

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL
APD AREA 13
October 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Isabel S deMartinez, Sandy Dayton, Sandy Shorey, Eileen Reidy, Michael Payne, Don Taylor, Karen Huscher, Betty Kay Clements, Tina Renwick

MEMBERS ON PHONE: Anna Brynild

MEMBERS ABSENT: Caryn Jones, Phyllis Novak,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Stephanie Hopper, Virginia Taylor, Shawn Mims

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

APD STAFF: Brenda Stevens, Clarence Lewis, Carmelo P. Abisso

VISITORS: Grant Harris

Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM by Chairperson Isabel S deMartinez. She welcomed everyone. She announced that the APD staff have invited FCC members to join the staff at a potluck following the FCC meeting in November. She also reminded members to send items for meeting agendas.

MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Review of September 13, 2010 minutes, with a motion to accept as written by Michael and seconded by Tina. Minutes approved by consensus.

BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:

Paul gave the budget report in the format sent from Central office, but he updated to the current date. Expenses Year to date: 1,385.09 Projected Expenses include the postage for the Forum Mailings of \$449.24 and other projected of air card, travel expenses and supplies amount to \$8,114.91. He will arrange for the transfer of the additional \$500 to FCCF for their budget as voted on at an earlier meeting. He was thanked for his clarity and work on the budget and the report by all.

AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:

Clarence Lewis, Area Administrator for Area 13 spoke to the group. He related that the budget information was indicative of striving for Agency transparency. He reported that Director DeBeaugrine was very pleased with the Forum and complimented Area 13 APD and FCC on the Forum to the other Area Administrators.

Clarence took questions and discussion regarding several issues:

Hearings on Tiers and Rebasing: Hearings going on across the hall today, Clarence stated. They each have lawyers with them. Appeals are resided over by an Administrative hearing officer. Karen said that APD sends their case basis to the petitioner and then asks for the individual's

discovery. Cases are often complex, over billing issues that are legal, but make it look like service was not rendered and individual is the loser. Eileen said that she had a friend who had to drop hers due to the costs.

QSI's (Questionnaire for Situational Information): Clarence was asked if they were being redone without notifying guardians. Stephanie was made aware that her son's name was on a list to be re-assessed and she had not been notified as the legal guardian. Clarence will check with Joyce Leonard's team, but does not believe that is being done without notification. He said that the QSI's are being done that are due. Currently they are being done in the group homes. Members stressed the need for legal guardians to be advised in a timely manner and individual not assessed without their approval.

Discussion of legal guardianship authorities: More discussion ensued on the different guardianships available in Florida, costs etc. Karen will send information on how she navigated the guardian advocacy papers and obtained Guardian Advocacy for her son. All forms are on the website for the Ninth Circuit Court in Orlando. This guardianship does not take all legal rights away, and preserves competence. Stephanie said that Karen is the first person she has known who actually completed this process.

APD and AmeriCorp grant: Clarence explained the new relationship to provide assist to individuals on the waitlist and their families. He has narrowed down the choice of volunteers. He will get direction today on who will handle Marion County, that has the largest waitlist. He plans to introduce the 4 who will be working with this project at the November FCC meeting. He also noted that this grant is only good till June at this point. There are approximately 1,109 individuals on the waitlist in APD Area 13 for this project. Asked about the # of waitlist clients in each County, Clarence said that Marion has the most with around 400, the others are fairly evenly split, with Sumter having the least.

Asked what these volunteers will do, Clarence said that it is the Director's vision to make a dormant list, an active one advising and assisting individuals and their families. Contact by phone and personal visits, familiarity with community resource availability, and making sure that people know they are not out there without some assistance is the intent of this grant. Clarence said that the AmeriCorp volunteers will have a couple rooms for access at APD. But most of their time will be in the community, identifying and accessing resources, and meeting with individuals and families.

Stephanie performs these duties for the school system in Citrus County and suggested she meet with the person who will be working in Citrus County. Jim Swain will be working in Citrus, she was told. She related that she contacts those on the waitlist in school now, accessing agencies and resources in the community, attends IEP's, etc. She provided Clarence with a list of Agency contact updates on those persons and agencies that provide resources or services such as education, employment, behavior, social, leisure, residential etc. Some of these agencies and/or individuals work across some of the other counties as well, she added. Though her position is with the school and those under 22, she is also aware of others on scholarship at the Key Center. FCC members agreed that they need to invite Stephanie's counterparts in the other Counties, to a meeting. This should assist resource identification in each County.

