

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL  
APD AREA 13  
AUGUST 11, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chair Isabel S de Martinez in the APD Training Room.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS:** Tina Renwick, Isabel S. deMartinez, Sandy Shorey, Norman Price, Betty Kay Clements,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jennifer Knowles, Anna Brynild, Michael Payne

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Stephanie Hopper, Sandy Dayton, Eileen Reidy, Phyllis Novak

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Caryn Jones, Karen Huscher, Eva Knowles

**APD STAFF:** Brenda Stevens, David Johnson

**VISITORS:** Linda Travis WSC, Aaron Nangle Waiver Provider.com, Kathie Bellamy WSC, Bill Bellamy WSC, Joy Nolan self advocate, Amy Hatfield self advocate, Christine Hogan, Nancy Izquierdo family, Brenda Kendrick Provider, Karen Huscher Parent, Korey Huscher client, Marlene O'Toole Candidate for Florida House Representative

Chair Isabel welcomed everyone and had visitors introduce themselves. A quorum was present. Packets for meeting were passed out. Chair Isabel appointed Betty Kay as Area 13 FCC Secretary to assist her with communications, minutes etc.

**MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:** Motion was made by Norm Price and seconded by Sandy Shorey to accept the minutes as written. Motion Approved by consensus.

**BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:** Norm reported APD and FCC figures are the same at this time with July expenses recorded. A first time event he noted. \$248 expenditures, \$9,255.52 balance ytd. No questions from members at this time.

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:** David Johnson related that the Administrative Judge ruled in favor of APD so Tiers are to be implemented. Individuals/family will be given a 30-day notice. Actual details not available as yet regarding letters being sent out. Tier assignments have been applied for individuals so notices should be relatively soon he said. Linda Travis asked if WSC's would be notified and would there be a reconsideration appeal process explained. No details out yet. Betty Kay offered that FCCF has a conference call scheduled for tomorrow night, Tuesday August 12, with Denise Arnold, Terry McGarrity and Linda Mabile. She will ask those questions and email attendees present today with the information.

At this point David's report was suspended in order to introduce Marlene O'Toole, legislative candidate. She had spoken with Isabel, responding to questions Isabel had sent her about her knowledge of individuals with developmental disabilities. She spoke to her background and interest in concerns of individuals and families. She retired from IBM and is on the United Way. She asked questions about the tiers and was given the history of how they were

legislated. She indicated a desire to be kept posted on issues that the FCC identifies as important, and will keep in touch with Isabel.

David resumed and reported that the QSI validity and reliability should be completed this month. Asked about tier assignment for those without a QSI done as yet, it was stressed that the QSI was not used for tier assignment, though many have that false belief. There are 5 QSI assessors and more are to be hired soon.

Having been asked to discuss the APD Recoupment policy for the meeting, he addressed it in detail. He answered questions and took suggestions. He stated that APD can audit at any time. See policy APD 18-002 2007. He stressed that recoupment is usually related to: inadequate documentation, non-compliance with the Medicaid Handbooks, result of a Delmarva survey, or as the results of a complaint and investigation. He referred to the agreement with providers. He also noted that a provider of a service that is not listed as a provider for that specific service is vulnerable, regardless of having a service authorization. The fact that the protocol in the policy is not always followed and needs to be, was cited as an issue. There was much concern expressed by visitors that there is a push to do recoupment and impress AHCA, and mistakes due to the rush can also result in a consumer losing services. David stressed that he wants to work with providers and that impressing AHCA is not a consideration in the process.

There was a discussion about Trainings or Inservices for providers and Linda Travis suggested that APD send an open letter to reach providers on what the 28 pages of policy can mean to them and Waiver consumers. It was noted that though the policy is on the APD website, it is not easily accessible. Bill Bellamy pointed to a need for technical assistance as key to this issue. There was much discussion and it was also noted that FCC needs to educate families. Individuals and families can inadvertently compromise or try to have provider do something that could put the provider in jeopardy. David said there were good suggestions hear today and he would follow up on them.

