



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
HARDEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – WAUCHULA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Randy Masters, Chair, at 2:10 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Gilbert Crespo, Linnwood Davis, John Halman, King James, Randy Masters, Billy Quercia, Jeffery Wells
Members Absent: Keith Boyd, Evonne Cobbett, Ovidiu Cotea, Ellen Gates, Laureen Husband, Janet Kitchen, John Melartin, Priscilla Neal, Brian Saddler
Guests Present: Rolando N., Christy Pace, Gwen Patterson
Grantee Staff Present:
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** There were no changes to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** There was no quorum present to approve the minutes for April 21, 2010. The members present approved the minutes as written (**M:** James **S:** Davis) and staff contacted absent members to request approval. A phone approval was achieved May 20th (Gates, Kitchen & Husband). There were 9 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Husband).
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** The Care Council approved MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) funding reallocations and made budget modifications in response to the decrease in our Part A supplemental grant award.
- ISSUES OF LIVING IN A RURAL COMMUNITY** Members discussed current issues facing clients in the rural communities. It was announced that starting in June ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) will have a waiting list and AICP (AIDS Insurance Continuation Program) is already wait

listing eligible clients. Prescription assistance programs were discussed and Gwen suggested that members talk to pharmaceutical community representatives about the barriers to getting on a prescription assistance program. It was discussed that these programs will be a way for clients to be assisted once ADAP reduces their formulary in August. It was discussed that clients should apply early for these programs because it can take weeks to be enrolled.

John shared details of a new transportation program that he is working on with Pharmacy One Pro and Timmons Chapel Church. He is hoping to pilot the program in the next couple of months in which church buses will be taking clients to medical appointments. This will start in Polk County and then hopefully move quickly to the surrounding areas. They are hoping to not have the same barriers as current Medicaid transportation and the bus such as long wait times and having to walk a distance to a bus stop.

Jeffery voiced a concern about Medicaid transportation and how the appointments are hard to schedule, the bus is often late and there are long waits before and after your appointment. He said that it would be more convenient to set up the reservations online instead of having to go through the phone system.

Jeffery also stated that it would be nice to have a website for the rural community. Randy stated that he would talk with Jeffery and see about creating a rural community networking website.

**SPRING EVENT
FEEDBACK**

Members discussed the picnic event held on May 1, 2010. It was stated that the park was very nice and the event went smoothly but there was not as many people in attendance as hoped. Members would like to do more events and hope for improved response from the community.

**PASCO COUNTY
MEETING**

Randy stated that he has contacted the Pasco County Health Department and we will be holding our August meeting at their Dade City location at the regular meeting date and time.

**OTHER COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Members requested updates on the Anonymous Needs Assessment Survey. Staff shared information on how the rural counties were doing on reaching their individual goals. Everyone was encouraged to keep promoting the survey.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John shared that there will be a Medicaid reform meeting in Tallahassee that he plans to attend at the end of May. He offered to bring back information from this meeting to the group.

Randy shared information on the ADAP Advocacy Association's "AIDS in Crisis Summit" in Washington DC on July 5, 6 & 7.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.