



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by John Melartin, Co-Chair, at 11:10 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Jana Balicki, Jackie Colunga, Laura Dunn, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Georgette King, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Marilyn Merida, Darlene Smith, Lewis Williams
- Members Absent: Josefina Campos, Janet Kitchen, Patrick Mercier, Sherri White
- Guests Present: Anthony Frederick, Coreatha Larkins
- Grantee Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for May 30, 2008, July 11, 2008 and August 8, 2008 were approved (**M:** Colunga, **S:** Williams) with 10 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John gave the Care Council report. He said that the Care Council approved allocations of Part A carryover funds and also approved a new Care Council member to represent Hardee County. The Demographics and Epidemiology Report was approved with a provision agreed upon by MAC and P&E that an addendum that compensated for the missing demographic and rate data would be forthcoming. There was an announcement that the state eligibility guidelines will be raised to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and that the asset limit will be removed.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** There was a Standards, Issues and Operations Committee (SIOC) meeting held to discuss the Demographics and Epidemiology report. SIOC decided to send the Demographics and Epidemiology report

approved by the Planning and Evaluation Committee onto the Care Council with the provision that an addendum that conformed to the HRSA guidelines for reporting data would follow. Such a format will also be used for future annual reports. Concern was expressed that the same demographic and rate data was not included in the most recent Grant A application, despite it being required by the application guidance.

The Resource Prioritization, Allocation and Recommendations Committee (RPARC) made reallocation recommendations that will be reviewed at the next Care Council meeting.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee approved the draft Executive Summary.

The Membership Committee is always accepting applications for new members. They are especially looking for more consumer representation on the Care Council. MAC members expressed concern that more affected members of disproportionately impacted communities be included in member recruitment efforts.

The Linking Ex-Offenders to Care working group has invited NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council) to do training on best practices of linking ex-offenders into care. Georgette shared that this training will most likely take place in the fall and the working group plans to invite all Care Council volunteers. Georgette raised the question of whether or not the Linking work group should become a full committee of the Care Council, since it does not seem that the issue is getting the type of attention that national and statewide reports, including those from HRSA and the FDOH, indicate that the issue deserves. She also stated that more involvement of Care Council committee representatives was needed, since the issue of engaging known positive individuals into care crossed all committee issues. Aubrey raised the idea of creating a new emerging trends committee or revisiting all of the committee descriptions to see if any can be restructured or combined to take on additional duties was discussed. Aubrey stated that he plans to work with Georgette on having the full Care Council address these issues.

Marylin asked who the Care Council member was who was filling the seat designated to represent the ex-offender population. Aubrey and Nicole stated that member's category of representation is not disclosed due to confidentiality. This position was challenged by committee members, since that decision to not tell committees the identity of people who are filling key mandated seats is not stated in the by-laws, and no reference to guidelines that conform to Florida Sunshine Laws was offered. It was also pointed out that since the seat links to neither HIV status nor former incarnation status 'confidentiality' should not be a concern.

Staff stated that this person has been notified of MAC's wishes that they become involved with the working group. Marylin and other committee members stated that it is a disservice to the Care Council that the member who is filling that seat is not serving as the voice of the

positive ex-offender population and is not addressing the issue.

**ELECTIONS/
MEETING DATE,
TIME AND
LOCATION**

There were two nominations made for Chair of the Minority Advocacy Committee. Through secret ballot it was determined that there was a tie between Ramon Baez and Georgette King. The committee decided to do an e-mail vote of the remaining MAC membership to determine a winner. After four additional votes were cast Ramon Baez received a majority and was elected Chair. Laura Dunn was elected the Co-Chair by consensus.

**DEVELOPMENT OF
MAC WORK PLAN**

There was no discussion on this topic.

OLD BUSINESS

Marylin revisited the idea of changing the Minority Advocacy Committee name to something that does not include the word advocacy since advocacy is not a task of planning councils. Additional concern was expressed about the need to revise the committee description, since it may not accurately reflect the work done by the committee and the role that it should have in collaborating with other committees.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lewis announced that ASAP (AIDS Service Association of Pinellas) will be holding an AIDS Walk fundraiser in St. Petersburg on September 13th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.