



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
METRO CENTER – TAMPA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 10:07 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Robert Bailey, Laura Dunn, Anthony Frederick, Brenda Grove, Janet Kitchen, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Marilyn Merida, Darlene Smith, Paul Watkins
- Members Absent: Jackie Colunga, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Georgette King, Patrick Mercier, Jerry Nealy, Lewis Williams
- Guests Present: James Hamilton, Millie LaTorre, Andrew Maldonado, Rachel Parks, Bob Reynolds, Jim Roth
- Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Collette Tomberlin
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** A presentation from Andrew Maldonado was added to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for November 7, 2008 (**M:** Melartin, **S:** Dunn) and December 5, 2008 (**M:** Melartin, **S:** Merida) were approved as written with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- PRESENTATION FROM ANDREW MALDONADO** Andrew gave a presentation on his work as the regional minority AIDS coordinator through the Health Department and discussed working with members to accomplish common goals. He also shared information on the 501C trainings for the year.
- RYAN WHITE OVERVIEW PRESENTATION** Marilyn gave a comprehensive overview of the Ryan White Program in our area. She explained the different funding sources and Care Council structure in addition to encouraging discussion on boosting community involvement, prevention and cultural competency.
- COMMITTEE NAME & DESCRIPTION** Members discussed the new draft purpose for the committee and new potential committee names. Marilyn shared the draft she had circulated over e-mail including some feedback. Marilyn also noted that Part D is no longer using the word ‘advocacy’ in their grants and reports and she suggested changing the name of the committee to not include the word

'advocacy'. Aubrey shared information from the Part A project officer stating that there is no issue with the current name of the committee. It was also suggested that the term minority be replaced because it is not looked on favorably by some members and because of the large number of Blacks and Hispanics that are infected with HIV. Some members voiced concerns about using a term such as 'communities of color' because the term 'minority' is more inclusive of MSM (men who have sex with men) and other racial groups such as Asian-Pacific Islanders.

There was also a clarification discussion amongst the group on the difference between the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding and the Minority Advocacy Committee. While the MAI funding targets Blacks and Hispanics in our local service area, the committee's purpose has been to serve and represent all minority groups.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the current name and committee purpose should not be changed. The following motion passed (**M**: Melartin, **S**: Aponte) with 9 yes votes, 1 no vote (Merida) and 1 abstention (Frederick):

Motion 01/09 - 01

TO KEEP THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE NAME AND PURPOSE UNCHANGED.

REVISE MAC WORK PLAN

Ramon stated that he will be contacting members that volunteered to work on a specific committee goal to get their suggestions for benchmarks and outcomes to be included in the revised MAC work plan. This information will hopefully be included in February's meeting packet for the committee to discuss.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

Laura shared that the Care Council approved allocations for \$272,000 in new Part B funding. She stated that part of this money will be used for emergency housing assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No other committee reports were given.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maria mentioned that she has clients that would like to attend the meeting but they do not understand English. She suggested that in the future the meetings could be translated into Spanish so that these clients can participate.

Bob suggested that something be done at the AIDS Memorial Park during Gasparilla 2010.

Jim announced there will be a Community Planning Partnership (CPP) meeting on January 30th in Bartow.

Laura announced that there is a support group meeting on the fourth Friday of every month from noon to 2:00 p.m. in Hernando County. She

also said that there will be an event on May 2nd 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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.