



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
WEST TAMPA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER – TAMPA
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by John Melartin, Co-Chair, at 10:10 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ramon Baez, Josefina Campos, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Catheline Lamour, Patrick Mercier, Marylin Merida, John Melartin, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Members Absent: Maria Aponte, Ramon Benitez, Heather Clayton, Laura Dunn, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Rachel Parks
- Guests Present: Mariemyrtha Alexander, Carla Baity, Dionne Kerr, Vincent Lisbon, Desmon Newton
- Grantee Staff Present: Dorinda Seth
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes from December, January and February were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** At the Care Council meeting it was announced that our EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) received an increase of 3.6% in the Part A supplemental grant award for March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009 . The Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) also received an increase of \$12,000 for the period of August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009. The Care Council also approved a new voting member.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Marylin Merida said that the Linking HIV Positive Ex-Offenders with Care Ad Hoc met and received some community updates. A community group is working with local landlords to accept ex-offenders as tenants and seven community churches are now doing HIV testing.
- John said that RPARC (Resource Prioritization and Recommendations

Committee) discussed how to allocate the Part A funding increase of \$312,000. They have made recommendations to Care Council to increase funding for primary care, mental health, oral health, ISP (Insurance Services Program) and medical case management.

Patrick Mercier stated that the Planning and Evaluation Committee discussed the Anonymous Needs Survey Report. He shared some data specific to each of the four EMA counties.

MAI PROGRAM REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Members discussed the MAI program. They reviewed the current programs, looked at funding reports and the number of clients served. The current contracts have been extended an extra five months from their original contract ending so that they will now be in line with HRSA's (Health Resources and Services Administration) MAI funding cycle. A couple of funding changes were proposed such as making the women of childbearing age program in Pasco and Hernando into a treatment adherence program with a focus on women, reducing funding for substance abuse, increasing funding for treatment adherence or adding medical case management. Dorinda Seth stated that the Grantee's office will get information from the substance abuse provider, get the unit rates for services billed on units and not line item, and estimates on adding an employee to a program. The committee will make funding recommendations to RPARC in April.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

John clarified the issue of eligibility for ex-offenders from a Florida prison. He said that they do not come out of prison with their eligibility completed but rather are given some assumed eligibility components (i.e. income and current work status).

Lolita Emanuel-Brown announced that the Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families Committee will be holding their Mother of the Year Event on May 9th at Bethel Missionary Church.

Lolita also voiced a concern about bus passes in Hillsborough County. She said that clients have to call to get a bus pass for themselves and that when they call they sometimes are given different information than what case managers have been told. Dorinda offered to share this concern with transportation for Hillsborough County and see if maybe more training needs to be done.

Dionne Kerr stated that THAP (Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan) will be holding a health fair on April 12th from noon to 4:00pm at their office on Ross Ave.

Ramon Baez shared that Metro Charities and the Hillsborough County Health Department are holding a community event focusing on prevention and outreach at the Magic Mall in Tampa on May 3rd from noon to 4:00pm.

Patrick stated that Metro is working on a list of support groups in our area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.