



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
POLK COUNTY SPECIALTY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 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, Gilbert Crespo, Brenda Davis, Linnwood Davis, King James, John Melartin, John Mihalek, Linda Rogers
Members Absent: Ismael Colon, Ovidiu Cotea, Juanita Escobedo, Ellen Gates, Nicole Geiger, John Halman, Donald Hinton, Angela Kendall, Richard Leclercq, Deborah Reinhardt, Deborah Robinson, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan
Guests Present: Terry Boysel, Janet Kitchen, Wilfred Klumpp, William Wilbanks
Grantee Staff Present: Wilma Genter
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** No changes were made to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** There was no quorum present to approve the minutes from March 19, 2008.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Members reported that the MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) allocations and reallocations were approved at the May Care Council meeting. The Council also approved the Needs Assessment Anonymous Client Survey report.
- PROVIDER PRESENTATION** Terry Boysel was scheduled to give a presentation on the Polk County Specialty Care Clinic. He requested that the presentation be tabled until June so that he would be able to bring new staff with him to present. He said that there are changes taking place at the Clinic and that he will be sharing

more information in June.

Members and guests raised some concerns about the Specialty Care Clinic. Issues such as there not being flyers for HIV events around the clinic, the lobby not being friendly to clients and clients needing to get blood drawn at other health department sites were discussed. Some members also feel that programs like the 'Lunch and Learn' are important but that clients don't attend them. They know that these can not become mandatory but wish that there was more incentive for people to attend.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

John Melartin reported that the Planning and Evaluation (P&E) Committee is working on goals and objectives for the State Comprehensive Plan.

He also reported that the Minority Advocacy Committee (MAC) made recommendations to the Resource Prioritization and Allocation Recommendations Committee (RPARC) on how the MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) funding should be allocated.

He also stated that the Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families (WICY&F) Committee's Mother of the Year Event was well done and had a great turn out of clients.

Janet Kitchen stated that Client Services is currently working on a brochure for people that are newly diagnosed with HIV. Janet is also working to update the 1-800 Florida HIV hotline.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet stated that the retreat organized by ASAP (AIDS Service Association of Pinellas) held May 16th-18th was very good. She said that it is open to people from our whole area and is a great experience for clients.

Woody Wilbanks inquired about community support groups in Polk County. There are currently no real support groups available in that area. Clients often travel to Tampa or Orlando for an active group. Members discussed reasons why a group has not been set up or kept active and how to make this service more available.

Janet announced that a new community based organization has been created in Polk County called 'Positively You'. This new group hopes to be providing a variety of services in Polk County including socials for people with HIV, prevention, testing and a buddy system for clients. They will be holding a thrift sale fundraiser on May 31st at the Community Development Center in Winter Haven.

There will be a presentation on Beyond the Numbers: HIV Treatment Goals & Facts about Lipoatrophy at noon on June 18th at the Terrace Hotel in Lakeland.

The Committee decided to have their June meeting from 10:30am to 11:30am at St. Luke's Ministries on 910 W. Quincy St. in Lakeland. This will allow any clients interested in the Beyond Numbers training to attend both the meeting and the training.

ADJOURNMENT

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