



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 9:15 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Ramon Benitez, Health Clayton, Joselin Colon, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Georgette King, Catheline Lamour, John Melartin, Patrick Mercier, Jacqueline Tobar-Lax, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Members Absent: Janet Kitchen, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Marylin Merida
- Guests Present: Armando Carrasco, Michele Carrasco, Laura Dunn
- Grantee Staff Present: Deborah Thomas
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The October meeting minutes were approved with one change.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin gave the Care Council Report. He said that the Council approved several bylaw and minimum standards of care changes. He also reported that Ray Reed provided the Council with a mini training on Hillsborough County's role.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Planning and Evaluation - Patrick Mercier spoke about the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He said that they talked about wrapping up the Anonymous Needs Survey and stated that Hillsborough County is still under represented even after

an extended collection period.

Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) - Patrick also discussed the recent RPARC meeting and the committee's inability to pass a motion regarding limiting access to services for individuals with an income of more than 300% of the poverty level. He said that after a lengthy discussion with many good points being made on both sides of the issue the motions presented did not pass. MAC members raised a concern about the need for alignment of Part A and B eligibility requirements; individuals who need access to services such as help with prescription costs are being required to have a case manager, even when case management services are not needed. The inefficiency and drain on limited resources due to this non-alignment was discussed, as was the fact that this non-alignment may be a part of the cause for a current waiting list.

A related concern was raised about the eligibility process. Patrick reported that the Grantee was considering ending services for individuals who either had not completed the eligibility process by the end of February 2008, or had not scheduled an eligibility screening date by that time. MAC members expressed strong concerns that the Grantee's office did not assure that there was a bilingual eligibility specialist hired anywhere in the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). As a result, other funded staff members must translate for consumers at eligibility appointments, therefore wasting additional resources. Members voiced concern about the disproportionate impact that any deadline for eligibility certification might have on consumers who were primarily Spanish or Creole speaking. Members also asked the eligibility specialist on site some questions about the process.

Action Items:

- 1) Deborah Thomas was asked if the money currently in need of reallocation could be dedicated to providing a bilingual (Spanish/English) eligibility specialist. She indicated that there was not sufficient time to make that change, but agreed to take the committee's concerns back to the Grantee's office for discussion.
- 2) Georgette agreed to follow-up with Grantees office regarding eligibility screening and language barrier concerns.

ELECTION	Members elected John Melartin as the new Co-Chair of the Minority Advocacy Committee.
MAI STANDARDS OF CARE DOCUMENTS	Discussion on this topic postponed until the next meeting.
LINKING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISERS WITH PROVIDERS	<p>Georgette clarified that the earlier discussion was not intended to be a volunteer fundraiser network, but could potentially be a way of expanding and developing current resources for services providers that work with HIV positive people of color in this EMA. She presented to the committee with the option of creating a separate non-MAC affiliated group that would be less constrained in its ability to gather information about community resource needs and resource availability.</p> <p>The following motion was passed: (M: Emanuel-Brown S: Tobar-Lax) 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention</p>
MOTION 11/07 - 01	THAT THE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO LINKING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISERS WITH PROVIDERS BE REMOVED FROM THE WORK PLAN.
EVALUATE THE MAI ASSESSMENT REFERRAL MECHANISM	Discussion on this topic postponed until the next meeting.
MAI PROVIDER REPORT	There was no discussion on this topic.
RECRUITMENT & RETENTION OF NEW MEMBERS	There was no discussion on this topic.
COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Members announced upcoming events and meetings, including several World AIDS day events such as the annual Red Ribbon Ball.</p> <p>Jacqueline Tobar-Lax announced that she now only holds a support group on Wednesday and none on Friday.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.