

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL
APD AREA 13
August 10, 2009**

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Isabel S deMartinez, Betty Kay Clements, Eileen Reidy, Caryn Jones, Sandy Dayton, Sandy Shorey, Norman Price, Michael Payne, Anna Brynild, Karen Huscher, Jennifer Knowles, Phyllis Novak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina Renwick

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Stephanie Hopper, Eva Knowles

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

APD STAFF: Brenda Stevens, Joyce Leonard

VISITORS: Theresa Flick- KTC, Linda Travis- WSC, Aaron Nangle -Waiver. com, Cathy Doucette- Parent, Donald and Virginia Taylor, Parents.

Quorum Present

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chairperson Isabel. Visitors welcomed and gave short introductions. She mentioned book she will share for positive energy. (Positive Passengers wanted, the Power of a Team)

MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL: Chair Isabel asked for a review of the meeting minutes for last month. Michael made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jennifer. Motion Approved by consensus.

BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW: Norm stated balance of \$1,113. 80, State report. He has \$1,054.73, June expenses were 3,034.41. Regarding Budget for new fiscal year, APD may keep at Central Office. Betty Kay stated that details would be forthcoming, but the FCC money is released, but still at the Central Office at this point and procedures to follow. FCC will still need to do budget but unknown how information will be exchanged.

AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE: Joyce Leonard sitting in for David Johnston, who had another commitment. She stated the Area office has 2 new employees. Cabot McBride is the Supported Living/Court Liaison. He was a QSI employee. One new QSI person, Jim Flick. 2 were not renewed, but others continued. There is a recertification of the QSI employees over the next 2 weeks. Joyce will be conducting these processes. Stephanie asked if QSI has changed, it has not yet, but could at a later date be modified with a financial component in it. Anna stated families asked her about the credentials of those doing the QSI, and Joyce said it is a minimum of a Bachelors Degree and a # of years experience with Developmental Disabilities. There is automatic follow up for medical and behavioral issues before it is scored. Area nurse may follow up.

Regarding the Sept. Family Forum, APD wants time for quarterly waitlist meeting, and take this opportunity to address additional waitlist meetings. FCC members in agreement with this plan, and will work closely with APD on upcoming quarterly waitlist meetings. Joyce said that ACCESS could be included at the forum if wanted and Isabel said yes. Also David

wanted her to advise that Voc. Rehab. has new information and assist that will be covered. Betty Kay said this is from stimulus money they have. Regarding CDC+ enrollments, Joyce indicated the mailouts have been delayed but will be going out and enrollment should begin before June 2010. Linda Travis explained further that the letters are invites to the possibility for a CDC+ randomized choice, if interested. Joyce reiterated the work that goes into this program for individual/family. Attorneys are involved to make sure it meets legal requirements. Discussion ensued as to various thoughts and observations of this program by others. Members raised issues of concern. Medicaid Integrity program to be advised and work on family abuses when suspected. Joyce stressed the need to report accordingly. Joyce advised that the Flexible benefits option final recommendations will be out soon. There is also a Forensic Workgroup in September that will address clients in trouble. The Invitation to Negotiate (ITN), for Quality assurance has been released for bid. This is essentially what is known as Delmarva. They may bid, but others will be considered as well.

Joyce advised of the community meetings occurring from APD, particularly the August 25, meeting in Orlando. Members discussed that families cannot travel that far and concern that there are not sessions closer. Joyce stated they did do sessions around the areas in the past that were not attended. Isabel stressed that those who can go, should attend and bring information back to their areas.

Stephanie asked about any appeal hearing information. Parents are expressing concern and still awaiting denials or acceptance of appeal. First of hearing in Area 13 are this week, Joyce offered. Theresa Flick said the Key Center has one scheduled and one waiting for a date. Isabel thanked Joyce for the report.

AQL/LENS PROGRAM REPORT: AQL meets in September. A spin off of Lens group is Umbrella for Opportunity (UFO). They are starting a non-profit for Sumter Co., for now. Down payment was made, for paper work, from a donation and they need to raise \$500 more as they need \$800. They will plan a Fundraiser. Want to do job fair, with a computer for credit reports, health, clothing for interviews, haircuts, not just brochure etc. Another spin off is an Advocacy group by Shawn Mims. Eileen O'Brien APD, doing training for this on Sept. 9 and can have about 25 attend. He has 10 or 12 at this point. This will be for self-advocates to start a group and then help others start one. At this office. 10am-1:30pm.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION: FCCF has an active Legislative committee and Anna Brynild is on that committee. It is putting together information for all FCC members to use and share in meeting with legislators across the State. Phil Pearson, Area 12 FCC, Treasurer FCCF, is spearheading this effort that is moving along well and is very proactive. In particular, waitlist data and information is highlighted for talking points that all can use.

