



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
POLK COUNTY SPECIALTY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011  
1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Linnwood Davis, Chair, at 1:30 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Linnwood Davis, Nicole Geiger, John Halman, James King, Randy Masters, John Melartin, Bill Quercia  
Members Absent: Keith Boyd, Evonne Cobbett, Gilbert Crespo, Gwen Patterson, Jeffery Wells  
Guests Present: Stephen Emery, Jack Freemans, Kim Gaesser, Deborah Reinhardt  
Grantee Staff Present:  
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for February 16, 2011 (**M:** Melartin, **S:** Quercia) were approved as written. There were 7 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** The Care Council did not hold a meeting in March.
- VISITING OTHER COUNTIES** The Committee plans to move forward with visiting Hernando County in May. Linnwood and Randy both plan to follow up with Laura Dunn of the Hernando County Health Department to work on setting up for the event. In addition members would like to plan a meeting in Manatee County for August or September. Randy is working on a presentation for these events that would focus on empowering clients through education of services.

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Members shared that they feel the Polk County Health Department has done a good job of giving clients the client comment cards and that the Grantee's office is receiving a great number of completed surveys.

The Client Services Committee discussed the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) waiting list and the National AIDS Strategy.

The Minority Advocacy Committee has printed their 'Stop the Stigma' flier cards and has a Facebook page focusing on the same subject.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Randy shared that there will be an Area 14 CPG (Community Planning Group) meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Bartow Library.

Randy shared his experience and views on the Positive Living Conference that he attended.

Billy shared a concern about how area blood banks notify people when their blood is found to be HIV positive. He fears that people are finding out over the phone and not being offered post test counseling or referrals for services. He plans to check into the blood banks in Highlands County and see if they have a protocol on how to inform someone if their blood donation is found to be HIV+.

Students from Florida Southern College introduced themselves and shared information on a class project in which they are working with HIV+ individuals in an effort to further young adult education about HIV and AIDS.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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