



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (WICY&F) COMMITTEE
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Barbara Szelag, Chair at 1:45 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Fitzroy Dillon, Carolyn Eke-Peart, Harriet Ellington, Coralie Gatewood, Mabel Gonzalez, Mary F. Jones, Marylin Merida, Wendy Pearson, Felix Spann, Barbara Szelag, JaDawn Wright, Mona Wright
Members Absent: Wanda Barker, Cindy Brown, Cecillia Carothers, Darlene Smith
Guests Present: Linda Stephenson
Grantee Staff Present:
Health Council Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The minutes for March 26, 2009 were approved as written (**M:** M. Wright, **S:** Eke-Peart) with 11 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Szelag).
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** The Care Council approved reallocations for MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative) funding. They also held a members retreat.
- MOTHERS CELEBRATION** Members discussed the Mothers Celebration that will be held on Friday, May 8th from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Hospice in St. Petersburg. Ayakao Watkins, who is a local minister and health care consultant, will be one of the speakers for the event along with a HIV+ mother and daughter that will talk about their personal experiences. They will each do a brief presentation and then they will sit on a panel for questions. USF (University of South Florida) will sponsor the food for the event and Cathy

Lammers of HealthStat Rx will be providing drinks. Ron Weston of AHF (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) Pharmacy will be providing Wal-Mart gift cards for raffle prizes. JaDawn will be making a music CD for each of the mothers and USF will be providing her with supplies. Members were encouraged to send her song suggestions. All members were asked to try and find someone who could provide entertainment for the event, possibly someone who can play the piano. Carolyn is hoping to get ASAP (AIDS Service Association of Pinellas) to provide a rose for each of the mothers. She is also planning to use the money collected at the last meeting to purchase table cloths and other decorations for the event. Barbara offered to create a program for the event.

**SUMMER
COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Members decided to only hold one summer community event at the end of July in Hillsborough County. Barbara will follow up with Danielle Kahl who volunteered in the past to try and schedule the summer community event and the November 20th event at Francis House in Tampa.

**2008
DEMOGRAPHICS
AND
EPIDEMIOLOGY
ADDENDUM**

A discussion of the Demographics and Epidemiology Addendum was tabled until the June meeting. Barbara asked that members review the information and be prepared to talk about what this information means.

**PLANNING &
EVALUATION
COMMITTEE &
RPARC UPDATE**

There was no update given on RPARC or the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

**COMMUNITY
CONCERNS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members shared concerns about the eligibility process. Some stated that it is a hardship for their clients to have to go to a different agency to have their eligibility processed. It used to be that an eligibility specialist would spend a day at Tampa Cares or Spring Oaks but that is no longer happening causing there clients to have to go to a different agency to get their eligibility processed. Members would like to know if there can be more eligibility specialist hired or if more agency case managers can be trained to do eligibility. It was also discussed that a section would be added to CARE WARE as to who completed the eligibility process with the client so that other Part D providers would be able to know that they had completed their eligibility and who to contact to verify. It was also suggested that clients might remember to bring their proof of eligibility if it was a small card (like an insurance card) instead of a piece of paper. Members would also like to seek clarification on whether a scheduled eligibly appointment counts toward being able to refer

for services or if they have to have already completed eligibility. Marilyn offered to talk with the Grantee about these issues and invite him to the June meeting.

Members also discussed how to deal with noncompliant clients. If a client does not get their eligibility processed or provide documentation that they are receiving primary care then the case manager can document their attempts to contact them and refer them to the MAI program. They can then make these files inactive but need to keep the file on hand in the event that the client comes back during a crisis in the next couple of years.

Members discussed how to refer a client for MAI services and not many case managers present have been using the MAI referral form. The grantees office will be notified of those that asked to receive the MAI referral information.

Mabel raised a concern about clients that can not provide residency being unable to receive case management services. She stated that she has a couple of clients that can not get a drivers license because they are not legal citizens and they can't provide an utility bill because it is in the name of someone else that they live with. She is concerned about doing testing when she is later not able to serve clients that can't provide residency documentation.

JaDawn raised a concern as to why youth (those under 18) are not able to access MAI funded services such as treatment adherence.

Wendy voiced a concern about a friend of hers that wanted to get an HIV test in Hillsborough County and had trouble finding someone to do the test. This friend would like to volunteer and use her Spanish language skills to help with testing the Hispanic population.

Barbara stated that she would like someone from the committee to consider applying for the Care Council to represent Part D. This person could also represent the committee at the Care Council.

Linda announced that the Children's AIDS Foundation of Tampa Bay will be holding their Kentucky Derby fundraising event on May 2nd in Pinellas County.

ADJOURNMENT

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