REPORT ON FCCF: Betty Kay expanded on the APD sessions mentioned earlier, that are going around the State. FCCF representatives have been on workgroups for these initiatives. FCC's need to attend these meetings and perhaps have local sessions for those who cannot travel. The flexible benefit and CDC+ are separate initiatives. Flexible benefit also has an 8% reduction for the flexible component, and may appeal to only a few people. It will allow flexibility of meaningful day activities. Prepaid service study was legislated and though many

thought it would not appeal as so many are financially strapped, Betty Kay said there are families who in planning for college for their other children want an option for their child with a disability. The study looks at the feasibility of providing this option. Also, there are Alternative Residential Options being looked at by the FDDC and stakeholders. Betty Kay was invited to be on this work group and will be attending next week in Orlando. This week she is visiting 2 legislators in Orlando with ARC Florida on ideas being looked at for assisting waitlist individuals. Regarding ibudgetFlorida, APD is looking at individual budgets for each consumer that would meet that persons needs. FCCF will be hosting the stakeholder group for this initiative that will have self- advocates and other broad representation. Some view this as a way of replacing the capped tiers. Each FCC has been given a book on Person Centered Planning, as that is to be a driver in all APD initiatives. This topic prompted much discussion about how that needs to mean something to the person. Stephanie cited the individual family that cannot choose to transition into an ADT program, as graduation nears from school, because they are not 22 and school does not cover ADT expense. APD will not cover as well, and has formally denied. Varied comments and discussion ensued followed by consideration to due process as an alternative.

MEMBER DISCUSSION/ACTION: A lot of discussion from all members revolved around difficulty in getting services for children and regardless of age are increasingly difficult. Sandy Dayton stressed that they do try natural supports first, and when they are not there they then try APD.

Parent attendee Cathy Doucette is interested in becoming member of FCC. Cathy has educated herself on many advocacy issues and is very learned and assistive to many families. She also stressed how she is trying to get the behavioral assistance needed for her daughter, as well as other needs that are difficult to get through school or other means. Cathy told of the plight she has had in getting services for her 10 yr. old daughter, and the challenges that occur on a daily basis. Members offered their expressions of support, stressing that is part of the FCC advocacy. Joyce advised her to contact her after the meeting regarding GR funds possibility.

Vote: Motion made by Anna to approve recommendation to Governor for appointment to FCC, seconded by Jennifer and approved by consensus. She is to complete application and send to FCC Secretary to follow up on the established protocol with the Governor's office.

Vote: Betty Kay stated that Isabel is now up for reappointment for the next 3 years and made a motion to accept and make the recommendation to the Governor. Sandy Shorey seconded the motion and motion passed by consensus. Isabel remains a voting member until reappointed or denial of the reappointment should that occur.

Betty Kay explained that according to the Florida Constitution, Governor appointments serve until reappointed, replaced or they resign. Therefore, Karen Huscher remains a member in good standing even though she has served 6 years. It is her choice to remain until replaced or resign, sit out a year and then reapply. Betty Kay will soon be completing her 6th year as well, and is choosing to stay on until replaced. Replacements depend upon decisions made at the Governor's appointment office for issues such as, needing 3 self-advocates, or since 15 is the

highest number of members allowed, a new appointment could result in replacement of a member who has served their 6th year.

HERNANDO FORUM: Lengthy discussion addressed the preparations for the upcoming September 26 Family Forum and Dance in Hernando County. Time will be from 10am-2pm, with dance from 2pm-4pm. Linda described the site, and tentative plans discussed. Eileen stressed the dance as time for individuals to get together. She also mentioned that families need to know there is no supervision or child care. Aaron will put in flyer. Waitlist individuals/families will be mailed flyer. Aaron Nangle will put on his website and distribute widely. FCC members will get the info in their local newspapers. Joyce said there will be Medicaid information, access and sign up. Also SS and ticket to work planned. Possible programs on guardianship with Melinda Coulter. Aaron to follow up with Melinda. He has a lawyer on trusts etc. attending. Eileen has dental information flyer for resource table and will get with Tampa news when flyer is ready, is making other contacts in area. Isabel will send special invitations to Legislators.

Aaron has DJ coming that he has paid for. He also may cover some food depending on donations. Those paying for tables will pay \$50, some will be waived payment. Anna has rec'd food donations. Site is costing \$450, and FCC to decide amt they will pay.

Vote: Motion from Anna to pay half (\$225) for Forum site rental, seconded by Sandy Shorey, no discussion, motion passed by consensus.

There will be tables with resource information from varied sources. Cathy mentioned Early Steps Program and it was recommended they come and have information on the table. Stephanie to call Judy Everett to attend regarding transition.

VISITOR/MEMBERS INPUT:

Guests, Donald and Virginia Taylor expressed they are trying to educate themselves and are interested in FCC. They have a son on services, in Supported Living, who came on the waiver in crisis. Though things are not perfect they said, it is much better. They plan to attend again and were encouraged to do so and perhaps consider joining.

Phyllis advised of need for cell phones for soldiers and handed out prepared bags for collection of phones. They are fixed, bought and replaced with calling cards for military.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, meeting was adjourned at 11: 45 am by motion of Jennifer, seconded by Sandy Shorey. Next meeting Sept. 14, 2009 at the APD office from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements
Area 13 FCC Secretary