



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
METRO CENTER – TAMPA  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009  
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Laura Dunn, Co-Chair, at 11:13 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Maria Aponte, Jackie Colunga, Laura Dunn, Anthony Frederick, Catheline Lamour, Paul Watkins, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Ramon Baez, Robert Bailey, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Brenda Grove, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Marylin Merida, Jerry Nealy, Darlene Smith
- Guests Present: Tonicia Freeman, Eddie Johnson, Millie LaTorre, Brian Randolph, JaDawn Wright
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** Due to a lack of quorum the minutes for January 9, 2009 were not approved.
- REVISE MAC WORK PLAN** Members discussed the committee work plan. During discussion members voiced concerns about some of the items on the agenda. Some members stated that they did not understand the reason for some of the goals set and other members stated that they feel that the committee is not making progress because some items have been discussed for years with no action taken. Members stated that they would like to refocus the work plan onto goals that they feel interested in and will have a positive effect on their clients. Members plan to reevaluate the work plan next month when more members are present and everyone has had a chance to fully read and think about what items to change.
- Members also asked to have a presentation on the committee basics. There was discussion about how MAC fits into the local Care Council structure, why it was created and what really should be the focus of the

committee. Some members stated that they felt the committee was disorganized and that they would like to refocus on issues that members feel are important. Members shared other ideas that the committee could focus on such as MAI provider networking and sharing of best practices. In addition, client input will be added as a standard agenda item to allow time for clients that attend the meeting to give feedback on services and voice concerns.

**MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE**

Members reviewed the proposed minimum standards of care. There was a discussion on whether the committee is seeking to create standards of care for the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding or for Blacks and Hispanics in general. The standards of care that our Care Council currently uses are not funding stream specific and are for the entire population regardless of race/ethnicity. Members also discussed the current standards for the three services that MAI funds, ambulatory/outpatient medical care, treatment adherence counseling, and substance abuse services. After discussion those present decided to table the minimum standards of care and to decide at the next meeting if the committee should move forward with reviewing the standards of care or if they feel the current standards are adequate.

**CARE COUNCIL REPORT**

Laura stated that the Care Council did not hold a meeting in February.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No other committee reports were given.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A guest present shared his experience with the state of Florida prison system. He said that he was tested for HIV at the Central Florida Reception Center in 2007 and once he was placed into a prison received medical care and HIV medications. He then stated that he worked with his pre-release planner before leaving prison and that the planner helped him to get medical and support services set up for after his release.

Brain spoke about the new RESTORE program which will provide referrals for support services to Black clients who were recently released from jail or prison. They hope to begin working with clients the first week of March.

Laura announced that there will be an event on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Hernando County. Jeanne White-Ginder, Janet Kitchen and Linnwood Davis will be the speakers for this event.

Catheline shared a flyer for a presentation on HIV Treatment Adherence and Mental Health that will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

JaDawn stated that the YES (Youth Education Services) program is doing HIV testing for youth (up to the age of 24) in Pinellas County jails.

Laura suggested that members give an introduction of themselves at

the beginning of the committee meetings. She feels that this will allow for members and guest to feel more comfortable with each other and to network to help their clients.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.