



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, MARCH 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 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE Members Present: Ramon Baez, Ann DePoole, Laura Dunn, Tony Gonzalez, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Bill Quercia, Sadiya Sassine, Chris Spall

Members Absent: Robert Bailey, Cecillia Carothers, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Tonicia Freeman, Brenda Grove, Andrew Maldonado, Guttenberg Pierre, Lewis Williams

Guests Present: Patricia Cuero, Natalia Dengler, Etna Jentseh, Zinzler Larry, John Patton

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 February 11, 2011 were approved with one correction (**M:** Dunn, **S:** Quercia). There were 9 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.

STIGMA CARD / FACEBOOK PAGE UPDATE Ramon stated that a large number of the anti-stigma post cards that were printed have already been distributed. He would like to see the cards printed in Spanish now and he plans to pursue sponsorship for additional printing.

Ramon also lead a discussion on the Facebook page. He stated that the system is locking up because too many people are trying to update the page. It was decided that Sadiya and Natalia would update the website and manage the e-mail account on an ongoing basis. All members were encouraged to become friends of the page and to drive content on the page by posting messages.

ADAP UPDATE

An update on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) was shared. There are currently over 3,500 people on the waiting list and many of the current clients were moved to Welvista to receive medications for the month of March. Members shared concerns about how long the drug companies will provide free medications to clients on the ADAP wait list.

Patricia also suggested that our local formulary could possibly have used a voucher program to get around having to pay shipping and a dispensing fee for over the counter (OTC) medications. The idea being to not eliminate OTC's for those most financially needy but to reduce the cost by allowing the person to take their voucher to any drug store. Members would like to have someone from the Hillsborough County Health Department ADAP office come and talk about the ADAP program and answer members' questions.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

There was no Care Council meeting held in March.

CLIENT INPUT

John shared that he has had a positive experience with the Ryan White nutritional supplements program. He said that the supplements are being delivered to his home and he has five flavors to choose from. He would like there to be more education on the benefits of nutritional supplements and how to properly obtain them from the Ryan White provider.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

The new quality management client comment cards were discussed. There was a positive reaction to the cards and members liked that the cards were to be given to clients after every appointment. It was stated that this is a good way for clients to give positive and negative feedback.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ramon shared his concerns about HIV not just affecting the physical part of a person but the mental and emotional part as well. He stated that he would like to see more of a focus on the emotional and mental effects of HIV and clients working together more to support one another.

Information was shared on the men's health fair to be held at the University of South Florida (USF) in March.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.