



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 9:15 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Georgette King, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Rachel Parks, Paul Watkins
- Members Absent: Ramon Benitez, Heather Clayton, Joselin Colon, Janet Kitchen, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Marilyn Merida, Jacqueline Tobar-Lax, Sherri White
- Guests Present: Jana Balicki, Josefina Campos, Alma Escobedo, Maxwell Jones, Lorraine Langlois, Lewis Williams
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The November meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Lolita Emanuel-Brown gave the Care Council report. She said that the Council approved funding reallocations for Part A and B. Armando Carrasco became a new voting member of the Care Council and there was a mini training on parliamentary procedure.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Patrick Mercier spoke about the Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC). He said that they approved final reallocations for Part A and B. HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) requires that 98% of our funding be spent in order to qualify for

supplementary funding next year.

Georgette gave a report from the PCPG (Patient Care Planning Group) meeting. She shared statewide data on the death disparity between races. She said that this was not fully discussed at the PCPG meeting but that it will be on the agenda for their next meeting.

She also spoke about the prison release program and shared some statistical data. Approximately three hundred HIV positive ex-offenders will be returning to our area this year. These clients usually only find out about their status a couple of months before their release. It was also shared that they often miss their first primary care appointments due to other more immediate concerns such as employment and housing. Ex-offenders are given six months of eligibility without having to show any eligibility documentation. Georgette said that she would research the successful prison program in Miami-Dade County and invite guests to the next meeting so that the committee can have a more informed and detailed discussion about this issue.

The following motion was passed: (**M**: Mercier **S**: Watkins) 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

MOTION 12/07 - 01 THAT ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF HIV POSITIVE EX-OFFENDERS ENTERING INTO OUR COMMUNITY BE ADDED TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PLAN.

It was also discussed how beneficial it would be for prevention groups to work together and to discuss where gaps are in testing. Lorraine Langlois offered to pull together a prevention collaborative to discuss best practices and how to reach specific populations in need of testing.

DATA REQUESTED FROM GRANTEE There was no discussion on this topic.

SERVICE ELIGIBILITY SCREENING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH SKILLS Lorraine spoke about the eligibility process. She said that about a third of the clients have gone through the eligibility screening with an eligibility staff member and she guesses that about a third of the people have also been screened by local ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) offices. She said that she does not feel that it is a concern that none of the eligibility specialist speak Spanish or Creole because the Metro Charities' staff is diverse and has several Spanish and Creole speaking staff that can help translate for the eligibility appointments. She said that she is not aware of anyone that has not gone through the eligibility screening because of a

cultural or language barrier. Flyers and materials are also printed in English and Spanish. Lorraine also shared that she thought this was a Grantee related question and that questions should not be asked of specific agency staff.

Members also discussed the importance of the cultural competency section of the RFA (Request For Applications) proposals.

Georgette asked about the February 29th cut off of services for clients that have not had their eligibility reviewed. She said that the Grantee had assured her that clients would not be cut off from services. The providers in the room shared that they had received letters saying that services would be denied to clients who had not gone through the eligibility. It was discussed how this is a way to motivate clients to make and keep an eligibility appointment and that agencies will do whatever possible to prevent clients from being denied services.

MAI PROVIDER REPORTS

Metro Charities shared that they plan to expand the Mi Voz magazine to include an English edition. They have also been doing outreach to the rural communities in Hillsborough County.

TBAN (Tampa Bay AIDS Network) announced that they are fully staffed and meeting their goals.

MAI STANDARDS OF CARE DOCUMENTS

Georgette said that the committee has reviewed these documents several times but has not finalized them. She volunteered to follow up with RNT & Associates so that the committee can approve MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) standards of care.

EVALUATING THE MAI ASSESSMENT REFERRAL MECHANISM

Georgette brought up the fact that HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) no longer allows EMA's (Eligible Metropolitan Areas) to spend money on capacity building. This means that the work that RNT & Associates was doing with regards to the MAI assessment referral mechanism can no longer be funded. Lorraine suggested applying for a HRSA specific grant for capacity building or to outside funding sources.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Georgette began discussion on the recruitment of new members. She stated that the committee has a healthy membership and that recruitment and retention has been something the committee worked on in the past.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND

Members voiced the desire to have a programmatic member of the grantee's office present at meetings. They feel that it helps

ANNOUNCEMENTS to have someone that can answer specific questions.

Maxwell Jones shared information about BMAD (Brothers Making A Difference). BMAD is a program that is for gay, bisexual or transgender black men between the ages of 18-24. They focus on issues related to being black and gay as well as partner selection and HIV prevention.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.