

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL  
WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE  
SPRING OAKS – TAMPA  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006  
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Lisa Sampson, Chair at 1:40 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE** Members Present: Wanda Barker, Harriet Ellington, Mabel Gonzalez, Mary F. Jones, Marylin Merida, Lisa Sampson, Felix Spann, Barbara Szelag, Shanita West, Ann White  
Members Absent: Cindy Brown, Carolyn Eke-Peart, Dr. Jeanette Reid, Linda Stephenson, Daniel Swain, Mona Wright  
Guests Present: Julie Baltzell, Katherine Brown, Mary Lucas, Lisa McKenna  
Grantee Staff Present:  
Health Council Staff Present: Nicole Brown
- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** None.
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES** A correction to the spelling of Lisa McKenna's name was made to the August meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.
- CARE COUNCIL REPORT** Shanita West gave the Care Council report. She mentioned that allocations for 2007 were approved and that two MAI funded allocations were combined for Pasco and Hernando Counties. There are currently membership openings for Pasco County, Hernando County, a local public health department and the Hispanic community.
- ELECTIONS/ MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION** Barbara Szelag was elected chair and Shanita West was elected co-chair. It was mentioned that both Barbara and Shanita are members of the Care Council and will be able to share information from the committee to the full Council.

Members shared that they felt a disconnect from the Care Council when no one from the WICY&F committee was attending the Care Council meetings and giving a report.

The meeting time, location and date were also discussed. Mary Frances Jones stated that the housing coalition meetings are being held at the same time as the WICY&F committee meetings. She described the work of the housing coalition and that it would be good for more women and minorities to become involved. It was also mentioned that past issues with Francis House have mostly been resolved and that they are again holding their Lunch and Learn. It was suggested to move the meeting to be in conjunction with that event but some members said that many consumers leave right after lunch is served and that parking is very difficult. Lisa Sampson said that with the member attendance issues from last year, it would be good to keep the meeting time and date the same. The committee decided to keep the meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. The meetings will also be alternated between Spring Oaks and The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast.

## **WORK PLAN**

Members discussed the proposed work plan. Lisa Sampson brought up the mother of the year luncheon and how she felt the committee expended too many resources on the event and was not able to do the spring town hall. She said that she felt the committee could not do two events in back to back months and that one event should be eliminated from the work plan. Marilyn Merida suggested the two events be combined into one spring consumer event. The committee liked the idea and decided to have the work plan reflect a fall and spring consumer focused event in place of the two town halls and mother of the year luncheon. Marilyn also suggested that Ryan White's mother would be a great guest speaker for the spring consumer focused event. In addition it was mentioned that more needs to be done to get clients to come out for the event held in St. Petersburg. This event has historically had poor attendance as compared to the Tampa events.

## **MOTION 09/06-01**

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

**THAT THE WORK PLAN BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

## **NOVEMBER TOWN HALL**

Lisa Sampson started discussion about the plans for the November town hall. This event will be focused on Hispanic clients and will have both English and Spanish translation. Lisa spoke about the location for the town hall and said that she will

check with Metro Charities to see if space is available at their location. Mabel Gonzalez will create and distribute the flyer. Lisa and Mary Frances Jones also agreed to work on getting food donated for lunch. Mary will check with Gold Ring and Peppo's and Lisa will check with a local BBQ place. Mabel said that she will handle the dessert.

Door prizes were discussed and the committee decided to continue providing door prizes. Lisa, Mary and Shanita West will work on collecting the items.

Mary asked if the consumer focused events are open to the public or if they are just for consumers. The committee discussed the issue and decided that providers and members of the community would be welcome to attend. It was also discussed that providers could set up tables to give out information about their programs like YES and TOPWA.

## **MAI STUDY RESULTS**

Marylin Merida shared that the MAI study results that were distributed in the committee packets are not the sections she felt would be beneficial for the committee to review. She offered to contact RNT & Associates to provide the correct section from the MAI study.

## **PLANNING & EVALUATION UPDATE**

No committee member present attended the Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting. Marilyn Merida offered to be the liaison to the Planning and Evaluation Committee because she feels that the WICY&F committee needs their voice heard when planning for services.

## **RPARC UPDATE**

Marylin Merida gave the RPARC committee report. She stated that two MAI funded contracts were combined for Hernando and Pasco Counties for convenience. The committee also reviewed expenditure patterns and sent reallocation recommendations to the Care Council so that all funds could be spent by the end of the year. The committee is currently working on the administrative mechanism which is a review of the Grantee's office.

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lisa Sampson shared a concern about the housing surveys that are currently being conducted. She said that in the past consumers would fill out the surveys and not check that they need services that they already use. Lisa said this creates a skewed assessment of need that can affect funding for services that women and families utilize. Marilyn Merida also shared concerns about the housing survey. She said that some of the questions are too personal and it turns people off from doing the survey.

Concerns were also shared about how HOPWA treats its clients

once they are enrolled in the program. It was said that HOPWA agents will enter someone's home whenever they wish and they are demeaning to clients.

Harriet Ellington also raised the issue of having to pass a criminal background check to qualify for housing assistance. She feels someone should not be punished years after an infraction happens and the person has already made restitution.

Marilyn Merida offered to get a breakdown of the expenditures for the previous year from the Grantee's office. She said that the committee should be aware of funding that is being spent on women, children, youth and families as well as making sure that federal spending mandates are being spent.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come to the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

11/7/2006