

**RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL
JAN PLATT LIBRARY, TAMPA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006
1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting of the Ryan White Care Council was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Wayne Bibeault, Co-chair.
- ATTENDANCE/
INTRODUCTIONS** See attached attendance list.
- CHANGES TO AGENDA** The True Colors Teambuilding exercise was moved up on the agenda and the Title II Budget Reduction Recommendation was added to the RPARC report.
- APPROVAL OF
MINUTES** The Care Council members voted to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 7, 2005 with one correction in the Community Concerns section. Marilyn Merida clarified that The AIDS Institute had not received "major" funding cuts but, rather, had lost funding for PLWHA travel and conferences.
- TEAMBUILDING
EXERCISE** Dixie Morgese with RNT and Associates conducted an exercise called "True Colors," an assessment of personal style based on the Myers-Briggs and Kersey-Bates assessments. Care Council members identified their own colors and discussed the contributions of each to Care Council mission, goals, and processes.
- CHAIRPERSON'S
REPORT** Wayne reported that Mark Mischan absent because he is attending a conference in Miami. Mark was to follow-up about a form to be developed for giving written input at Care Council meetings. That item will be deferred until the February meeting.
- Wayne asked if anyone had any questions regarding travel reimbursement. Susan announced that members will not need to submit Mapquest sheets for trips to regularly scheduled Care Council and committee meetings. The Health Councils will submit a file on regular trips to the Grantee. Members will need to submit a Mapquest sheet for trips to locations other than typical meeting locations.
- GRANTEE'S REPORT** Aubrey announced that he had received communication from HRSA saying that Ryan White funds could be used to pay co-pays under Medicare Part D. The problem is that funds are not

currently allocated for this and it is difficult to estimate how much funding might be needed since the program is new. The Florida Department of Health has announced that dually-enrolled individuals with incomes no higher than 150% of poverty level can continue to use ADAP for medications and here is a pilot project planned for individuals with incomes no higher than 135% of poverty level to be allowed to use AICP funds for co-pays. Aubrey has been told that there is a disconnect between AHCA and Medicare re coverage for some clients. Donnette Waul-Santiago asked for clarification and explained that AHCA does have to refer individuals to Medicare based on their enrollment and that AHCA does not control Medicare's policies. Some problems need to be resolved with Medicare. Bob Reynolds shared his personal experience with glitches in the Medicare Part D system. Aubrey clarified that while individuals may be referred to a pharmacy in another county, that pharmacy has mail-order service so a trip to pick up medications is not required. Vivian Candelaria reminded everyone that many psychiatric medications are not covered in the Medicare Part D plans. Elizabeth Rugg announced that The Health Councils has a compassionate drug program in Pinellas County that will hopefully be operational in Hillsborough County by 3/1/06. Pharmaceutical companies will supply medications free to individuals who meet income qualifications. Chris McGinnis at The Health Councils can assist residents of Pinellas and (soon) Hillsborough County in the process. He can give referral information to individuals from other areas so they can access the service from the pharmaceutical companies themselves. Chris can be reached at (727) 217-7070.

Aubrey announced that he is finalizing a technical assistance grant from HRSA that will allow Julia Hidalgo to present a workshop on Medicare Part D and Medicaid readiness for managed care. The workshop should be in late March.

The Care Council website is progressing and should be operational by the end of February. It looks like the web address will be thecarecouncil.org.

Aubrey will attend the All Titles Conference in Orlando in March and he will facilitate the Title I Planning session.

The Grantee's response to the Grantee Assessment was distributed. Aubrey will provide updates to the recommendations as changes occur.

The reauthorization of the CARE Act is still pending. The District office did receive an appropriations letter and Aubrey hopes to hear about the appropriation for our area soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS A. RPARC – Dave Konnerth, Chair

RPARC met twice since the last Care Council meeting, on 12/13/05 and on 1/10/06. At the meeting on 12/15/05, the Grantee submitted recommendations for the 5% budget cuts required for Title II. A summary was available for Care Council members today. The bulk of the funds cut were in non-contracted Direct Client Service Funds (some in the TSA and some in Highlands County) that have been used for rent and utility deposits. Vivian Candelaria noted that Ryan White funds can still be used for rent so case managers can help clients budget for deposits and request funds for rent if needed.

