



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:21 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ramon Baez, Ann DePoole, Laura Dunn, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Tonicia Freeman, Brenda Grove, John Melartin, Guttenberg Pierre, Bill Quercia, Chris Spall, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Robert Bailey, Cecillia Carothers, Tony Gonzalez, Catheline Lamour, Andrew Maldonado, Brien Richard
- Guests Present: Natalia Dengler, Etna Jentseh, Sadiya Sassine
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for January 14, 2011 were approved as written (**M:** Quercia, **S:** Melartin). There were 10 yes votes, 1 no vote (Spall) and 0 abstentions.
- STIGMA POST CARD DISTRIBUTION** Ramon stated that a large number of the anti-stigma post cards that were printed have already been distributed. Most of the distribution has been from committee members bringing them to agencies and events. Members shared that there has been a good response from the community to the cards and that there have only been positive comments made.
- FACEBOOK PAGE PRESENTATION** Tonicia gave a presentation on the Stop the Stigma Facebook page that she created for the committee. This presentation touched on Facebook basic features as well as ways in which the group would like to expand use of the page. Ramon stated that he thought it was really great that the page has had such broad appeal with about 200 friends from across the world not just the Tampa bay area. Tonicia cautioned about too many people logging into the page each month because it is easy to become locked out if someone logs in incorrectly. Chris, Natalia

and Sadiya offered to update and expand the page in February.

RESTORE UPDATE Lolita gave an update on the RESTORE (Restoration thru Education Skills Training & Occupational Renewal for Excellence) program. There was recently a graduation of the first group to complete the program. From October through January the program was unable to take new clients because they were full but are now able to accept new clients. They are also reducing the gift card incentive for clients to attend meetings from \$20 to \$15 to accommodate more clients. They currently have about 70 clients; hold four groups and do testing on Mondays. Helping to get the clients employment is one of biggest issues that the program faces. Lolita also stated that they held a National Black HIV Awareness Day event where they raised money for their food pantry and tested about 30 people for HIV.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT The Care Council received the carryover money from HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) and approved funding reallocations; the anonymous needs survey report and two bylaw changes. There was also a change to the local pharmacy formulary and client comment cards are now available at contracted service providers. In addition there was a presentation on the Sunshine Law and how it affects the Care Council and its committees.

CLIENT INPUT There was no client input shared.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS There were no other committee reports shared.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS Lewis shared information from the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) summit he attended in Ft. Lauderdale. Florida has over 3,000 people on the ADAP waiting list and ADAP already has a multi-million dollar deficit for the current budget year. There is also a sizeable projected budget short fall for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Lewis provided the group with the name of an independent film maker who is looking to interview clients about the ADAP crisis. There is also a public service announcement available about the ADAP crisis until April 3rd at www.youtube.com/user/ADAPAdvocacy.

Community Promise will be doing testing in Ybor City February 17th from 5:00pm – 9:00pm at the underground. Community Promise focuses on prevention for Blacks 16 years old or over and distributes role model stories to the community.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.