



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
POLK COUNTY SPECIALTY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Linnwood Davis, Chair, at 1:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE Members Present: Evonne Cobbett, Ovidiu Cotea, Gilbert Crespo, Linnwood Davis, Ellen Gates, Nicole Geiger, John Halman, Donald Hinton, King James, Richard Leclercq, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers

Members Absent: Ismael Colon, Brenda Davis, Juanita Escobedo, Angela Kendall, Deborah Reinhardt, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan

Guests Present: Cynthania Clark, Barbara Ramsey, Paul Scoggins

Grantee Staff Present: Wilma Genter

Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA The Polk County Health Department presentation was removed from the agenda.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES The February meeting minutes were approved as written.

CARE COUNCIL REPORT Linnwood Davis and Deborah Robinson gave the Care Council report. They said that the Council discussed Polk County HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) funds and how this money may now be spent in other counties if it is not spent in Polk. This funding is for emergency temporary housing to prevent homelessness and in the past the guidelines have been too stringent for Polk County to spend it all.

Also at the Care Council meeting it was announced that the EMA (Eligible Metropolitan Area) received an increase of 3.6% in the Part A supplemental grant award. The Minority AIDS

Initiative (MAI) also received an increase of \$12,000.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Melartin reported that the Resource Allocation & Recommendations Committee (RPARC) made recommendations to the Care Council on how to allocate the additional Part A supplemental grant award.

He also stated that the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee forwarded the Anonymous Needs Survey report to the Care Council for approval.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ovidiu Cotea raised a concern about there not being enough representation on the Care Council for Polk County. He feels that there should be more seats for Polk County because of the high proportion of HIV positive people to the general population of Polk County. The two Polk County seats on the Care Council are currently full.

The eligibility process was discussed. If a client has not gone through the eligibility process then they will no longer be eligible to receive services.

The Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families Committee will be holding their Mother of the Year Event on May 9th in Tampa.

There will be a Community Planning Partnership meeting on April 18th from 11:30 to 1:00 in Polk County.

Barbara Ramsey and Cynthania Clark from the Women's Resource Center announced that they are working with the Polk County Health Department prevention office to do community education and testing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

2/25/2008