Another observation addressed to David from the visitors was the issue of choice and what is seen as a deterioration of that concept. A comment made was that the human element seems to be missing. Stephanie Hopper observed that it seems clear that choice can be driven by the availability of money and resources and is a reality in today's economy. Now the Tier system will limit choice to specific criteria, so choice has changed. Bill Bellamy noted that with the ending of the Prado Steinman decision there is a real change realized. A member of the visitor audience also related that she had made a choice several years ago that has worked well for her child. She said it has now been changed by APD with actual higher costs, and she expressed bewilderment about that. David acknowledged awareness of this issue.

There were no further questions for David. He was thanked for his report and asked to keep FCC updated.

**AQL REPORT:** Omitted due to time constraints. Update at September meeting.

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA:** Betty Kay and Isabel reported on the FCCF meeting. Isabel reported it was a busy 2 days of a working group and meeting. She said she was very impressed with the other members, the passion and work ethic. A very energetic Legislative plan developed with the Waitlist a priority. There will be stakeholders meetings and legislative committees that will be attended by a FCCF board member with little notice or warning and these are significantly important for FCC representation. It was stressed that individuals and families need to have a voice at stakeholder meetings or someone else will speak for them. Betty Kay as FCCF Chair sent a letter to Governor Crist regarding appointments to FCC's. Jim DeBeaugrine was on a call with FCCF at the meeting and he agreed to assist this effort with the Governor.

Isabel read a letter from FCCF Chair requesting that each FCC across the State consider sending another \$500 to FCCF for meeting the challenges anticipated this year. Norm had some questions about the budget for FCCF and amt. that it would be if \$500 transferred. Answer was that it is \$7500 now with the \$500 each FCC transfers at the beginning of the year, and would double to \$15,000 if all agree to the request. The new FCCF treasurer is preparing a budget that will be shared with all FCC's. It will offset for the most part travel that is mainly for legislative and stakeholders meetings/conferences. He asked if this would be considered an annual commitment and Betty Kay said no, that it is a one-time request. The last time it was requested was few years ago when it was received for the website. Sandy Shorey made a motion to send the additional \$500 to FCCF for 2008 budget. Tina Renwick seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus. A transfer request will be made with the Area office.

**SUPPORT PLAN 2008-2009:** Linda Travis stated that they worked on plan with a Go to Meeting session and keeping it simple with an implementation plan was the goal. Anna was unable to attend today's meeting and Power Point presentation was not the updated version. A review of the Plan was done and Stephanie Hopper addressed some of the changes made. A decision was made to have updated Power Point emailed to all for comments before the next meeting. This would permit final presentation for vote at the September 8 meeting.

**MEMBER COMMENTS:** Isabel mentioned college classes she learned about at the FCCF meeting, where a member on the Waitlist has enrolled his son at no charge. Stephanie asked for information and this will be explored further. She questions the actual availability even though colleges advertise. Tina very interested in Citrus or Marion Area classes. Betty Kay also told applicants that the Governor's office will be calling for personal acceptance of appointment, so to expect this. This is a new procedure and the reason apparently that they also asked for email addresses. Karen Huscher visiting toward end of meeting noted her date for reapplication might actually be January 2009. This will be followed up on.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:** Self Advocates Joy and Amy had visited to hear about the Tiers, as they are concerned as to how they will be affected. Though they had no questions at this time, their concern was noted by all. Bill and Kathie Bellamy reported on a conference they had just attended in St. Augustine re: IEP, at the Wrights law conference. They said it was good information on advocacy for Parents on IEP procedures. This particular conference will be held in Spring Hill in January 2009. They had information on "Getting ready for IEP", in

English and one in Spanish. On another issue, Eileen Reidy noted the use of acronyms and the fact that all are not familiar with them. Betty Kay will send out the Acronym list she developed by email to all, but cautioned that it is continually changing.

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS/HANDOUTS:** Isabel stressed the Florida website for disaster [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org) and learned that the contact for emergency management in Sumter Co. is the Sheriff. Also she showed handouts available on voting and voting registration from Advocacy Center. Advised to go to Advocacy Center website. <http://www.advocacycenter.org/> She stressed the significance of all to vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:** No further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12 noon. Next Meeting scheduled for September 8, 2008, at the APD office from 10am- 12noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements  
Area 13 FCC Secretary