

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE  
THE HOSPICE OF THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST – ST. PETERSBURG  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007  
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Barbara Szelag, Chair at 1:40 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Wanda Barker, Cindy Brown, Carolyn Eke-Peart, Harriet Ellington, Mary F. Jones, Marylin Merida, Felix Spann, Barbara Szelag, Ann Sherman-White, Mona Wright  
Members Absent: Mabel Gonzalez, Dr. Jeanette Reid, Lisa Sampson, Linda Stephenson, Shanita West  
Guests Present: Julie Burnett, Rick Harrington, Rita Hernandez, Dionne Kerr, Wendell Martin, John Melartin, Jameson Mercier, Desmon Newton, Wendy Pearson, Tamara Starling, Tina Van Doren-Ruppell, Rita Winstead  
Grantee Staff Present: Valetta Rhinehart  
Health Council Staff Present: Nicole Brown, Judit Hahn
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** One item was added to the agenda.  
VIII.A. WIC (Women, Infant, Children) Allocation Funding for Perinatal HIV
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** The October meeting minutes were adopted as written.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** John Melartin gave the Care Council report. He said that the Care Council adopted a change to the formulary that allows a client to get two months worth of medication while applying for drug assistance. He also mentioned that final reallocations and the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism were approved.
- MAI STUDY RESULTS** Marylin Merida shared a presentation on the results of the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) study that was done by RNT & Associates in 2005. She spoke about the methodologies used

and how the information gathered can help pin point where services need to be offered. Some of the recommendations of the presentation were to identify specific goals regarding women, infants, children and youth (WICY) that will impact the number of people affected, formally define WICY services and philosophy, and to explore specific standards of care for WICY. Committee members decided to form a work group to integrate these recommendations into the committee's work plan. Barbara Szelag will contact the volunteers to help with the work plan before the next committee meeting.

**MOTION 01/07-01**

The following motion was passed: (**M**: Brown **S**: Jones, 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions).

**THAT THE COMMITTEE INCORPORATE THE MAI STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS BY REVISING THE WORK PLAN.**

**PLANNING & EVALUATION UPDATE**

There was no Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting held in January.

**WIC ALLOCATION FUNDING FOR PERINATAL HIV**

Marylin shared information on a change to the perinatal HIV funding. The Care Council set a spending restriction that 75% of the primary care allocation must be spent on medical care and no more than 25% may be used for patient education. The current perinatal program relies heavily on education and has been successful. Dr. Emmanuel who works with the perinatal program will be attending the Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting in February to request an exemption to this funding restriction.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wendell Martin shared that at the January Care Council meeting a motion was made that all acronyms be written out. He said that support staff sent a list of acronyms and definitions to all members and that it was a good resource to share.

Marilyn and Mary Frances Jones talked about the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA) meeting that was recently held in Tampa. They said that there was a good representation from local companies and churches to discuss how to help the growing black HIV community.

Barbara announced that a new support group for HIV positive women is being formed in Tampa called PSST! (Positive Support for the Spirit Today). Call 813-974-6640 for more information.

Tina Van Doren-Ruppell shared that she is the new president of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) and that she can post events on their web site.

Ann Sherman-White spoke about “Jabula! Rejoice” a gospel fest being held on February 3, 2007 at 6:00pm in St. Petersburg.

Mary announced that there will be an event at Rosen Park on February 3, 2007 from noon – 4:00pm in honor of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

2/23/2007