



**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (WICY&F) COMMITTEE  
THE HOSPICE OF THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST – ST. PETERSBURG  
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008  
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER**      The meeting was called to order by Barbara Szelag, Chair at 1:30 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE**      Members Present: Cindy Brown, Harriet Ellington, Mary F. Jones, Marilyn Merida, Darlene Smith, Barbara Szelag, Ann White, Rita Winstead, Mona Wright
- Members Absent: Wanda Barker, Carolyn Eke-Peart, Lolita Emanuel-Brown, Mabel Gonzalez, Dionne Kerr, Desmon Newton, Wendy Pearson, Felix Spann, Linda Stephenson, Tina Van Doren Ruppell
- Guests Present: Deborah Garcia, Penny Griffith, Rick Harrington, Belinda Maxwell, John Melartin, Amanda Schall, Todd Wells
- Grantee Staff Present: none
- Health Council Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**      None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES**      There was no quorum present to approve the minutes from April 24, 2008. The members present approved the minutes and staff will contact remaining members to request approval. Approval was achieved July 1, 2008 (Gonzalez & Stephenson).
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT**      There was no Care Council meeting held in June.

**MOTHER OF THE YEAR EVENT FEEDBACK**

Members discussed how successful the Mother of the Year Event was on May 9th. There were fifty-five clients that signed in and enjoyed the program. Members felt that Janet Kitchen was a great speaker and the Committee expressed its appreciation of Lolita Emanuel-Brown who was the coordinator of the event.

The next event will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hospice in St. Petersburg.

**EVENTS SURVEY**

Barbara shared a final draft of the events survey. She asked that providers take the survey back to their office and make copies to give to clients. She asked that committee members bring the completed surveys to the next meeting. Members expressed hope that this survey will provide insight into what makes some events more successful than others.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Members brought up the idea of holding an event to educate the community on HIV/AIDS. Members hope that this will help to reduce stigma. After discussion, the Committee decided to develop a presentation that members could give to community groups such as churches and sororities. They plan on first creating a speakers bureau of volunteers that are willing to present to community groups. They then plan to compile a list of groups they would like to present to and develop a starter presentation that focuses on education and reducing stigma.

**HIV IN OLDER WOMEN**

There was no discussion on this topic.

**PLANNING & EVALUATION COMMITTEE & RPARC UPDATE**

Marylin Merida stated that the Planning and Evaluation Committee forwarded to the Care Council draft goals and objectives for the State Comprehensive Plan. She shared copies of these goals and objectives with members and discussed how WICY&F services are involved with Goals 7 and 8.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mary Jones shared her experiences at the Sistas Organizing to Survive (S.O.S) conference in Orlando. She said that it was an awesome event and hopes that the S.O.S message will help prevention efforts in our area.

There will be a workshop titled "Navigating the Culture of Corrections" held on July 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the USF (University of South Florida) downtown center. Lunch will be provided and there is limited space available.

Marylin shared that she and Georgette King did a presentation

on HIV+ incarcerated women at the Governor's Conference on Women.

Ann White announced that she is coordinating an event on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> that will be a panel of political candidates. This event will be held at the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast in the evening. Due to the interest expressed by members to attend this event the August WICY&F Committee meeting is canceled to allow members time to attend this event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.