

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL  
APD AREA 13  
September 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS:** Michael Payne, Shawn Mims, Karen Huscher, Don Taylor, Eileen Reidy, Tina Renwick, Betty Kay Clements,

**MEMBERS ON PHONE:** Anna Brynild

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Caryn Jones, Isabel S deMartinez, Sandy Dayton, Sandy Shorey, Phyllis Novak,

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Stephanie Hopper, Virginia Taylor, Caroline Short,

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**APD STAFF:** Clarence Lewis, Brenda Stevens, Carmelo Abisso, Angela Green

**VISITORS:** John and Joan Verity-family, Scott Greiner-Provider, Grant Harris-caregiver, Everett Short-family,

In the absence of Chairperson Isabel Martinez, Betty Kay facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone. She also read a note from Isabel, who will attend the October meeting. Isabel wants to emphasize that she is still a very involved Chairperson of the FCC. Isabel would like to go over Bylaws and Vice Chairmanship for the Council at the next meeting

**MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:** Review of August, 2011 minutes, with a motion to accept as written by Eileen Reidy and seconded by Michael Payne. Minutes approved by consensus.

**BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:** Clarence and Paul reported that \$9000 has been allotted for fiscal year 2011-12. A projected expense budget, based on last year expenses, was distributed to members. Discussion of spending ensued. Only travel has been spent so far this year and \$145 was the amount of budget left in the last fiscal year. Printer is to be ordered. Fine tuning of the budget will occur as decisions are made and adjustments made. Postage adjustment discussed in prior meeting will occur as it is used.

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:** APD Draft plan for cost containment handed out to members. APD is asking for input from consumers and families on these reduction plans. Clarence reported that Area Administrators met with new APD Director, Mike Hansen. In addition to reductions done recently, APD is asking consumers to look at their cost plans and reduce services not being used or needed. He said that it is a fact that individuals do not always expend the cost plan. For instance, respite was only 50% used, resulting in the respite pool. Other services are being looked at. 80-90 % of cost plans are actually used.

Statement from member about consumers in ResHab or their own home and reductions. Concern that those in their own home have more control over reductions. Some consumers have cut their budgets, but are concerned that if needed later, how do they get service back when needed? Clarence said it would be through the crisis tool. It was noted that there is a concern that a service will be cut altogether, at some point, and so is not available. Members discussed concerns with WSC's, who are reportedly telling families not to cut anything. It is believed that this could contribute to broad service removal in the long run. It was agreed

that nobody should have a cost plan that pays for services not being used. Pooling a service, but keeping it available would at least save the service. Caroline mentioned a respite issue for her son and it was determined, with discussion with Clarence, that she would be able to access what she had requested.

In addition to reduction of cost plans, a consolidation of Area offices from 14 to 6 or 11 is being considered, Clarence said. They were advised that it does not necessarily mean there will be a reduction in staff. This is occurring in other Agencies, as well, that offices are being consolidated. A lot of questions arise when that is considered, so planning important. Clarence stated that the Director said that for each 10% reduction in the waiver program, there should be 15% administratively. There were no monetary figures discussed. There are more meetings and calls on these issues. Clarence responded to questions, advising that Area 13 was once in District 3, with Gainesville as 3a, and 13 was 3b. So if AHCA structure is used, 13 might still be a separate office. DCF has 6 regions but 22 sites, for instance. Issue is being reviewed, but no decisions made at this time.

Betty Kay added that FCC's could be affected due to statutory link to APD Area offices.

Eileen asked about waitlist savings from reductions. Clarence said that the Director indicated any money saved below the \$810 figure, would go to the waitlist. They have been advised the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) for this year will not ask for new money. It is believed that if APD comes in under budget, then credibility will exist, and lead to an ability to ask for more money. Concern from members was expressed that there is a pitting of the Waitlist and Waiver individuals/families, against each other. It was discussed that there needs to be a balance. There is a concern that massive waiver changes could make it ineffective for this population altogether.

ADT restructuring was addressed. Don pointed out that a lack of definition for matching ADT with the person is a concern. Basic is the need for self esteem, legitimate work or activity, small business programs and a variety of programs are needed. Betty Kay stated that feedback is needed to APD regarding what consumers and families would like available. She stressed that they are asking for consumer and family input. Stephanie stressed that ADT is something everyone wants. Individuals moving from other states may have it available to a later age, based on DOE. It was discussed that changes to 393 might be pursued in regards to such consideration as this goes forward.

Employment issues discussed. Disappointment was voiced that the Vocational Rehab partnership with APD is compromised due to economic crisis. Clarence said that there is a Supported Employment conference Sept. 23-24, 2011, in Orlando. It is about getting those with disabilities actively employed. Stephanie stated that the basic problem is the availability of jobs. Prior to the economic crisis, there would be 10-15 consumers placed in a job, but only 1 currently. The supports are there, not the jobs she stressed.

Clarence brought in Cindy Drew, APD Supported Employment Liaison. She stated that she teaches benefits classes to providers, and on Monday Oct. 17, 2011, from 9 am-12 pm, she will be speaking about SS benefits and employment to parents. She will be sending this out and is inviting everyone. Karen Eramo, APD trainer, will sign up anyone who wants to attend.

