

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
HERNANDO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – BROOKSVILLE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006
12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Deborah Robinson, Chair, at 12:15 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ismael Colon, Linnwood Davis, John Halman, Donald Hinton, King James, John Melartin, Deborah Reinhardt, Deborah Robinson, Crystal Underwood
- Members Absent: James Brandon, Ovidiu Cotea, Brenda Davis, Ellen Gates, Jan Neeson, Gail Prichard, Linda Rogers
- Guests Present: Don Beckham, Judy Fusco, Mac McDougale, Mark Mischan
- Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Wilma Genter, Collette Tomberlin
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The April minutes were adopted as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Mark Mischan gave the Care Council report. He announced that Title I had a 4% increase in funding this year. He also said that SIOC has decided to start meeting every four months. HOPWA is doing a two year study to evaluate housing issues and Bill Thomas is now the official delegate from the Care Council to the housing coalition. The Care Council is also recruiting new members and is specifically looking for someone to represent Polk County.
- COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION** A summary of the community input sessions conducted in January and February was distributed for the committee's reference.
- ISSUES OF LIVING IN A RURAL COMMUNITY** Crystal Underwood shared that there is no services specific to HIV in Hernando County. HOPWA funding is not available to their clients and there are no real food banks with the exception of a few churches. All clients in the county have to go to one location to receive care and transportation is a major

ongoing issue. Crystal did share that the dental program available to Hernando County clients is very good.

There was also a discussion on making sure that clients are enrolled in the Limited Income Supplement. This Medicare program is sometimes called “Extra Help” and provides additional money to an eligible client.

**PLANNING AND
EVALUATION
UPDATE**

Mac McDougle shared that the Care Council approved the Needs Assessment Executive Summary.

NEW BUSINESS

Deborah Robinson would like to bring a provider to present and answer questions about their services at the next Rural Issues meeting. Transportation issues were chosen as the topic.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Crystal Underwood started a discussion on prescription drugs and spoke about the changes in ADAP. She shared that anyone under 150% of the federal poverty level will be unenrolled from ADAP by May 31st. A client also shared that they used to get free prescriptions through the pharmaceutical company and now the company does not provide the assistance because they have Medicare Part D.

Deborah Robinson spoke about the Title III audit for Polk County and how the Polk County Health Department is inviting interested clients to volunteer as part of a community board.

John Halman announced to clients and case managers that he is able to view if someone is enrolled in a plan for Medicare Part D if they want to check their plan.

Mark Mischan discussed the new eligibility criteria to receive services. The concept is to standardize criteria for programs such as ADAP, AICP and state HOPWA. He said that while this idea has been around for some time it was challenged legally. The legal challenges have been resolved and the program should be moving forward soon.

Mark also mentioned that starting July 1st in order to receive Medicaid a person must show proof of citizenship or resident alien.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

6/30/2006