



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
METRO CENTER – TAMPA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:12 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Ramon Baez, Jackie Colunga, Anthony Frederick, Brenda Grove, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, Catheline Lamour, Marylin Merida
- Members Absent: Maria Aponte, Robert Bailey, Jana Balicki, Laura Dunn, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Jerry Nealy, Darlene Smith, Lewis Williams
- Guests Present: Lovett Harris, Elizabeth Murray, Rachel Parks, Priya Rajkumar, Paul Watkins
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Due to a lack of quorum the minutes for November 7, 2008 were not approved.
- REVISE MAC WORK PLAN**
- Members spoke about the progress that had been made on a couple of the work plan activities. Ramon shared his desire to get more community churches involved and there was discussion of creating a logo for the committee and revising the committee name and description. Marylin offered to create a new draft description and to work on revising it over e-mail with the committee.
- The linking ex-offenders with care group spoke about the NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council) training that is set for February. This workshop will focus on known HIV positive individuals who are leaving the state prison system and entering into care. No official date has been set yet and there will be formal invitations for about sixty attendees. Georgette is working to get media attention for this event and food sponsors. The linking group is also working on a one page

reference to provide the state release counselors with updated local service information. After Janet's suggestion a new peer contact line will be included on the reference sheet.

Catheline suggested creating a simple informational guest packet for first time attendees of the meeting. This would include the committee goals, the committee description and common acronyms. Georgette suggested that Marilyn do a mini orientation on HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) for the committee at the January meeting. This would be a mini retreat for MAC and the committee would meet from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

Georgette gave the Care Council report. She stated that she did a presentation for the Care Council on the current projects and issues addressed at the recent PCPG (Patient Care Planning Group) meeting. The comprehensive plan was also approved by the Care Council and will be sent to HRSA. There were funding reallocations approved and a couple of changes made to the bylaws.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership and Client Services will be holding a combined meeting in December. This will be an informal community discussion on agency grievance procedures.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After January 31st pharmaceutical companies will no longer be able to give items or gifts to promote their brand name.

Elizabeth Murray is the community liaison from Gilead Sciences and she mentioned that she is available to do community education and help sponsor events. She also stated that currently Gilead is accepting grant applications.

The Health Councils offers a prescription assistance program called MedNet that helps individuals access medications directly from the pharmaceutical companies.

Brenda announced that there will be a training on developing grants on December 6th in Tampa.

There will be a workshop on beating HIV stress held at the Metro Center on December 11th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.