



**Housing Committee Meeting**  
**Behavioral Science Research 2121 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 230**  
**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 Minutes**

*Approved March 18, 2010*

#	Members	Present	Absent	Guests	
1	Downs, Frederick, Jr.		X	Chantal Pierre	
2	Gadlin, Lucille		X	Arelys Rodriguez	
3	Hall, Ronald		X		
4	Louis, Ray	X			
5	McGowan, Ed	X			
6	Reed, Felicia	X			
7	Rolle, Betty		X		
8	Tamayo, George	X			
9	Weathers, Irma	X			
<b>Quorum= 4</b>				<b>Staff</b>	
				Marlen Hernandez	Kim Tardalo

**I. Call to Order**

The chair elect, Ed McGowan, called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. Mr. McGowan welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

**II. Resource Persons**

Mr. McGowan identified Behavioral Science Research (BSR) staff as resource individuals.

**III. Review Agenda**

The committee reviewed the agenda; Marlen Hernandez was added to announcements and non-business items were moved to the top of the agenda.

**IV. Review/Approve Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009; Felicia Reed should be added to the list of members.

**Motion to accept the minutes of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, with the change noted above.**

**Moved: Irma Weathers**

**Seconded: Ray Louis**

**Motion: Passed**

**V. Membership**

*- Marlen Hernandez*

Ms. Hernandez reported that the full Partnership and all committees are in need of members. None of the current Housing Committee applicants were present.

## VI. Standing Business

- *Report on Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA) Long Term Rental Assistance (LTRA) Waitlist* - Ray Louis

There are approximately 986 households receiving HOPWA assistance. The number of households must be reduced to 941 to allow new clients to be called from the waitlist. Mr. Louis reported that it is a Federal regulation that a waitlist must be maintained regardless of housing availability and that he anticipates all waitlisted clients will eventually be served. Mr. Louis explained that according to HUD regulations, a waitlist can be expunged after a few years. However, the City of Miami HOPWA program has always served everyone on the waitlist.

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, HOPWA has been required to supply a full utility allowance to all households, which has put an additional financial constraint on the already limited funding.

Members discussed accessing alternate funding sources for clients in HOPWA who are waitlisted and for those planning to apply in the future. For instance, veterans may qualify for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program. Current assessment of HOPWA applicants should include screening for VASH and other similar programs.

- *Annual Public Hearings* - Ray Louis

The City of Miami HOPWA Program is holding its public hearings on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Florida City Neighborhood Center and on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Caleb Center. A better estimate of expected funds should be available at that time. The HOPWA Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released in March and will have an emphasis on leveraged funding.

- *Social Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Program* - Ray Louis

Mr. Louis is trying to organize a two day SOAR training for Ryan White medical case managers. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) offers a local SOAR training. Mr. McGowan reported that one of his case managers at Concept House has had great success with SOAR and agreed to invite her to a monthly HOPWA meeting to discuss her experience with SOAR. Mr. Louis emphasized the savings SOAR could bring to HOPWA; each client who receives SSI/SSDI saves HOPWA \$150 per month.

## VII. New Business

- *Annual Report Update* - Marlen Hernandez

Members reviewed the draft Annual Report (copy on file), specifically the *Housing* section. Members suggested:

- Moving the data on those who are HIV positive and unaware of their status to the *High Rates of Infection* section.
- Including data on the estimated unmet need of 8,934 people clients from the housing needs assessment.
- Listing the total number of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) for top 25 zip codes below the map.
- Listing the number of seniors infected as a side note.

Ms. Hernandez recommended that members attend the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at BSR to review the final draft of the Annual Report.

**VIII. Announcements**

Ms. Hernandez asked members to review the following fliers (copies on file): Community Coalition Committee meeting, Partnership report, research presentations and support groups.

**IX. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Edison Neighborhood Service Center.

**X. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Moved: Irma Weathers**

**Seconded: Ray Louis**

**Motion: Passed**

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.