

# Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

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## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 18, 2006

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Roberto Burgos, Rita Eggert, Cherri Hawkins, Catherine James, Sr. Gratia L'Esperance, Patricia Terziani, Calvin Twoguns, Lynn Varricchio, Pat Zacharias.

#### **Review of Minutes:**

Calvin motioned that the minutes be approved and Patty seconded it. The minutes were approved as written.

#### **Priorities:**

At last month's meeting the committee discussed bringing in speakers on DSS and Prison Health. Roberto has not had time to contact DSS. Lynn informed the committee that 2 ½ years ago hearings took place on prison health in New York State but the results have never been made public. A request has been made to Elliot Spitzer for the results. It appears the report was never written even though all the information was collected.

Lynn suggested that Jack Beck, an attorney, would be a good one to speak on prison health and Dr. Debra Khani could speak on health care in the jail. The committee would also like to have someone from DSS speak on the administration of benefits regarding Medicaid churning and enhanced shelter laws.

Lynn informed the group that the Services committee is also working on Medicaid churning and suggested we collaborate with them. So far the Services committee is trying to collect a consistent set of data on people who have been sanctioned. Some agencies are now billing DSS for their case managers' time spent working on getting their clients reinstated.

Roberto asked for volunteers to form a work group to focus on Medicaid churning. Rita, Kate and Cherri volunteered. The two committees will set up a meeting to coordinate their activities. Once we present the data to DSS, if we don't get cooperation then we will look at litigation.

**Mission Statement:**

Roberto and Lynn will create a draft of a mission statement using the 2 proposed statements and the By-laws. Pat will email it to the committee for comments and approval.

**Announcements:**

- RATFA is sponsoring 2 health fairs in recognition of Latino AIDS Awareness Day. One will be held on Thursday, October 5 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at MCC's Damon City Campus. The other one will be a community event on Friday, October 13 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Head Start facility at the corner of Lyell Avenue and Austin Street.
- The Barbershop Initiative is holding a press conference on September 19 at 10:00am at Broadway Styles on Joseph Avenue.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 16 at 9:00 am at FLHSA.**