



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Jeannie Lewis, Co-Chair, at 9:37 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ramon Baez, Ramon Benitez, Joselin Colon, Catheline Lamour, Jeannie Lewis, John Melartin, Mellita Mills-Kendrick, Jacqueline Tobar-Lax
- Members Absent: Maria Aponte, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, Patrick Mercier, Marylin Merida, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Guests Present: Health Clayton, Lolita Emanuel-Brown
- Grantee Staff Present: Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The September meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Ramon Benitez gave the Care Council Report. He said that the Council approved allocations for FY08 and eliminated housing assistance, legal services, acupuncture and transportation in Pinellas County. The Care Council also held its annual half-day retreat.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** John Melartin spoke about the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He said that they reviewed minimum standards of care for nutritional supplements and case management standards for women, infants, children, youth and families. There was also discussion on aligning Part A and B eligibility

requirements.

John also gave the Client Services Committee report. He said that the committee is currently working on a brochure for people that are newly diagnosed with HIV.

Mellita Mills-Kendrick shared information from the CPP (Community Planning Partnership) meeting. She said that agencies can now apply for funding to do evidence based programs that are not part of DEBI (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions). DEBI programs including Community Promises, Many Men Many Voices and SISTA are intervention programs developed by the CDC (Center for Disease Control). Mellita also stated that she is working with the company that holds Passion Parties to provide its consultants with prevention education and free condoms.

WORK PLAN

Members reviewed the draft work plan and after discussion made several changes. Those present wanted to approve the work plan but did not know how to word the steps for the wish list project. Members would like Georgette King and Heather Clayton to develop the goal and action steps so that they can be added to the work plan. The following motion was passed: (M: Mills-Kendrick S: Baez) 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

MOTION 10/07 - 01

THAT THE MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN BE APPROVED AS AMENDED AND WITH THE ADDITION OF THE WISH LIST GOAL.

Members also wanted the Care Council to know what the committee accomplished over the past year. They would like a column titled "progress" added to the 2006-2007 work plan indicating what goals had been achieved. The following motion was passed: (M: Mills-Kendrick S: Tobar-Lax) 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

MOTION 10/07 - 02

THAT A COLUMN BE ADDED TO THE 2006-2007 WORK PLAN INDICATING WHAT HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THEN HAVE THAT DOCUMENT FORWARDED ON TO THE CARE COUNCIL.

REVIEW OF MAI STANDARDS OF CARE DOCUMENTS

Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres of RNT & Associates asked that a review of the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) minimum standards of care for Black/African American and Latino(a)/Hispanic PLWH/A (people living with HIV/AIDS) be tabled until the November meeting.

LINKING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISERS

Heather Clayton said that she had met with Georgette King to discuss a wish list for local agencies that provide HIV services. They are working on forms to use when gathering information

WITH PROVIDERS from agencies so that the process will be uniform.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Jeannie Lewis announced that she is moving to Georgia and will be resigning from the Care Council and as the Co-Chair of the Minority Advocacy Committee. Elections will be held in November to choose a new co-chair.

Mellita said that Pastors on Patrol are now promoting HIV prevention in faith based organizations and will be having an event on October 27th. Rapid testing will be available for the event. She also said that five churches in Pinellas County will soon be offering free HIV testing.

John said that they will be doing rapid HIV testing at five different sites in Pinellas County.

Ramon Baez announced that Metro is holding a testing event on Monday, October 15th in honor of National Hispanic Awareness Day.

Gilda stated that MAI providers will be getting the MAI assessment tool on November 1st.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.