



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
HEALTHY START – TAMPA  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2008  
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 11:15 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Jackie Colunga, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Georgette King, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier , Marylin Merida, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Jana Balicki, Josefina Campos, Laura Dunn, Janet Kitchen, Catheline Lamour, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Guests Present: Cecillia Carothers, Belinda Maxwell, Mac McDougale, Desmon Newton, Darlene Smith, Jose Torres, JaDawn Wright
- Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** There was no vote taken on the minutes from May or July since no quorum was present.
- DISPARITY DATA DISCUSSION** Georgette and Marylin presented suggested changes to the 2008 Ryan White Demographics and Epidemiology Report. This report is produced by The Health Councils, Inc. on behalf of The Ryan White Care Council under a contract with the County of Hillsborough, Department of Health and Social Services, Ryan White Program. The report is considered to be a work product of the Planning and Evaluation Committee and has been approved by that committee and forwarded to the Care Council. Georgette and Marylin pointed out that standard epidemiology reporting of this type includes providing the demographic profile of the general population, and then calculating the rate per 100,000 for race and ethnicity. They also explained the basic epidemiology reporting concept that case data must also be presented in a manor that allows for case percentages to be contrasted with the corresponding percentage that a given group represents of a given population. The primary concern that was raised was that despite the

repeated HRSA directives to the contrary, the report did not point out the disparities in the impact of HIV on various communities that can clearly be seen by reviewing the rate and comparative case data..

Georgette shared an excerpt of the report with the proposed changes. Patrick added a suggestion that the data also be broken out by rate per 100,000 for the MSM (men who have sex with men) population, since providing that information would highlight the disproportionate effect of HIV/AIDS on the MSM population. Georgette pointed out that among the recommendation listed in the amended report was a recommendation that in future years the report include the data that was necessary to highlight the disproportionate impact of HIV among all ethnic groups of MSMs. After discussion the members present decided to recommend that the Planning and Evaluation Committee revisit this document. The following motion was passed: (**M**: Emanuel-Brown **S**: Mercier, 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions - extra votes via e-mail: Balicki, Kitchen & Watkins on August 11, 2008).

**MOTION 6/08 - 01**

**THAT THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE THAT THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT BE REVISED TO INCLUDE RATE PER 100,000 DATA AND PERCENT OF GENERAL POPULATION DATA FOR RACE/ETHNICITY AND FOR MSM.**

**NEW BUSINESS:  
CARE COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP**

Members reviewed the Care Council bylaws and discussed the possibility of changing the name of the Minority Advocacy Committee and the committee description.

Georgette also raised concerns about the Care Council membership and the number of members of affected Black and Latino community members were either members of the Care Council or at least attended the meetings. The committee briefly discussed the membership goals of the Care Council and the role of community -based seats. Members of the committee were encouraged to apply for voting Care Council membership if possible and to encourage other community members to do so as well.

There was an update on the Linking Ex-Offenders with Care work group. Members stated that they are making progress on improving linkages to HIV care services for newly released HIV+ ex-offenders in our area. They plan to continue working on this issue since it has been well documented that failure to provide such services for ex-offenders will increase the spread of HIV. Marilyn and Georgette shared that they have invited representatives from NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council) come to our area to do a training on this topic. There was also brief discussion about this former ad hoc group becoming a full committee of the Care Council.

**REVIEW OF  
COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES**

The Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives were placed on the walls in the meeting room. Members were then asked to go around and place green dots by the tasks that are most related to MAC's work, yellow dots by the tasks that are somewhat related to MAC's work and pink dots by the tasks that are not at all related to MAC's work. The committee plans to focus on the tasks that members feel are most related to MAC's purpose when creating the work plan for the upcoming year.

**COMMUNITY  
CONCERNS &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Patrick shared flyers for the Smart Ride to be held November 14th-15th. This is a bike ride from Miami to Key West and Metro Charities will be a recipient of funds raised.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.