



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
METRO CENTER – TAMPA
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:13 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Robert Bailey, Jackie Colunga, Laura Dunn, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Anthony Frederick, Catheline Lamour, Millie LaTorre, Darlene Smith
- Members Absent: Tonicia Freeman, Brenda Grove, John Melartin, Paul Watkins, Lewis Williams, JaDawn Wright
- Guests Present: Guttenberg Pierre, Jr.
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes from May 15, 2009 were approved as written (**M:** Colunga, **S:** Dunn). There were 9 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- RESTORE** Lolita began a discussion of the RESTORE (Restoration thru Education, Skills, Training and Occupational Renewal for Excellence) Program. She stated that the committee discussed acting as a stakeholder for the RESTORE Program in April while reviewing the work plan. She requested that the relationship between the two groups now be formalized. The following motion passed (**M:** Dunn, **S:** Colunga) with 8 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions:
- MOTION 7/09 – 01** **THAT THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE WILL ACT AS A STAKEHOLDER FOR THE RESTORE PROGRAM AND WILL PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE PROGRAM DURING QUARTERLY UPDATES.**
- Lolita will do a presentation on the guidelines for the program at the August Committee meeting and a representative of the RESTORE Program will give an update to the committee every three months.

Lolita shared that they hope to receive approval from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) by September so that they can start accepting clients.

MAC SURVEY

The committee reviewed the survey draft and made a few wording changes to the questions and added a demographics section. The following motion passed (**M**: Emanuel-Brown, **S**: Lamour) with 8 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions:

MOTION 7/09 – 02

THAT THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SURVEY AS AMENDED.

Committee members will work on distributing the survey to MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) funded providers and on helping their clients complete the survey. Members set a goal of about fifty completed surveys each from Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties and about twenty-five surveys each from Hernando and Pasco Counties. They also hope to have an even distribution among gender and racial minorities.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

There was no Care Council meeting held in July.

CLIENT INPUT

There was no client input shared.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no other committee reports shared.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catheline shared a concern about clients having to be deemed eligible every six months. Other members of the committee joined her in the opinion that this is too often and is a barrier to clients accessing services. It was discussed that this is a state guideline that the local community has to abide by.

Some members expressed an interest in having an informal get together for case managers twice a year to share resources.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.