



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
MINORITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Georgette King, Chair, at 9:10 a.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ramon Benitez, Joselin Colon, Georgette King, Janet Kitchen, Catheline Lamour, Jeannie Lewis, John Melartin, Jacqueline Tobar-Lax, Paul Watkins, Sherri White
- Members Absent: Maria Aponte, Ramon Baez, Patrick Mercier, Marylin Merida, Mellita Mills-Kendrick
- Guests Present: Health Clayton, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Rachel Parks, Vernon Williams
- Grantee Staff Present: Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** The work plan was moved down on the agenda to follow elections.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The August meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin stated that two bylaw revisions were presented at the September Care Council meeting. Reallocations of funding were approved as well as a change in the mileage reimbursement policy to make any member of a committee that is living with HIV eligible to receive travel reimbursement. There was also a revision to the nutritional supplements criteria and changes to minimum standards of care.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Janet Kitchen reported that members of the Client Services Committee went to a Pasco County support group. They discussed client concerns about housing, medication and

nutrition.

John spoke about the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He said that they reviewed the upcoming expert survey that will be given to case managers, Care Council and committee members.

John also gave the Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) report. He said that the committee discussed allocations for FY08 and proposes to eliminate housing assistance, legal services and transportation in Pinellas County.

**REVIEW OF MAI
STANDARDS OF
CARE
DOCUMENTS**

Gilda Roman-Nay-Torres of RNT & Associates led a discussion 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). Some changes were discussed and Gilda asked anyone who had suggestions to e-mail her at tainaroman@aol.com. These standards will again be discussed at the next meeting so that they can be approved and sent onto the Care Council.

**LINKING
VOLUNTEER
FUNDRAISERS
WITH PROVIDERS**

Georgette laid out her idea of having a community program to fundraise for local agencies that provide HIV related services to people of color in the EMA (eligible metropolitan area). Heather Clayton volunteered to help put together the three parts of this program. First a list of local fundraising needs, second a donations wish list and third a list of volunteer service needs. Some details such as setting a goal and working with the university systems in the area were discussed.

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

The committee decided to continue to hold their meetings the second Friday of the month from 9:00am to 11:00am at Spring Oaks in Tampa.

Georgette King was reelected as Chair and Jeannie Lewis was elected as Co-Chair.

WORK PLAN

Georgette agreed to review the work plan and add the volunteer fundraisers program. An updated plan will be presented at the October meeting.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Staff announced that Hillsborough County is still drastically under represented in the Anonymous Needs Survey and that there are still efforts underway to collect in Hillsborough County. Copies of the survey are available and members are encouraged to help distribute around the community.

Jeannie Lewis encouraged MAI providers to do referrals to other agencies and work together for the benefit of the clients. She said that 98% of Ryan White funding has to be spent in

order to continue receiving grant awards and that providers will have money taken away if they cannot spend it. Jeannie also feels that it would be good to have local agencies working together to apply for foundation grants.

Jacqueline Tobar-Lax requested committee members help in referring clients for the group therapy that she leads every Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Minority Advocacy Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.