

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL
APD AREA 13
NOVEMBER 10, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Secretary, Betty Kay Clements in the APD Training Room.

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Tina Renwick, Sandy Shorey, Betty Kay Clements, Jennifer Knowles, Michael Payne, Eileen Reidy, Phyllis Novak, Caryn Jones, Sandy Dayton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anna Brynild, Isabel S. deMartinez, Norman Price,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Stephanie Hopper, Karen Huscher,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT: Eva Knowles

APD STAFF: Brenda Stevens, David Johnson,

VISITORS: Korey Huscher, Joelle and Jeremy Suydam

Secretary Betty Kay opened the meeting announcing that Chair Isabel's daughter had been in the hospital, is home but Isabel is now ill. Betty Kay welcomed everyone and had visitors introduce themselves. A quorum was present. New members rec'd name pins.

MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL: Motion was made by Michael Payne and seconded by Eileen Reidy to accept the minutes as written. Motion Approved by consensus.

BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW: In the absence of the treasurer Norm Price, Betty Kay reported that travel was the only expense. Norm has reported a balance of \$8,034.19, and a budget balance of \$7,904 was reported by APD. APD has not yet corrected the encumbrance that has been requested, as there is no longer a Secretary being paid. The balance Norm shows should be the correct one. Still awaiting transfers voted on recently.

AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE: David Johnson reported that the Central APD office has a new position of Chief of Staff with primary function as legislative affairs director. Her name is Tamara Demko and comes from the Department of Health. Office is still working on tier placements; some have not been assigned and local office working on those. Appx. 5000 appeals requested, not known how many will be sent to DOAH. They expect to get out about 100 letters a week David said, with notification of hearing assigned. Some will be notified that appeal will not be accepted or more information needed. This may go on for a period of time. Question if not qualified for appeal, when will tier be effective? David said it would be timely. Betty Kay reported that Lorena Fulcher had told her there would be some time element allowed for implementation of tier, and also more information might be requested at that time. John Newton had said that Dec. 1, is being targeted for notification. Asked if WSC would automatically apply for consumer to Advocacy Center, David said that is a WSC decision to assist. Bill Bellamy said that there was not an automatic form filled out. A phone call can be made to AC but they may not take all requests. It was stressed that appeal must be filed to APD. It appears that everyone may not get a letter stating appeal received, but WSC has a list. Also, David said that the APD local office can assist in this process.

As David addressed the Cost Rebasement process, Betty Kay handed out the Cost Rebasement law that the legislature passed 2007 taking effect Jan. 1, 2009. It is unknown how many will be affected. Notices are to go out to individuals as of 11/1. They will be notified if current cost plan exceeds expenditure, plus 5% for 07-08. On 11/20 a list will go out to WSC's and by 12/15 they are to get back to APD local office updated cost plan, and 1/1/09 cost plans will be adjusted. It is based on what is spent not actual cost plan. Changes or admits in the middle of the year will have estimated cost plans and be pro-rated. Tier 1 may be affected. It is believed that most already affected by tiers will not likely be affected. David stressed that is not a guarantee. It is a cost reduction and means that cost plan will stay at what was spent last year. Two ways to adjust now will only be emergency or significant life change. Area office can initiate an emergency up to 30 days but then goes up to PSA. They can approve, but it must go to Tally Central office staff if Tier change is involved.

Bill Bellamy said that, it needs to be understood it is on cost not service utilization. Example, behavioral services, level 1 could be changed to level 2, if possible, to adjust dollars and possibly keep respite that might have been lost. Services being used should be okay. Stephanie addressed Transitioning concerns and it was said that would be a significant life change for a new cost plan. Bill offered that this was discussed at a meeting he attended where Jim DeBeaugrine was present.

Karen expressed concern about emergencies and availability of staff. For instance when husband had a heart attack she had to take Korey with her to the hospital. David said WSC's have emergency numbers, and he or someone able to make decisions can be reached. Bill said it has happened with clients of his and it has worked and respite obtained in a short time. Eileen asked about an individual in tier 4. If in July Mom has surgery and respite is used, does that money come out of the 14,000+ leaving little left for later use. The answer is yes. Members agreed that this is what must be presented to legislators. APD did not make these rules. There are emergency services but consumer will be using their tier money. David stressed that they will work as closely as possible, and do what they can to assist with emergencies. This must be done within rules and regulations that they must follow, he said. David was thanked for his report.

Bill Bellamy asked to share information that Jim DeBeaugrine addressed at the recent FASC meeting. He stated that Jim said that Central office is not to be a demonstrative role. He wants staff to go out and see what is in place, not just reviewing policies, procedures and services. He wants transparency. Bill asked him about people on the waitlist getting Medicaid services such as PCA if they have Medicaid and are eligible to apply for it. This is to be encouraged. Providers are going through process to be able to offer this service. Bill stressed that it is important to let legislators know the direction that Jim is making with APD as he is yet to be confirmed by the Legislator. It is hoped that they will have confidence that he can bring APD around and give the Agency a chance to go forward as a stand-alone agency. Betty Kay presented a handout of the state of the State of Florida available as a reality check on financial status of Florida and the difficulties ahead of all agencies, especially those of human services and education.

DUTIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF STATE DD WAIVER AREA 13: Clarence Lewis presented the role of the State Support Coordinators that represent the Counties of Area 13. Individuals named were, Tracey Algesiano, in Marion, Dennis Michon in Citrus at DCF/Sheriff dept. Lake has Debbie Hengstebeck in the Lake DCF bldg. Hernando has Linda Weeks at the DCF bldg on Broad St., and in Sumter, Frances Mose who also assists with Lake County. Primary duties are as community liaison for those on the waitlist, those who want to enroll, and they initiate the coordination of the crisis tool. Betty Kay asked for a copy of the job description for the State WSC. Clarence will get a copy to Isabel. He said one of the questions is how to get off the waitlist, and the crisis tool triggers that. There are 3 categories. He believes that the more information the better, so understanding of the 3 categories is significant. Homelessness, danger to self and others, and caregiver unable to provide care comprise the crisis tool. They need as much documentation as they can get to back it up. Crisis is not short term, but needs something substantial done. David Johnson and Clarence review each package before sending it up to Tally. Area 13 gets about 90% approved. They usually get word within 30 days, sometimes 40-50 days. In the meantime they try to stabilize as best they can. There are limited funds for short-term basis, which can be difficult to access. Slots still available only under attrition, so even though approved, a slot must be open. Usually not a long lapse, sometimes a week or so, but funding must be available.

Regarding eligibility determination following referral, it is sent to program office to determine the eligibility of each individual. Diagnosis alone does not guarantee. Criteria designated by APD must be met. Several specialists are used for Area 13, example Dr. from Area 7 assists with eligibility criteria of individual. Betty Kay asked how busy they are. If resources are identified for them to contact waitlist individuals, would that be possible? David said they would determine the impact, but would want to disseminate the information. FCC for example does not have access to names, and these WSC's do have was the reason Betty Kay asked the question. Also, FCCF has said they want to be sure that APD serves all individuals with DD, not just those on the Waiver exclusively. Stephanie asked about individuals with 2 or 3 IQ tests and if one was 70, used to be factored in, now it looks like others lower not looked at. She has one with a huge discrepancy and questions if one with 71 and another of 55, would they get thrown off because of the 71 now. Look at age, Clarence said and then look at over course of life. Bill had an individual with a 98 early and then 68, and it was the birth defect that affected over time. Clarence noted that resources can vary as well, such as in schools and can account for variances. State Coordinator works with schools closely.

State Coordinators do annual updates at least once a year for waitlist, but get information frequently, Clarence said. They may become more involved with Supported Employment. Stephanie reported on VR, and their tier system, order of selection. Most of those with DD will be category 1, but after determined eligible for VR then sent to Tally and put on waitlist. Various VR providers (Abilities of Florida) will now start doing SE they say, and are in process of gaining waiver funding for it. Bill pointed out that Ticket to work can go directly to Employment Network and through SSA can get a job. This can go up to 5 years. Asked if someone has to determine though that they are eligible, he said that SSI or SSDI alone qualifies. VR has Employment Network list. If on Waiver will not come out of Tier dollars. Stephanie works closely with someone from VR that she can have come to a FCC meeting or

possibly present at a FCC Forum. Clarence suggested that Cindy Drew could talk to FCC about the ticket to work.

Members thanked Clarence for his presentation and invited him back.

FAMILY FORUM-DISCUSSION: Deferred at this time, to next meeting

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA UPDATE: FCCF to work on Legislative platform and what to say to legislators for impact Friday and Saturday. Rep. Proctor to attend the January meeting saying he wants to get feedback to take with him to legislature. FCCF continues to bring up dental issue at every juncture. Betty Kay stressed that FCC advocates are listened to more than providers. A lobbyist that works with ARC Florida is attending meeting. Betty Kay reminded all that managed care is still in the forefront of some of the legislators. DD Workshop in Tallahassee addressing the future of the Waiver for DD, and what is occurring in other States. Tiers discussed and are not believed to be viable. APD Director is interested in exploration of individual budgets for individuals that would be more flexible and equitable for needs. This was discussed at meeting Bill Bellamy attended as well. It is not necessarily the same as CDC+, but some of the same flexibility and accountability. Bill stated that he is hopeful a full complement of meaningful day activity would be possible.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Eileen addressed rumors that ADT in her area may need to reduce to a 3-day schedule. It was suggested that there will be more examples and occurrences of services affected as providers are facing difficult times with rate increases and service reductions due to tier assignments. Committees will be put together soon, and Bill reminded all that it is important to remember that all legislators' work with each other so can influence those on essential committees. Question continues to come up about discrimination affecting children and dental services not being included in tier 4. Betty Kay said that is a legal question asked but not answered at this time. In working with legislators, she stressed being careful about message. We need to show them respect for their offices and difficult decisions they have to make. That is why we need to educate and not be accusatory in our advocacy. Stephanie announced that there will be a presentation by a Lawyer at the Key Center, for those with tier appeals pending. She will get details out by email. It was also indicated that Nature Coast may do something similar.

No further business or discussion at this time. Michael moved for dismissal and Jennifer seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am. Next meeting December 8, 2008.
Orientation to follow this meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Kay Clements
Area 13 FCC Secretary

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION ATTENDANCE: Sandy Dayton, Eileen Reidy, Phyllis Novak, Caryn Jones attended. Brenda Stevens, Area 13 FCC liaison presented the FCC orientation power point answering questions as they occurred. Certificates will be awarded at the next FCC meeting.