

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
SPECIALITY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2006
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Deborah Robinson, Chair, at 1:15 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: James Brandon, Ismael Colon, Ovidiu Cotea, Brenda Davis, Linnwood Davis, Ellen Gates, John Halman, Donald Hinton, King James, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers, Crystal Underwood
- Members Absent: Jan Neeson, Gail Prichard, Deborah Reinhardt, Woody Wilbanks
- Guests Present: David Houscer, Angela Kendall, Mark Mischan
- Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Wilma Genter
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The March minutes were adopted with the addition of Crystal Underwood to the members present.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Deborah Robinson gave the Care Council report. She stated that recommendations for additional Title I funds were approved. Following the meeting Care Council members held their half-day retreat.
- Mark Mischan added that in April the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners officially accepted Ryan White funds, recognized the effort of the Care Council and offered to write a letter of support for the CARE Act reauthorization.
- HERNANDO COUNTY MEETING** In an effort to get more rural client involvement the Rural Issues Committee meeting will be traveling to Hernando County. The meeting will be held on May 10, 2006 from noon to 2:00pm and will offer time for a discussion on the issues of living in a rural community. The meeting was moved to the second Wednesday to not disturb clients that attend the Polk County Lunch & Learn and client support group held on the

third Wednesday of the month.

Deborah suggested that clients try and car pool to the meeting and John Halman said that he would look into getting a van to transport clients to the Hernando County Health Department. Crystal Underwood said that she has invited clients from Hernando County, including the three clients that attended the February Care Council meeting and sent flyers to the Pasco County Health Department. The committee hopes to visit Highlands County in October.

RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS

There is one open seat on the Care Council to represent Polk County. While it can be a provider the Care Council would prefer to recruit a client. Linnwood Davis and Mark talked about their experiences as voting Care Council members. Staff can be contacted for an application that is due May 15, 2006. Mileage reimbursement is available to PLWH.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION UPDATE

John Melartin gave the Planning and Evaluation Update. He explained that the committee is currently working on the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

NEW BUSINESS

Deborah stated that there will be a discussion of the results from the community input session held in February at the next meeting.

Mark announced that SIOC is encouraging all committees to evaluate if they could benefit from an attendance policy. Deborah mentioned that in November of 2005 the committee discussed committee ground rules.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark encouraged members of the committee to get a copy of the proposed language for the CARE Act reauthorization so they would be informed and advocate for keeping community involvement as part of the process.

Mark also discussed the new eligibly criteria to receive services. The concept is to standardize criteria for programs allowing one application to be filled out for health services, housing, ADAP and insurance. He said that while this idea has been around for some time it was been challenged legally. While attending the All Titles meeting he heard that the legal challenges have been resolved and that the program would be moving forward soon.

Linnwood spoke about his concerns with affordable housing. Deborah said that there are some HOPWA funds available and

that she has been able to help some clients with housing. Donald Hinton mentioned that it hard for clients with a criminal background or bad credit because they do not qualify for many housing programs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

5/17/06