



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
POLK COUNTY SPECIALTY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Linnwood Davis, Chair, at 1:07 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Evonne Cobbett, Ismael Colon, Ovidiu Cotea, Gilbert Crespo, Linnwood Davis, Ellen Gates, John Halman, Donald Hinton, King James, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers
- Members Absent: Brenda Davis, Juanita Escobedo, Angela Kendall, Deborah Reinhardt, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan
- Guests Present: Nicole Geiger, Becky Jenkins, Richard Leclercq, Paul Scoggins
- Grantee Staff Present: Wilma Genter
- Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** The provider presentation was removed from the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The December meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Linnwood Davis gave the Care Council report. He said that the Council discussed disruptive and inappropriate behavior at meetings and will be looking to address the issue in the bylaws. He also said that the Grantee’s office is working on the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) application.
- WELCOME LETTER FOR NEW CLIENTS** Members decided to table this item until the new Polk County Specialty Care Clinic administrator can be present for discussion.
- OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS** John Melartin shared that the Minority Advocacy Committee has set up an ad hoc to help link ex-offenders to HIV care in our TSA (Total Service Area). John said that at the first

meeting the Department of Corrections representative used the Polk County Health Department Clinic as an example of a program that is working well.

John also reported on the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He said that they are reviewing the report from the Anonymous Needs Survey.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ellen Gates spoke about the Lunch and Learn program. There are ten lunches planned for next year and she encouraged members to invite other HIV affected members of the community to attend. Ideas were also discussed on how to publicize the events.

Deborah Robinson stated that Polk County has no more Part C money for transportation. She does still have bus passes to give clients.

Deborah also announced that clients need to have gone through the eligibility process by the end of March or their file will be closed.

Polk County has money to be used for transitional housing. Transitional housing can be used to provide a place for up to sixty days while a client plans for permanent housing.

John Melartin shared that all clients have to file taxes in order to be eligible for the tax rebate.

Evonne Cobbett spoke about the Community Planning Partnership meetings. She is planning a meeting for Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties in March to be in conjunction with the Rural Issues Committee meeting. The Areas 5, 6 and 14 planning meeting will be held in April.

King James announced that there will soon begin another session of the CHERS education program in Orange County

John Halman stated that there will be a Community Information and Awareness Day in Auburndale on March 29th. They are hoping to do outreach and HIV testing.

ADJOURNMENT

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