paul Watkins spoke about the work he is doing to support Women of Child Bearing Age (WCBA) in Pasco and Hernando Counties. He said that he has developed a working relationship with the provider in Hernando but has not received much corporation from Pasco County. He currently has three patients that he is working with. Marylin Merida said that she will contact Julie Baltzell who is with the AIDS Education

Training Center (AETC). Through AETC she hopes that providers in Hernando and Pasco will be able to have the latest information on how to care for WCBA and pregnant HIV positive women.

**ASSESSMENT
TOOL FOR HIV+
WOMEN OF
CHILDBEARING
AGE**

Paul stated that he has not received a copy of the assessment tool used by Title IV. He plans to use that tool when working with WCBA. Marylin said that she had requested that the information be sent to him but that the provider must have been too busy to provide it yet. Georgette said that she will follow up with the Title IV clinic at the University of South Florida (USF) and send the form to Paul.

**PLANNING OF
INCREASED
COORDINATION
WITH
PREVENTION**

Jeanne Lewis spoke about the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) meetings and how there is a good mix of people involved. Mellita Mills-Kendrick said that Polk County did a great job using the Silence is Death campaign to promote prevention and testing. They are currently looking at data and making decisions for the state prevention plan.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Paul raised a concern about an AIDS patient in Pasco County who is not taking his antiretroviral medication while under Hospice care. Several members shared information about how Hospice services work and suggested that Paul talk more with the patient and their family.

Jeannie stated that area MAI providers had their first meeting and that a health fair is being held to highlight available MAI services.

John Melartin shared that there will be an educational presentation on April 14th from 9-3 sponsored by Trinity Charities. Contact John for more information.

Janet Kitchen announced that the Create Your Sacred Space Retreat will be held April 12th – 15th in Umatilla, Florida. Contact Janet for a flyer with more information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.