



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
POLK COUNTY SPECIALTY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Linnwood Davis, Chair, at 1:14 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ovidiu Cotea, Brenda Davis, Linnwood Davis, King James, Angela Kendall, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers
Members Absent: Ismael Colon, Gilbert Crespo, Juanita Escobedo, Ellen Gates, John Halman, Donald Hinton, Deborah Reinhardt, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan
Guests Present: John Mihalek, Evian Santos
Grantee Staff Present: None
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** There was no quorum present to approve the minutes from September 19, 2007. The members present approved the minutes as written and an e-mail will be sent out to remaining members to request approval. E-mail approval was achieved October 29, 2007.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin and Linnwood Davis gave the Care Council report. They said that the Council approved funding allocations for FY08 and eliminated housing assistance, legal services and transportation in Pinellas County. The Care Council also held its annual half-day retreat.
- WORK PLAN** Members reviewed the work plan. The following motion was passed: (M: Kendall S: Rogers, 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions). Two votes (Gates & Escobedo) were obtained by e-mail on October 29, 2007.

MOTION 10/07 - 01

THAT THE WORK PLAN BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

**ST. LUKE'S LIFE
CENTER
PRESENTATION**

Evian Santos gave a presentation on the St. Luke's Life Center. She said that this is a new affordable apartment complex for people that are 55 plus or on disability. This community is in conjunction with the St. Luke's Church and has several extra features for the disabled and elderly. The first apartments will be available for rent on December 1st.

**OTHER COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

John Melartin said that the Client Services Committee will be doing outreach to a support group in Pasco County on November 14th. The committee is also working on a brochure for clients that are newly diagnosed with HIV.

John also gave a report from Planning and Evaluation. He said they are looking at making the eligibility requirements for Part A the same as those for Part B. They also reviewed minimum standards of care.

The Minority Advocacy Committee is working on setting up a fundraising collaborative to benefit local HIV service organizations.

John said that the Membership Committee has been discussing leadership roles and the rights of provider members.

The Women, Infant, Children, Youth and Families Committee will be holding a town hall on November 16th in Tampa.

NEW BUSINESS

Members decided to cancel the November meeting. The December meeting will be held at the St. Luke's Life Center Community Room from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Linnwood said that he hopes by changing the time and location for the December meeting more people might be able to attend. He also hopes that it will reduce the stigma of having to go to the Health Department. This meeting will also have a holiday party included and members were invited to bring a covered dish to share.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ovidiu Cotea announced that the third annual Arts and Craft Contest will be held on Friday, November 30th at the Polk County Health Department. This is open to anyone infected or affected by AIDS and all entries need to be brought to the health department by 5:00pm on November 29th for judging. This year's theme is "Stop the AIDS – Leadership" and there

will be prizes for first, second and third place.

Deborah stated that she is still working on a World AIDS Day event to honor those people who helped to establish HIV/AIDS services ten years ago in Polk County. She said that there will be several other events on that weekend and other community based organizations have been working with her. The semi-formal banquet will be from 4:00pm to 7:30pm on December 1st at the University of South Florida (USF) campus in Lakeland. She has not set the price of tickets yet and is looking for help with gift baskets.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

4/27/2007