



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011  
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:20 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ramon Baez, Robert Bailey, Cecillia Carothers, Ann DePoole, Laura Dunn, Tony Gonzalez, Brenda Grove, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Guttenberg Pierre, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Tonicia Freeman, Andrew Maldonado, Bill Quercia, Brien Richard, Chris Spall
- Guests Present: Valester Jones, 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 December 10, 2010 were approved as written (**M:** Melartin, **S:** Dunn). There were 11 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- STIGMA POST CARD** Ramon passed out the printed stigma post cards to the group. AB Specialty Pharmacy sponsored 5,000 of the cards to be used around the community. Members were excited to have the printed cards and took handfuls to bring to their agencies. It was noted that members will act as MAC ambassadors when placing the cards around and sharing the talking points the Committee has collected on stigma.
- FACEBOOK PAGE** Members discussed the new anti-stigma Facebook page. Ramon shared the new password and stated that he was excited to see the response that the page has already received. He also noted that the anti-stigma message has broader appeal than just the Tampa Bay area. Laura offered to maintain the Facebook page for the upcoming month but each member was encouraged to post on the page. Brenda

volunteered to post some event dates and members were asked to send her event information. Members would like to have a presentation on how to use Facebook at the February or March meeting so that all members will be able to easily navigate the new anti stigma page.

**CARE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

The Care Council discussed the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) waiting list and the delay in changing ADAP eligibility requirements. The Care Council approved funding reallocations, new voting members and the AAM (Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism). The Grantee and the Quality Management work group will also be distributing client comment cards to providers in February.

**CLIENT INPUT**

There was no client input shared.

**OTHER  
COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

There were no other committee reports shared.

**COMMUNITY  
CONCERNS &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members shared information on upcoming National Black HIV Awareness Day events.

Members discussed the benefits of VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and AmeriCorps and how some local agencies are working with the programs to provide services.

Lewis offered that he has received several letters from clients that are currently in prison and who are planning to be released to our area. The group had a discussion on the ex-offender population and the reasons as to why there has been an increase in the amount of contact from the prison population.

Ramon announced that he is now working with Metro Wellness & Community Centers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.