

*FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

**Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership  
Strategic Planning Committee's South Miami-Dade  
HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Needs Workgroup Meeting**

Friday, March 6, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Covenant Missionary Baptist Church  
1055 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Florida City, FL 33034

Call to Order/Introductions

The chair, Miguel Puente, called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m. He introduced himself and asked for introductions. Elizabeth Ross informed the workgroup that meetings are recorded and the recordings are available to the public.

Resource Persons

Maltide Zayas, Ph.D, chair-elect, identified Behavioral Science Research (BSR) staff as resource individuals; she informed attendees they can contact BSR staff with questions or concerns.

Floor Open to the Public

Mr. Puente opened the floor to the public with the following statement:

*“During the 2013 session, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 50 which requires states, county and municipal boards to provide members of the public a ‘reasonable opportunity to be heard’ on items and matters before the board.*

*On items that are on today’s agenda, members of the public have an opportunity to be heard concerning each of the items. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard, I invite you to speak now. Each person will be given three minutes to speak. Please begin by stating your name and address for the record before you talk about your concerns.”*

The floor was opened to the public; there were no comments, questions or concerns.

Review of February 6, 2015 Meeting Notes

Attendees reviewed the February 6, 2015 meeting notes; no changes were made. Carla Valle-Schwenk requested to be added to the agenda under New Business before “Refocus of the Workgroup” to discuss “Clarification on New Health Community Centers and Report on the South Dade Tour”.

Standing Business

There was no standing business.

New Business

- *Clarification on New Health Community Centers and Report on the South Dade Tour*

Ms. Valle-Schwenk asked Debbie Cain from New Health Community Centers if Susy Armas was in fact a physician or physician assistant. Ms. Cain confirmed that Susy Armas is a physician assistant, and she is also an Infectious Disease Specialist.

Ms. Valle-Schwenk reported that after last month's meeting some members of the South Dade Workgroup participated in a tour of Life Zone X (10) facilitated by Karen Hilton. Some of the issues Ms. Valle-Schwenk identified were:

1. Transportation. Everything in Life Zone X is far in distance between each other so navigating the area could be difficult for clients.
2. There are distinct cultural differences that segregate the community. Although residents of different cultural backgrounds may live in the same area there is no communication between both communities. The workgroup should consider this when addressing HIV/AIDS services.
3. There is now a County health department site where Project Outreach once stood; however, apparently not many of the residents are accessing this clinic.

Dr. Zayas suggested that the workgroup host a block party and invite both communities to encourage dialogue. Ms. Valle-Schwenk suggested hosting such an event once the drop-in center in South Miami-Dade opens.

- *Refocus of the Workgroup*

Robert Ladner, Ph.D, reminded members that the Partnership tasked the workgroup to 1) identify the needs of the HIV affected community in South Miami-Dade and 2) address the lack of Ryan White services in the area. Some of the activities the workgroup has been monitoring appears tangent from the workgroup's task.

Ms. Valle-Schwenk disagreed that the workgroup was off-task. She referenced the *South Dade HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Needs Workgroup's Final Report to the Partnership* (copy on file) and pointed out that the workgroup's activities had been documented and presented to the Partnership for approval. Ms. Valle-Schwenk emphasized that the scope of the workgroup should not be limited to just the Ryan White Part A program and its services considering the challenge of stigma associated with accessing HIV-specific services in South Miami-Dade. The workgroup would make a greater impact if non-HIV specific services were offered along with HIV specific services in the targeted area.

Ms. Ross reviewed the Unmet Needs vs. Preferences sheet from the *Key Informant Interview Results* (copy on file) detailing the feedback gathered from key respondents who participated in a south Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS care and treatment needs workgroup. No structural unmet needs were reported by PLWHA in South Dade group discussions. There are very real stigma issues arising from close-knit South Dade community and the sense that using HIV/AIDS services in South Dade represents disclosure to acquaintances, church members or family who may work South Dade providers, see them there or ask questions. Most PLWHA participants have the ability to choose providers, and many exercise that choice even if travel is inconvenient. Both local HIV/AIDS service providers and "up north" providers had their supporters and detractors. PLWHA expressed widespread frustration that case managers do not tell them of "outside" services available to them.

Members discussed how providers can communicate with each other to establish a united front and ensure clients are linked to care. Tabitha Hunter, from Community Health of South Florida (CHI), and LaQuitta McCoy, from AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), will exchange contact information.

After much discussion, members agreed to focus on the following goals:

Goal 1, objective 3 (a): Provide medical case management training on non-Ryan White support services available to Ryan White clients in south Miami-Dade.

Goal 1, objective 3 (b): Increase information capacity about non-Ryan White program services available to PLWHA in Life Zone X(10).

Goal 2, objective 4: Devise an outreach center to increase awareness of and access to Ryan White services for PLWHA.

Goal 2, objective 7: Develop a referral arrangement between AHF, CHI, South Florida AIDS Network (SFAN) and Homestead Hospital to ensure linkage to care of HIV+ patients who are identified in Homestead Hospital's emergency room.

Sarah Kenneally offered to convert the above four objectives into SMART objectives and present them to the Strategic Planning Committee on March 13<sup>th</sup> and the workgroup in April.

#### Announcements

Dr. Ladner announced that the 2015 Ryan White Provider Brochure is now available hardcopy and electronically on AIDSNET.org. Ms. Ross distributed the brochures to attendees.

Chaplain Shirley Brown announced that Congregational Care is facilitating cultural competency training sessions on April 18<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Ross reviewed the March and April 2015 Partnership calendars (copies on file).

#### Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:03 p.m.

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#### Attendees

1. Barroso, George
2. Cain, Debbie
3. Dardompre, Frank
4. Davis-Camacho, Yolanda
5. Hilton, Karen
6. Hunter, Tabitha
7. Kenneally, Sarah
8. McCoy, LaQuitta
9. Puente, Miguel
10. Quintero, Samuel
11. Williams, Stephen
12. Valle-Schwenk, Carla
13. Zayas, Matilde

#### Staff

1. Ladner, Robert
2. Ross, Elizabeth
3. Sastre, Francisco