



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
METRO CENTER – TAMPA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Robert Bailey, Laura Dunn, John Melartin, Darlene Smith, Lewis Williams

Members Absent: Jackie Colunga, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Anthony Frederick, Tonicia Freeman, Brenda Grove, Catheline Lamour, Millie LaTorre, Paul Watkins, JaDawn Wright

Guests Present: Lashaundra Ellison, Brian Randolph, Tyrone Williamson

Grantee Staff Present:

Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown

CHANGES TO AGENDA None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES There was no quorum present to approve the minutes for July 10, 2009. The members present approved the minutes (**M:** Melartin **S:** Dunn) and staff will contact remaining members to request approval. Phone approval was achieved August 21st (Colunga, Lamour, LaTorre & Wright). There were 10 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Melartin).

RESTORE PROGRAM Brian gave a presentation on the new RESTORE (Restoration thru Education, Skills, Training and Occupational Renewal for Excellence) Program. RESTORE is a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) funded program that helps ex-offenders in Hillsborough County get back on their feet. This program is only open to Blacks that have been released from jail or prison within the last two years and is not exclusively for HIV positive clients. Brian said that they hope to be serving clients starting on October 1st and will be able to help a client for up to six months.

Lewis also shared information on CRCS (Comprehensive Risk

Counseling Sessions) which is a similar program to RESTORE but open to only clients in Pinellas County. CRCS is funded by a CDC (Centers for Disease Control) grant and targets minorities with HIV.

MAC SURVEY

The committee discussed how best to distribute the survey they approved at the last meeting. Committee members that work with MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) clients will help their clients to fill out the survey. Laura will work on getting surveys returned from Hernando County, Lewis will work with clients in Pinellas County and Ramon offered to take lead on surveys from Pasco and Hillsborough Counties. They hope to receive back about 150 surveys over the four counties. Members are to send any completed surveys to Ramon by September 4th so that he will have time to review the survey findings.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

There was no Care Council meeting held in August.

CLIENT INPUT

There was no client input shared.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Darlene shared that the WICY&F (Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families) Committee held a successful evening community event in Tampa.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura asked for members to share incentive ideas for her clients.

Lewis stated that a number of his clients are having trouble accessing dental services in Pinellas County.

Lewis also shared information from the Justice Center on state governors forming statewide reentry task forces to work with adults released from prison.

Robert shared that he is working with Narcotics Anonymous to start a support group.

L.U.C.E.S (Latinas Unidas Contra El SIDA) will be holding a workshop on August 17th at DACCO (Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordination Office).

Ramon and Andrew Maldonado are planning a large testing event for October 17th at the Fiesta Plaza in Tampa.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.