

## **Section 1 - A**

### **RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT**

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act (RWTEA) is a Federal legislation that addresses the unmet health needs of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The United States Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act in 1990 and reauthorized and amended it in 1996, 2000, and 2009. Congress enacted the Ryan White Treatment and Modernization Act (RWTMA) in 2006, which became known as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act in 2009. The RWTEA provides funding to cities, states, and other public and private entities to provide care and support services to individuals with HIV and AIDS who have low incomes and little or no insurance.

The act is the United States' largest federally funded program for PLWHAs. Ryan White programs are "payer of last resort", which fund treatment and services when all other resources have been exhausted.

The goal of the RWTEA is to improve the quality and availability of care for individuals and families infected and affected by HIV disease by providing emergency assistance to regions most severely affected by the HIV epidemic. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the federal granting agency for the RWTEA. HRSA directs all RWTEA programs to establish a Quality Management Program "to assess the extent to which HIV health services are consistent with the most recent Public Health Service (PHS) guidelines for the treatment of HIV disease and related opportunistic infections, and to develop strategies for ensuring that such services are consistent with the guidelines for improving access to and quality of HIV services."

### **PALM BEACH COUNTY- RYAN WHITE PART A GRANTEE**

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners designates responsibility for management of the RWTEA to the Palm Beach County Department of Community Services (Part A Grantee Office) to ensure that funds are allocated and contracted according to the priorities set by the Planning Council. The Part A Grantee Office must purchase the services according to the local procurement system, ensure that funds awarded are used appropriately, and comply with reporting and other grantee requirements.

### **PALM BEACH COUNTY HIV CARE COUNCIL**

The Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council (CARE Council) is a community based organization supporting local public participation in the planning for a system of medical and support

services for individuals and families living with HIV and AIDS. One of the founding themes of the CARE Council is the belief that people living with HIV/AIDS can live a better, healthier and more productive life with the most current treatments supported by the most practical supports. Thus, the CARE Council is a partnership of medical and health support service providers, funders of those services, as well as people using the services, and people who love and care for those living with HIV.

Responsibilities of the CARE Council are part of the Ryan White Act. Under this federal legislation areas of the United States which are hit especially hard by the AIDS pandemic receive federal funds to assist in fighting the effects of the disease. It is the responsibility of the CARE Council membership to decide and approve the service priorities and allocation levels, complete a needs assessment and implement a long term comprehensive plan on how to provide services. The CARE Council members are also responsible for participating in the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need (SCSN) and completing the assessment of the efficiency of the administrative mechanism to evaluate how efficiently providers are selected and paid and how well their contracts are monitored.

Members of the CARE Council are nominated through a process which is open to public participation. Appointment to the CARE Council is made by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners for a three year term. Membership is guided by federal principals of participation which reflects the demographic make-up of the disease in this county.

The majority of the work of the CARE Council is done in committee and brought to the full Council for approval. All meetings of the CARE Council are open to the public and are run under aspects of Florida's Open Meetings Act, also referred to as the Sunshine Law.