



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
RURAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
POLK COUNTY SPECIALITY CARE CLINIC – BARTOW
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Deborah Robinson, Chair, at 1:25 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Ovidiu Cotea, Gilbert Crespo, Brenda Davis, Linnwood Davis, Juanita Escobedo John Halman, King James, John Melartin, Deborah Robinson, Linda Rogers, Regina Stevens, Vivian Swanigan
Members Absent: Ismael Colon, Ellen Gates, Donald Hinton, Angela Kendall, Deborah Reinhardt
Guests Present: Nicole Geiger, Jane Thurston
Grantee Staff Present: Wilma Genter
Health Councils Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** A provider presentation was added to the agenda.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The June and August meeting minutes were approved as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Deborah and John Melartin gave the Care Council report. They said that the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding grant was announced and in addition Polk County was approved to receive an increase in funding. The Care Council also approved a change to the travel reimbursement policy that allows people living with HIV/AIDS who are committee members to receive compensation for mileage traveled. They also said that Chairs and Co-Chairs of committees were recognized with certificates.

**ELECTIONS/
MEETING DATE,
TIME AND
LOCATION**

Linnwood Davis was elected Chair and Deborah Robinson was elected Co-Chair of the committee. The time, date and location were discussed and it was decided that they will continue to meet the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00pm -2:00pm at the Polk County Specialty Care Clinic.

WORK PLAN

Deborah led a discussion of the work plan. The committee would like to add an effort to bring providers together for a town hall to discuss how they can best work together for the community. The committee also would like to do more for new clients in Polk County such as a welcome letter for new clients and an invitation for them to join the support group and committee meeting.

**PROVIDER
PRESENTATION**

Jane Thurston gave a presentation on PMO Rx. PMO Rx stands for Prescription Management Organization and they are a specialty pharmacy focusing on HIV, transplant and mental health medications. This pharmacy is new to Florida and Jane explained some of their special programs such as home delivery, blister packs for medications and flavoring of medications for children.

**OTHER COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

John Melartin said that the Client Services Committee did outreach to a support group in Pasco County. Some concerns raised by members of the support group were nutritional supplements, housing and transportation.

John also gave a report from RPARC (Resource Prioritization & Allocation Recommendations Committee). He said that due to funding cuts they are recommending to the Care Council that legal services, transportation in Pinellas County, and a couple of other services not be funded in the 2008 allocations.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Evonne Cobbett shared information on a community wide summit called "Confronting the Crisis". This event is in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health – Bureau of HIV/AIDS and is part of the Silence is Death campaign. The program will be on Thursday, October 4th from 8:30am – 8:30pm.

Deborah stated that she is working on a World AIDS Day event in Polk County to honor those people who helped to establish HIV/AIDS services ten years ago. The banquet will be from 4:00pm to 8:00pm on December 1st at the University of South Florida (USF) campus in Lakeland. Anyone interested in helping with the event can attend a planning meeting on September 20th from 3:30pm – 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

4/27/2007