



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:07 a.m.

ATTENDANCE Members Present: Ramon Baez, Ann DePoole, Laura Dunn, Tony Gonzalez, John Melartin, Bill Quercia, Lewis Williams

Members Absent: Robert Bailey, Cecillia Carothers, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Tonicia Freeman, Brenda Grove, Catheline Lamour, Andrew Maldonado, Guttenberg Pierre, Sadiya Sassine, Chris Spall

Guests Present: Frank Didiano, Zinzler Larry, Mac McDougale, John Patton, Brien Richard

Grantee Staff Present:

Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown

CHANGES TO AGENDA There were no changes to the agenda.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES There was no quorum present to approve the minutes for March 11, 2011. The members present approved the minutes (**M:** Melartin, **S:** Quercia) and staff contacted absent members to request approval. A phone approval was achieved May 4th (Emanuel-Brown & Spall). There were 9 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.

STIGMA CARD / FACEBOOK PAGE UPDATE The Facebook page was discussed. Some concerns were shared about losing followers if current information is not posted on an ongoing basis. Members decided to bring information to be posted to the website to meetings so that it can be given to those who are managing the Facebook postings. The group hopes that this way there will be consistent new content ideas to be posted and less of a burden on a single member. Laura offered to bring materials to the next meeting for posting. The group would also like to try and log onto the internet at the next meeting to show all members how the page works.

Ramon stated that he is working with the stigma card sponsor, AB Specialty Pharmacy, to see about getting additional cards printed and also some printed in Spanish.

ADAP UPDATE

Frank Didiano, who manages the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for Hillsborough County, gave an update on the ADAP program. There are currently close to 4,000 people on the waiting list and the group discussed possible reasons for the long waiting list in Florida. Frank stated that local ADAP programs also just received lists of clients to move from the waiting list into the program. He also stated that the state's transition to the Welvista program was successful and now all those clients are now being handled by ADAP again. In addition there was a discussion on the AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP). Issues raised included: Do clients use their insurance once Ryan White pays the premium; is the benefit enough to continue to justify paying the premiums for insurance that does not include prescription coverage or with a high deductible that the client will never be able to afford to meet?

Some proposed steps to support the ADAP situation were to thank the pharmaceutical companies for providing free medications for wait listed clients, more coordinated training for case managers about the options for clients, educate clients about personal empowerment and to look for cost containment strategies such as making sure clients are not eligible for other services before accessing Ryan White.

REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Members reviewed the committee work plan to evaluate how the committee is progressing on meeting their goals. Members discussed creating a committee brochure to encourage new membership and plan to hopefully customize the brochure that the WICY&F (Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families) Committee uses.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

Laura and John shared that it was announced at the Care Council that there will be a workshop on proposed changes to state eligibility Rule 64D. The meeting will be from 9–12 on May 4th at Christ the King Church, Mary Martha House. Our area also has a new HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) project officer, Frances Hodge.

CLIENT INPUT

It was shared that the National Women & Girls event coordinated by THAP (Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan) was a success.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no other committee reports shared.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lewis shared a flyer for Dining Out for Life on April 28, 2011.

Billy raised a community concern about the way blood banks notify clients with their HIV diagnosis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.