



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Tony Gonzalez, Co-Chair, at 11:09 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Tony Gonzalez, Bill Quercia, Brien Richard, Chris Spall, Sylvia Velez
- Members Absent: Ramon Baez, Patricia Cuero
- Guests Present: Ian Barker, Bardine Hicks, Zachary Rhone
- Grantee Staff Present: none
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for August 12th and September 9th were approved as written (**M:** Quercia, **S:** Spall). There were 6 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- MEETING DATE/TIME/ LOCATION** After discussion the following motion passed (**M:** Emanuel-Brown, **S:** Quercia) with 5 yes votes, 1 no vote (Spall) and 0 abstentions:
- TO HOLD THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT SPRING OAKS IN TAMPA FROM 11:00AM TO 1:00PM.**
- The group did decide to move their November meeting due to Veteran's Day. The November meeting will be on November 4th.
- MAC WORK PLAN** Members reviewed the Committee's work plan and choose to add an education event. They plan to have a substance abuse focused event in February. Tony will be the presenter for this event and Chris offered to coordinate the meeting space at ACTS. After discussion the following motion passed (**M:** Quercia, **S:** Gonzalez) with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions:

APPROVE THE 2011-12 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AS AMENDED.

RESTORE UPDATE Lolita gave an update to the group on the RESTORE (Restoration thru Education Skills Training & Occupational Renewal for Excellence) Program. She stated that they are now enrolling new clients and have had about 120 people complete the program already. They continue to do HIV and STI testing and hope to expand the program to include a mental health aspect. One of their biggest needs now is finding places to refer clients for supplemental services. She shared that they are proud of the relationship they have been able to form with their clients and how clients are even comfortable enough to come back to them when they are concerned about starting their substance abuse again.

FACEBOOK PAGE & STIGMA CARD UPDATE Those present discussed the Facebook Page. Sylvia has been updating the page and shared with the group that there are about 140 friends on the personal page but that there is not a lot of actively on the community page. She thanked people for sending her information to post on the page and asked that members continue to send her items. She also stated that there have been some comments posted from the community. There was no discussion of the Stigma Cards.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT The Care Council approved Part A and Part B budget allocations. There was also a full day members' retreat.

CLIENT INPUT There was no client input shared.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS The Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families (WICY&F) Committee will be holding an event on Wednesday, November 9th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Suncoast Hospice in St. Petersburg. The theme is Myth Busters.

The Rural Issues Committee will be holding a Thanksgiving dinner event in Lakeland. Details of the event are still being worked out.

The Membership Committee is currently recruiting new members for the Care Council. They would like to recruit more female clients and black members.

Chris stated that HERN (Hillsborough Ex-offender Re-entry Network) will be meeting on October 18th from 2:30-3:30.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS It was shared that BLCA (Black Leadership Commission on AIDS) will be holding an event on October 23rd at 9:45am at Beulah Baptist Church in Tampa. The event is going to be called Compassion Sunday

and any proceeds from a CD sale will be given to Francis House.

Connect to Protect is working to get churches to provide educational workshops to their congregations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.