



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
ST. LUKE'S LIFE CENTER – LAKELAND
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Linnwood Davis, Chair, at 4:00 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ovidiu Cotea, Brenda Davis, Evonne Cobbett, Gilbert Crespo, Linnwood Davis, Donald Hinton, King James, Angela Kendall, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers
- Members Absent: Ismael Colon, Juanita Escobedo, Ellen Gates, John Halman, Deborah Reinhardt, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan
- Guests Present: Richard Leclercq, John Mihalek, Marlene Parker, William Parker, Jacquelyn Small
- Grantee Staff Present: Wilma Genter
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The October meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin gave the Care Council report. He said that the Council approved final reallocations of funding for Part A and B. The Care Council also elected Robbie Bouplon as Parliamentarian and approved the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism.
- POLK WORKS PRESENTATION** Jacquelyn Small, a disability program navigator for Polk Works, gave a presentation on Social Security and reentering the workforce. She helps people understand their social security benefits and how going back to work will affect those benefits. She also encourages the community to hire people with

disabilities. Polk Works receives state funding to help people find jobs, update job skills and develop a plan to return to work.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

No other committee reports were given.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deborah Robinson stated that the World AIDS Day events to honor those people who helped to establish HIV/AIDS services ten years ago in Polk County were very successful. About 85 people attended the banquet and she hopes to hold a similar event next year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

12/20/2007