Brenda will send out an email. Cindy invited everyone to contact her with any questions they might have on employment. Her phone is 352-330-2747.

Stephanie informed all that she has Sharon Willman, on Sept. 27, 2011, speaking on the same issues in Citrus County.

Clarence introduced Angela Green, a lawyer from APD Central Office. She has been with State Agencies for 17 years, and APD for 2 years. She has just now joined Area 13 office. She related that her position with Area 13 is an exercise in decentralization that she is excited about. She is assisting with cost plans. She said it was a privilege to meet with FCC members.

**FCCF REPORT and DISCUSSION:** Don will represent Isabel at upcoming FCCF meeting. Director Mike Hansen will be calling in and addressing current updates with APD. Also, FDDC personnel will be discussing an analysis on cost outlier cases. They have been working on these with Stakeholders. This regards monies spent way above averages, and could be scrutinized for possible savings. There is a great variance from Area to Area with individuals, with similar needs, but very different cost plans.

Betty Kay urged members to become familiar with Statute 393, as insertions that could affect individuals services need to be monitored. It is a broad statute, beyond FCC's.

**APD WAITLIST & FCC FORUM:** An Action outline for the Expo was handed out for changes, additions or deletions to planning needs. Details needing decisions were discussed. Brenda and Betty Kay are going over to the site for mapping out exhibits space. Kudos were given to Shawn and Anna for working on flyer. It will go out to providers tomorrow. Clarence will work on getting a provider for sign language interpretation. Sound equipment needed. Evaluation form for feedback to be reviewed at next meeting. Deadline for mail outs to be no later than Oct. 5-6, 2011. Brenda will be copying flyers. Envelopes can be done electronically putting labels on them before stuffing, so APD will do. There was a discussion about sending to waitlist individuals in other County locations. There is information sent out with the invitations, assisting outreach to people, and is one of the FCC mandates. This is especially relevant to persons on the waitlist, so plans to do so continue for this event. Isabel taking care of political invites etc., thank you notes etc. Anna and Shawn will work on Program Agenda once events, exhibits secured. The first week of October should have information for the program agenda. **Recognition:** Eileen stressed that Arc has been generous, so wants to be sure that is recognized at the beginning of the event. **Assignments-** APD/FCC to set up. Don and Ginger will be there at 8:00am to help set up. Clarence will have director for traffic, and Everett Short offered to assist, **Publicity needs:** Eileen, Hernando, Karen-Citrus, Don-Marion, Caroline- Sumter, Anna will distribute everywhere she goes, Betty Kay-Lake, **Other specific Assignments:** Eileen will bring a sign up sheet next meeting. **Another 20-30 cup coffee pot is needed**. **Cooler needed** for a mix that McDonalds may be donating. **Business cards** sample shown by Shawn. It is possible we can order them from him. He will do some free for Expo. Members need to send their information to Shawn. **Flyer information solicited**, addresses of members removed. directions will be on the back. If possible, names of State Coordinators will be added, but it was pointed out that they should have that info and space on the flyer may be a problem. A flyer will be emailed to Nancy Stubbs for newsletter. Final planning will be done at the next meeting.

**MEMBERS/VISITORS:** Caroline expressed concerns with CDC+ changes since enrolled. It has become more time consuming, particularly with the paper work. Questions arose on how families can make recommendations and get concerns noted. Clarence said many regulatory issues may need a Rule change in order to implement a change in matters of waiver, CDC+ etc. These can be addressed by consumers, families, FCC's. A difference can be made, but Betty Kay expressed the concern that when Rules are addressed and workshops held, families do not participate. Providers do. The information is widely distributed and yet few respond. Then individuals and families have to live with the consequences. It is also possible that it is a Federal requirement that enforces issues deemed time consuming or redundant. It is the same with legislation and talking with legislators. It is still legislators that have the biggest impact on individuals/families, she stressed. Angela Green stressed that historically going to legislators has worked in Tally, as the power of persuasion is with the individuals and families.

Some issues also can be addressed at local levels with APD. For instance, Stephanie brought up transportation, with Citrus co Transit as an example given, that if in some way APD could work with them, it might help with consumers in residential settings. These issues need to be brought to the officials of the various communities and there is a need to identify the resources available or needed. These are issues FCC's can impact.

Karen mentioned that she has reviewed the Sunshine laws discussed at the last meeting. In order for any monetary decisions to be made, there has to be a posting in advance. Only fact finding is okay without advertising. Angela Green offered that she has a program on Sunshine laws and could give a presentation at the next meeting. She was asked to do so. Karen brought up the By Laws and discussed the possibility of FCC standing rules. These rules can change without altering the By Laws. She said that Roberts Rules address conventions, forums etc. Standing rules could be part of the support plan for this year. Karen will bring a draft to next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** No further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. The next FCC meeting is scheduled for October 10, at the APD office from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements  
Area 13 FCC Secretary

**Area 13 FCC Mission:**

To Promote the Welfare & Dignity of the  
Individual with a Developmental Disability,  
Allowing Each Person to Achieve  
His/Her Full Potential, while Preserving the  
Family's Ability to Function As A Unit