The following motion passed (**Motion J. Baumgartner, Second N. Jackson**) with 20 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Pritchard):

MOTION 01/06-01

THAT CARE COUNCIL ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF RPARC TO REDUCE THE TITLE II BUDGET BY A TOTAL OF \$79,484 (WITH REDUCTIONS OF \$73,718 IN NON-CONTRACTED DCSF; \$2,766 IN NON-CONTRACTED DCSF IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY; AND \$3,000 IN NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS.)

Dave reviewed the reallocation recommendations discussed at RPARC on 1/10/06, noting that the Grantee had discussed decreases and increases with the providers. All requests for increases were met to some degree. In response to a question, Dave clarified that these are not budget changes; they are reallocations based on unspent funds. In the TSA more than 98% of allocated amounts are spent overall. Dave reported that RPARC is planning to look at trends in reallocations over the past three years.

The following motion passed (**Motion Jim Roth, Second V. Candelaria**) with 21 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions:

MOTION 01/06-02

THAT CARE COUNCIL ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF RPARC TO REALLOCATE FUNDS AS FOLLOWS: TITLE I FINAL REALLOCATIONS: REDUCTIONS-- Amb/Outpatient (Hillsborough) \$90,000; Drug

Reimbursement (Hills. Pasco, Hernando) \$50,000; Case Mgmt-Specialty Care (Hillsborough) \$17,000; Case Mgmt (Pasco, Hernando) \$13,000; Transportation (Hillsborough) \$5,000; Transportation (Pasco, Hernando) \$17,000; Oral Health (Hernando) \$6,000; Mental Health (Hillsborough) \$2,000; Housing Services (Hillsborough) \$12,000; Substance Abuse (Hillsborough) \$18,000; Substance Abuse (Pinellas) \$52,000; Care Council Support (EMA) \$10,000; Program Support (EMA) \$25,000. TOTAL REDUCTIONS: \$317,000. INCREASES—Amb/Outpatient (Pinellas) \$50,000; Drug Reimbursement (Pinellas) \$112,500; Case Mgmt (Hillsborough)\$50,000; Case Mgmt (Pinellas) \$45,000; Food Bank/Nutritional Supplements (Pinellas) \$7,500; Oral Health (Hillsborough) \$35,000; Mental Health (Pinellas) \$2,000; Legal Services (EMA) \$15,000. TOTAL INCREASES \$317,000.

TITLE I MAI FINAL REALLOCATIONS: REDUCTIONS—Substance Abuse (Hillsborough) \$2,500; Medical Educator AA (Hillsborough) \$18,000; Medical Educator Hisp. (Hillsborough) \$9,000; Medical Educator (Hillsborough/Pinellas) \$4,000; Medical Educator (EMA) \$8,000; Adherence AA (EMA) \$2,500; Adherence Hisp. (EMA) \$1,000. TOTAL REDUCTIONS \$45,000. INCREASES—Drug Reimbursement AA (Hillsborough) \$13,000; Drug Reimbursement Hisp. (Hillsborough) \$12,000; Capacity Building (EMA) \$20,000. TOTAL INCREASES \$45,000.

TITLE II FINAL REALLOCATIONS: REDUCTIONS—Case Mgmt (Pinellas) \$15,000; Case Mgmt (Polk) \$5,000. INCREASES—Drug Reimbursement (TSA) \$20,000.

RPARC approved a methodology for the Grantee Assessment or Assessment of Administrative Mechanism at the meeting on 1/10/06. That item will be presented at the February Care Council meeting. The next RPARC meeting will be on Tuesday, 2/21/06, 1:30 to 3:30 pm at Park Station, Pinellas Park.

B. Membership – Michael Amidei, Chair

The membership committee did not meet in December. The membership application of Linnwood Davis was distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Davis has been active on the Rural Health Committee and would fill an open seat in Polk County.

The following motion passed (**Motion G. Pritchard, Second Carla Foster**) with 20 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Reynolds):

MOTION 01/06-03

THAT THE CARE COUNCIL APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OF LINNWOOD DAVIS.

Michael reminded members that membership is everyone's responsibility. Please encourage interested parties to contact Michael or give him the individual's contact information for follow-up. Michael can be reached at (727) 447-7722.

The next Membership Committee meeting will be on Monday, 1/23/06, 12:30 to 2:00 pm at the West Tampa Neighborhood Service Center, Tampa.

C. Client Services – Janet Kitchen, Chair

The Client Services Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Monday, 1/23/06, 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the West Tampa Neighborhood Service Center, Tampa.

D. Health Services Advisory - Jim Roth, Co-Chair

The committee met on 12/15/05 service definitions, the Qualified Provider Survey, nutritional supplements, and usage of and changes in the Hillsborough County indigent health plan.

