



Ryan White Program Performance Improvement Advisory Team
Minutes of March 18, 2011
Behavioral Science Research
2121 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite250
Coral Gables, FL 33134

#	Members	Organization	Guests	Organization
1	George Barroso	North Dade Health Center	Elizabeth Davis	JTCHC
2	Rosemond Francis	Borinquen	Gustavo Gallego	SFAN
3	Karen Hilton	University of Miami	Orlando Taquechel	MBCHC
4	Joe Martinez	ACMS	Stephen Williams	Helen B. Bentley
5	Ed McGowan	Concept House		
6	Kathy Mercogliano	University of Miami	BSR Staff	
7	Jasmin O'Neale-Lewis	University of Miami	Ariela Eshel	Kimberly Tardalo
8	Tom Pietrogallo	Care Resource	Susy Martinez	
9	Carla Valle-Schwenk	Office of Grants Coordination	Sandra Sergi	

1. The PIAT Chair, Ed McGowan called the meeting to order. He regretfully informed members that Dr. Toye Brewer with the Department of Health had passed away and called for a moment of silence. Mr. McGowan then asked for introductions.

2. PIAT members reviewed the February 18, 2011 minutes. No changes were made.

3. Standing Business

- *Ryan White Program Update* –
 - Carla Valle-Schwenk reported the following:
 - The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) crisis has caused additional work for the Ryan White Program.
 - The new Service Delivery Guidelines have been distributed and are available online.
 - The Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need and Patient Care Planning Group (PCPG) meeting will be held in Tampa from March 21st to 23rd; the Partnership chair and representatives from the Office of Grants Coordination (OGC) and Behavioral Science Research (BSR) will be attending.
 - The temporary changes to the Ryan White Part A Prescription Drug Formulary will be discussed at the April Medical Care Subcommittee meeting.
 - The State will reconsider changing State program eligibility from 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) back to 300% in the next couple of months; the Ryan White Program will follow suit if a change is made.
 - Tom Pietrogallo noted that all programs and agencies have really pulled together to deal with the ADAP crisis accordingly.

- Medical Case Management (MCM) Updates
 - *Technical Assistance (TA) Visits* – TA visits have continued as usual; While Sandra Sergi is on maternity leave, Ariela Eshel and Susy Martinez will conduct TA visits at CHI in her stead; Sandra’s other agency TA visits will be on hold until her return. Ariela stated that the format of the TA visits at SFAN will change to allow for more involvement from the MCM’s and the supervisors - Each selected chart will be reviewed by BSR staff along with the MCM and the supervisor to ensure areas of weakness are identified and addressed immediately. It was noted that the scoring of TA reports appears to have encouraged MCMs to improve the quality of their charts.
 - *Monthly MCM Training* – Dr. Piperato and Dr. Powell presented on HIV and Aging; Alicia Apfel presented an introduction to the Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA) Program and Orlando Taquechel presented on the Mercy to Miami Beach Community Health Center transition. Mr. Taquechel noted that the full version of this presentation is available for presentation on site at all interested agencies.
 - *Record Reviews* – Follow-up pharmacy record reviews are complete (except for SFAN which will be reviewed at a later date) and psychosocial/mental health reviews are underway.
 - *Social Security Income (SSI) / Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) Update* – Susy met with Alicia and Ray Louis and discussed the protocol (copy on file) with PIAT members. An additional two day SOAR training is being planned for this year for MCMs who were not able to attend the first one.
 - *Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS (EIIHA)* – The consent for the Department of Health (DOH) Counseling and Testing sites to refer newly diagnosed clients to Ryan White Program outreach workers has been approved. The pilot program will begin on April 1st at one STD testing site with referrals to University of Miami outreach workers. Carla reported that there is a new MCM code in the SDIS, Newly Identified Client (NIC), to be used for now during this pilot program. The code can be used up to three times for MCM visits that occur prior to the determination of the client’s eligibility for the Ryan White Program. Instruction on the proper use of the code will be provided by OGC.

4. New Business

- *Review of the REV and CON Supervisory Codes* – Item was tabled until the April meeting.
- *Final SDIS Outreach Screens and Process* – Item was tabled until the April meeting.
- *Revisions to the Comprehensive Health Assessment (CHA)* – Ariela presented the revised CHA including the comments made by PIAT members during the January and February meetings as well as comments made by the MCMs at the March training (copies on file). Additional suggestions were made:
 - Health History:
 - Treatment should be changed to “treatment/follow-up.”
 - If the labs have been completed they will pre-populate the applicable fields.

- On the drop down list of smoking cessation providers State hotlines should be included.
- For CD4 count there should be space for the absolute count and for the percentage.
- A column for the date should be added to the opportunistic infections table.
- “Any other hospitalizations” should be added to the end of the opportunistic infection table.
- Medications:
 - If a client is not taking antiretroviral medications the reason should be documented.
- Nutrition:
 - The weight question should ask about weight loss/gain and the reason for a change in weight rather than “normal weight.”
- Support Systems and Relationships:
 - Members discussed whether asking about a client’s partner’s HIV status may be a breach of confidentiality; however, it is an important question to ask. Therefore, the question was changed to “Do you know your partner’s status?” to help assess the client’s needs for assistance with disclosure and safer sex practices without having to disclose the partner’s status.
 - Members were still concerned about CHA questions regarding violent or abusive relationships since MCMs are not properly trained to deal with domestic violence concerns if a client discloses he/she is in an abusive relationship. Kathy Mercogliano recommended a protocol be in place to ensure MCMs system-wide know how to respond.

5. **Announcements** – No announcements.

6. **Next Meeting** –The remainder of the agenda will be covered at the next meeting which will be held on Friday April 15th, 2011.