Scholarship issues for waitlist individuals services: FCC member brought up the difficulties in her residential county obtaining a scholarship for a meaningful day program. With a major program in that county, when applying for scholarship individual/family must join their association, pay \$30/day, 12.20/trip and provide household income information. She was turned down because she did not give that information. She realizes it is legal, but is frustrated because there are no laws to protect the waitlist individual. She brings this up not because of her personal experience, but because she is advocating for those on the waitlist. Because family income is not considered for waiver slot, this seems unfair. Another member said that children need insurance, so if the individual with a developmental disability was provided Medicaid when on the waitlist, it would help. The household income throws them over now, but as soon as they are offered a slot on the waiver, they qualify for Medicaid.

Stephanie brought up the issue of VR working with APD to provide services, but now in order to get VR you have to get on a waitlist and they are asking for copies of pay stubs even if dealing with someone over 18. She thinks Government is reluctant to give to any family if family has money to spend on their child. She also suggested taking this issue to Sharon Willman, Social Security and Medicaid benefits counselor who might be able to help with it.

Money follows the Person: Stephanie related that she understands there is going to be a pilot program for money follows the person. She recommended asking for Area 13 to be the area to try and be part of that pilot. She stated that if it could, she thinks it would be a real test case for at least 5 or 6 people, who want to move their loved one due to personal choice and civil rights issues. Clarence said he is aware that Dave Robinson at APD has a work group looking at this pilot, but has no details at this time.

FCCF REPORT:

Don Taylor, reported how impressed he was with the very dedicated people at the FCCF meeting. He sees the need to work closely with FCCF and to be as active as possible in our home FCC as well. He emphasized the need to get to legislators now! He also mentioned the need to improve the Area 13 FCC website, and all agreed. Discussion followed regarding the Support plan done each year. Isabel said that doing the plan with goals that are measurable would assist us to do this. Betty Kay said since it is due, this is timely and needs to be looked at with a fresh eye and not just built upon. She will send out the plan from last year so that it can be worked on. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Don said that with a waitlist of 1,109, then 1,108 should be represented at the FCC, so we need to get to them. Isabel asked if Sandy Dayton was interested in attending the FCCF meeting in November, as she wants other members to get the full picture of this Statewide advocacy. Sandy will plan to attend.

DISCUSSION OF QUARTERLY WAITLIST/FAMILY FORUM:

Attendance at the Forum was appx. 100. It was definitely a success and many positive comments were received from attendees. Presenters were very well received. The raffles and dance were enjoyed by many. The Respite Raffle went well, though contacting people that were not there has

taken some time. A couple did not take when offered, one had moved, some had phones not working, but most were very pleased and appreciated the opportunity. Betty Kay said that talking with these individuals and families was very meaningful and brought emphasis to their needs and the mission statement of Area 13 FCC.

The Focus is now on the next Waitlist/Forum. Discussion ensued and plans are being considered for February, and will be discussed more at next meeting. Citrus County is the targeted area for the next Waitlist/Forum. Brainstorming and discussion included Anna suggesting a need to open up to others such as Publix and other corporate and community entities at the Forums. Isabel appreciated the brainstorming, and Karen offered that even with no money the Area 13 FCC did Forums and did them well, and will continue to do so. Anna asked about writing for a grant and there was discussion about the use of the FICD (Florida Institute on Community and Disability) 501(c)(3) non profit that FCCF was involved in setting up, for education and training. Betty Kay is on the FICD BOD. She said there is an opportunity being looked at for Area FCC's to have access for raising and use of funds. It would greatly assist the mission to have grants, get donations etc. More info will follow.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES/UPDATES:

Members discussed future meetings and decided to cancel the meeting in December. Betty Kay has been asked to sit on a panel to discuss Self Advocate groups, and how their goals can be assisted by other groups. She will give a report at the next meeting. Anna noted that the Miracle League activity is coming up. She also reminded everyone that Rosa's law to change the term of mental retardation to Intellectual Disability, has been passed.

VISITOR INPUT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next FCC meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2010, at the APD office from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements
Area 13 FCC Secretary/Treasurer

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**