



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 11:28 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Jana Balicki, Josefina Campos, Laura Dunn, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Marylin Merida, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Ramon Benitez, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Patrick Mercier, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Guests Present: Jackie Colunga, Danielle Kahl, Jordan Markel, Lourdes Oluera
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** Members decided to table a full discussion on the proposed minimum standards of care.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for April were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin reported that the MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) allocations and reallocations were approved at the May Care Council meeting. The Council also approved the Needs Assessment Anonymous Client Survey report.
- Georgette shared a concern about the race/ethnicity category on the anonymous client survey. She stated that attendees of the PCPG (Patient Care Planning Group) meeting stated concerns about the tabulated data from the state. Staff shared that our data was analyzed locally but agreed to follow up.

**COMMITTEE AND
PCPG REPORTS**

The Planning and Evaluation Committee is currently reviewing the goals and objectives for the comprehensive plan.

The Rural Issues Committee discussed stigma and the difficulty of living in a rural community. Janet Kitchen shared some of the challenges mentioned at the meeting including the health department being the only choice in Polk for care and there being a lack of community HIV event information available to clients.

The Client Services Committee is actively working on a brochure for people that are newly diagnosed with HIV. They are also planning to update the state HIV hotline, 1-800-FLA-AIDS with local event information.

**MAI
PROGRAMMING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members reviewed the MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) referral tool. Marylin Merida offered to head up a small workgroup to review this form in more detail and to try and incorporate some of the new medical case management tools. Jana Balicki, Laura Dunn, Catheline Lamour, Lourdes Oluera and Lewis Williams offered to work over e-mail with Marylin. This group also agreed to review the standards of care and see if they could be combined into one document for Black/African American and Latino(a)/Hispanic.

**NEW BUSINESS:
MEETING DATE
AND REVIEW OF
COMMITTEE
GOALS AND
OBJECTIVES**

Committee members decided to not hold a meeting in June. The next MAC meeting will be on July 11th from 11:00am – 1:00pm.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Danielle Kahl shared that Gulf Coast offers translation services. For more information you can contact Gulf Coast at 727-479-1800.

Georgette raised a concern that HIV/AIDS is not in the media and while local agencies are hurting the community does not know. She suggested that local AIDS organizations could work together to try and gain media attention.

Cathaline suggested that case managers from the different local agencies should get together for a conference to discuss issues and common concerns. While case managers are required to attend trainings throughout the year they do not have a time for open discussion or a day to set their own agenda.

Jordan Markel shared that he is beginning work on his honor project for the University of South Florida (USF). He plans to document what HIV/AIDS services are available to migrant communities in our area. Jordan is the president of an AIDS advocacy organization at USF that

offers students free HIV testing and prevention information.

Jordan also announced that USF will be holding a fundraising event called Hoops for Hopes on November 6th. They hope that this event will raise money for children with AIDS.

There is no longer Ryan White funding allocated for diversity training. Members discussed ways to fill this gap and it was suggested that Gulf Coast could do a presentation about their immigrant services program for the Care Council.

Danielle announced that there is a training on medical case management on June 18th and 19th. Several members had not heard about this training and were hoping to follow up with the Grantee's office about having a training on medical case management.

A community concern was raised about the case management waiting list. Some members voiced concern that not more was being done to alleviate the waiting list problem.

Janet announced that there will be a CHOIDS fundraiser on June 21st to benefit children with AIDS in Haiti.

Janet also stated that there are socials for individuals that are infected or affected by HIV on the fourth Friday of every month at the Metro Center in Tampa. These events are for individuals twenty-one and over.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.