



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
POLK COUNTY SPECIALTY CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Deborah Robinson, Chair, at 1:10 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE**
- Members Present: Ismael Colon, Ovidiu Cotea, Linnwood Davis, Ellen Gates, John Halman, Donald Hinton, King James, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan
- Members Absent: Brenda Davis, Angela Kendall, Deborah Reinhardt
- Guests Present: Gilbert Crespo, Janet Kitchen, Julia Thrasher, Vernon Williams
- Grantee Staff Present: Wilma Genter
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Tristan Tarantino
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The April meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT**
- Deborah Robinson gave the Care Council report. She said that the Care Council goes on the road once a year and the meeting was held in Brooksville. She spoke about case management and how funding was approved for two new eligibility specialists for Pinellas County and two for Hillsborough County.
- Deborah encouraged all clients to fill out the Anonymous Needs Survey. She explained what the survey was for and its importance.
- The issue of stigma was discussed and ideas for breaking stigma were shared. John Halman suggested holding a

community event and Regina Stevens suggested setting up a phone list for peer support. Janet Kitchen also noted that materials are available through the state of Florida's "Silence is Death" campaign.

VISIT TO MANATEE COUNTY

The committee is planning to take their meeting on the road in July and visit Manatee County. A date has not yet been set for the meeting but it will not be held on the committee's traditional meeting day. This will prevent a conflict with the support group that meets in Polk County following the meeting. Pharmacy One Pro has agreed to provide lunch and the meeting will be held at the Manatee Rural Health Center in Bradenton.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Melartin gave a report from the Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC). He said that due to the funding cut in our Part A grant award over \$300,000 was cut from drug reimbursement, primary care and quality management.

Janet gave a report on the Client Services Committee. She stated that they are working on producing a brochure for people that are newly diagnosed with HIV. She also mentioned that the committee is holding a couple of town hall meetings in Pinellas County.

John Melartin added that the issue of travel reimbursement is being discussed by the Client Services Committee. He said that currently only Care Council members are reimbursed for mileage but that there is discussion of expanding that to committee members as well.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deborah announced that a lunch-n-learn is going to be held at the Hardee County Health Department on June 28th from 12:30pm - 3:00pm. There will be several guest speakers including Dr. Gordon and lunch will be provided.

Deborah announced that the Polk County Health Department has hired a new case manager to fill their open position. She also stated that they have applied for a Part C grant for emerging communities that would fund four new positions. Notification of the grant award is expected in September.

Janet stated that there will be a conference on Faith and HIV at the Wyndham Orlando Resort from July 15th - 17th.

It was also mentioned that Metro Charities in Tampa is offering free basic computer classes starting in July. Julia Thrasher of the University of South Florida said that she might be able to

set up a free computer class in Polk County.

Janet raised a concern about the number of acronyms that are used during meetings. She feels that issues should be better explained for new members and that if fewer acronyms were used, guests would feel more welcome.

Deborah would like to hold a banquet to celebrate the ten year anniversary of Ryan White funding in Polk County. She would like to honor the people that helped establish services in the area. She would like to hold this event in conjunction with world AIDS day on December 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

4/27/2007