



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
METRO CENTER – TAMPA
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Ramon Baez, Chair, at 11:15 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Ramon Baez, Robert Bailey, Laura Dunn, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Brenda Grove, Catheline Lamour, Millie LaTorre, Andrew Maldonado, John Melartin, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Anthony Frederick, Tonicia Freeman, Darlene Smith, JaDawn Wright
- Guests Present: Gustavo Bardelli, Cecillia Carothers, Ann DePoole, Myleen Mercado, Guttenberg Pierre, Brien Richard
- Grantee Staff Present:
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** An update on the RESTORE (Restoration thru Education Skills Training & Occupational Renewal for Excellence) program was added to the agenda in place of the West Care presentation. There was also a discussion on the meeting location.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for September 11, 2009 were approved with one change (**M:** Melartin, **S:** Williams). There were 10 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- MEETING LOCATION** There were only two members that went to the scheduled MAC meeting in Pinellas County. Due to the poor turnout there was not a meeting held in October. Laura stated that she will have to find another committee to be a part of if this happens again. The following motion passed (**M:** Emanuel-Brown, **S:** Williams) with 10 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions:
- THAT THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING BE HELD IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EVERY MONTH.**
- RESTORE UPDATE** Lolita gave an update on the RESTORE program. She stated that they do not provide housing but will help people that they are working with to try and access housing through other sources. The program is also

looking to hire two peer counselors and a part-time licensed substance abuse counselor. Lolita also stated that they are working with two DEBI (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions) programs. It was also noted that if someone is HIV positive that RESTORE will try and help that client get an HIV case manager after being helped by the RESTORE program for six months. They are currently working on meeting with clients even before they get out of jail. A referral form to the RESTORE program was passed out to all members.

MAC SURVEY

Members discussed the results of the recent survey. Gustavo shared the combined data from the 26 Pasco/Hernando, 16 Pinellas and 47 Hillsborough surveys collected. Some members commented that the survey was too long for clients to fill out and some people shared a concern that the data did not reflect the issues that they see in the community. There was also a discussion on how the surveys were distributed in different ways to clients. In some cases the client filled out the survey on their own and in other cases a peer or case manager helped them fill out the survey. Also it was noted that someone might feel uncomfortable answering some questions with another person in the room. Ramon suggested that members hold small discussion groups with clients and use the survey results as a spring board to discuss issues. The following motion passed (**M**: Williams, **S**: Grove) with 9 yes votes, 1 no vote (Emanuel-Brown) and 0 abstentions:

THAT MEMBERS HOLD SMALL DISCUSSION GROUPS WITH CLIENTS AND BRING BACK THE INFORMATION TO THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT

Laura shared that the Care Council approved the 2009 Epidemiology and Demographics Report. She also shared that nationally the Ryan White Extension Act has been passed with a 5% funding increase and the national HIV travel ban has been lifted.

CLIENT INPUT

There was no client input shared.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families Committee will be holding their community event on November 18th in Tampa and the Rural Issues Committee will be holding their Thanksgiving dinner on November 20th in Lakeland.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew shared information on the "MAN UP: The Crisis of HIV/AIDS Among Florida's Men" initiative from the state Bureau of HIV/AIDS. He stated that there will be more information out in 2010 and that they are trying untraditional methods to reach men such as going to barber shops. There is also a "Greater Than" campaign that is focused on the whole family and building self-esteem. There are currently billboards up in our area for this campaign.

Brenda announced a legislative breakfast that is going to be held at the

Children's Board on November 16th. She hopes that this will be a good chance to provide HIV statistics to our local representatives.

Ramon shared some information from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) that might be useful to clients.

Information was shared about community World AIDS Day Events.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.