Elizabeth Rugg clarified that the current policy re nutritional supplements states that a client has to complete the application for Medicaid for nutritional supplements, not that that application has to be declined. A revision for the policy that will clarify eligibility is on the agenda of 1/19/06.

Several members expressed concern about the cost saving measure adopted by the Hillsborough County Commission to deny eligibility for the indigent healthcare plan to individuals who have had three felony convictions.

Michael Amidei reminded members of the high co-morbidity of HIV and Hepatitis. Hepatitis affected individuals must be very careful of using supplements that are processed through the liver and should be encouraged to discuss all nutritional supplements with their primary care provider.

The next Health Services Advisory meeting is scheduled for Thurs 1/19/06, 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Hillsborough County Health Department, Tampa.

E. Minority Advocacy – Susan Josephson, Staff

The committee has not met since the last Care Council meeting. There will be a focus group for the MAI Capacity Building Project at the meeting on 1/13/06, 11 am to 1 pm at Spring Oaks, Tampa.

Next meeting scheduled for Fri 1/13/06, 11 am to 1 pm at Spring Oaks. This meeting will be a focus group for the CareRARE methodology for the MAI Project.

F. Planning and Evaluation – Jim McGarvey, Chair

The committee met on 12/13/05. There was discussion about moving some Planning and Evaluation meetings to Tampa (on a quarterly or semi-annual basis) for parity and inclusion. There was also discussion about the Unmet Need Survey and information presented on transportation currently available in the TSA.

A series of input sessions about care and funding priorities will be held in January and February. Consultant Bruce Strahl will conduct the meetings. The sessions will be held on:

January 26, 2006, 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Metro Charities

February 2, 2006, 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Spring Oaks

February 15, 2006, 12:30 to 2:00 pm at the Polk Specialty Care Clinic.

The next Planning and Evaluation meeting will be on Tuesday, 2/21/06, 10:30 to 11 am at Pinellas County Social Services, St. Petersburg.

G. Rural Issues – Deborah Robinson, Chair

The Christmas luncheon on 12/14/05 was well attended by providers, consumers, and community members. Several new providers described their services.

Next meeting scheduled for Wed 1/18/06, 12:30 to 2:00 pm at the Polk County Specialty Clinic in Bartow.

H. SIOC – Susan Josephson, Staff

No report. The committee did not meet in December.

I. WICYF – Amy Mock, Co-Chair

The committee did not meet in December, having decided to meet every other month. The next meeting will be on Thur, 1/26/06, 1:30 to 3:00 pm at EJR, Inc., St. Petersburg.

PUBLIC POLICY

Marylin Merida announced that Congress is reconsidering Medicaid cuts and citizens have another opportunity to provide input. She is meeting with Rep. Jim Davis tomorrow and would be glad to have others join her.

Dixie Morgese reported that in the cultural expert interviews being conducted for the MAI Capacity Building Project, she has been told that elected officials want to hear from constituents about HIV/AIDS funding and needs.

Bob Reynolds announced that individuals who are having trouble with Medicare Part D are encouraged to report concerns and experiences to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Staff will disseminate information on how to do this via mail and e-mail.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

None presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Care Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Note: A tape recording of the meeting is available for review at The Health Councils.

ATTENDANCE LIST

January 12, 2006

Care Council Members**Present**

Wayne Bibeault	X
Robbie Bouplon	X
Rogelio Capo	
Barbara Clark-Alexander	A (Marylin Merida)
Candi Clark	
Marie Dolphin	X
Carla Foster	X
Lois Hall	A (Jimmy Baumgartner)
Natalie Jackson	X
Craig Kelley	
Janet Kitchen	X
David Konnerth	X
Jeannie Lewis	A
Kyle Lidge	
Wendell Martin	X
Aritus Miller	X
Mark Mischan	EX
Amy Mock	X
Jan Neeson	
Andrew Paquette	X
Priya Poulimas	A (Vivian Candelaria)
Gail Prichard	X
Bob Reynolds	X
Deborah Robinson	X
Jim Roth	X
David Stubbs	
Crystal Underwood	X
Donnette Waul-Santiago	X

Associate Members

Michael Amidei	X
Keith Edwards	X
Debbie Langhorne	
John Melartin	X
Robert Tate	
Bill Thomas	X

Staff**Present**

Aubrey Arnold	X
Susan Josephson	X
Kelly Hall	X