

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
SPECIALITY CARE CLINIC-BARTOW  
MARCH 15, 2006  
12:30-2:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Deborah Robinson, Chair at 12:45 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ovidiu Cotea, Brenda Davis, Linnwood Davis, John Halman, King James, John Melartin, Jan Neeson, Deborah Reinhardt, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers, Crystal Underwood
- Members Absent: James Brandon, Gail Prichard, Woody Wilbanks
- Guests Present: Ellen Gates, Donald Hinton, Angela Kendall, Paula Meacham, Rev. Quintin Parker, Ivah Wilkerson
- Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Wilma Genter
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes from the meeting held on February 15, 2006 were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Deborah Robinson started the Care Council report by stating that there was a 4% increase in Title I funds. She also pointed out that the rural counties of Polk, Manatee, Highlands and Hardee do not get Title I funding. John Melartin said that hopefully the increase in Title I would allow more of the Title II money to be spent in the rural areas.
- Deborah Robinson mentioned that there is now a website for the Care Council. In addition she spoke about ADAP being available to some clients that are at 135% of the poverty level and that are having a change in service because of Medicare Part D.
- The World AIDS Conference will be in Toronto, Canada in August. Scholarships are available.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a special Care Council business meeting from 11:30am to 1:00pm at the Jan Platt Library in Tampa.

**PLANNING AND  
EVALUATION  
COMMITTEE  
UPDATE**

John Melartin spoke about the Planning and Evaluation Committee and their major work projects.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Deborah Robinson opened discussion about issues that the committee would like to focus on in the coming months. It was decided that the May committee meeting will be held in Hernando County on May 10, 2006 from noon-2:00pm to allow clients in that community to be represented.

**COMMUNITY  
CONCERNS AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jan Neeson brought up the issue of a non-local pharmacy having the contract for medications. She wishes that a local pharmacy would get the bid for this contract because it is a burden to wait three days or more to get medications.

Debbie Reinhardt asked if dental for the upcoming year was going to include more than just cleanings. Deborah Robinson replied and said that there is money in the upcoming year for non-cosmetic dental work. Donald Hinton asked about eye glasses and Deborah Robinson replied by saying that they are not covered in Ryan White but that case managers can give referrals to the "gift of sight" program.

Starting next month Ellen Gates will be traveling to Highlands County one day a week to provide nutritional services. The Highlands County Health Department is currently in a time of restructuring.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.