

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL
APD AREA 13
DECEMBER 8, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chairperson, Isabel in the APD Training Room.

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Anna Brynild, Isabel S deMartinez, Tina Renwick, Sandy Shorey, Betty Kay Clements, Jennifer Knowles, Eileen Reidy, Phyllis Novak, Caryn Jones, Sandy Dayton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Norman Price, Michael Payne,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Eva Knowles

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Huscher, Stephanie Hopper

APD STAFF: Brenda Stevens, David Johnson,

VISITORS: Jay Brynild parent, Marie Hansel provider, Kathy Bellamy WSC

Chair Isabel welcomed everyone and had visitors introduce themselves. A quorum was present.

MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL: Motion was made by Anna and seconded by Jennifer to accept the minutes as written. Motion Approved by consensus.

BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW: In absence of Norm, Betty Kay reported that Norm records a balance of \$7, 714 and APD has \$7,757.29 without adjustments that need to be made. Norm and Hal will continue to work on it hoping to resolve soon, but we are in line with the budget at this time.

AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE: David reported that cost rebasing has been stopped at this time, data from EDS was incorrect and no known re-start date. Related to tiers there have been over 700 requests in process to be forwarded to DOAH. Notices going out with denials will state that amendment can be made within 10 days for appeal. Also appellate appeal noted, 4500-5000 being processed over a period of time. They are still making adjustments to tiers some are currently in a To Be Determined tier but are being worked out. Kathy noted that they are aware of one family that received a denial with the amendment option. Betty Kay said in a meeting at the Key Center with a Lawyer working with the Advocacy Center, that he said all the denials will allow for amendment within 10days to be filed. He stressed the need to meet that deadline regardless of what else is said.

David noted that there has been an impact on workload and financial operation of office. They are looking at how to reduce expenses, but are not expecting layoffs at this point. Predictions are that with the economy of Florida over \$2.14B deficit. With options being to reduce expenses or raise revenues or taxes, legislators are expected to reduce expenses.

Anna asked about rebasing and is it true that “use it or lose it” is the key. The answer was that it should not be looked at that way. David said utilization is looked at and history does work into it. It is important to document reasons why not using. It has been observed that

some services are not touched at all, and that is difficult to justify. Kathy remarked about PCA as capped at end of month so cannot carry over and David said that would not be reduced, based on that. Regarding others there may be some extenuating circumstances; some cases to be identified and Central Office will be notified. Document with WSC was advice to Eileen who noted client not going to ADT as mother ill. APD will be working with WSC on cases like that. Jay Brynild asked about School vacations when more assistance needed or loss of job could occur. David reminded everyone that these services must be medically necessary. Also, PCA for instance will be state plan, so these issues will be on a case-by-case basis. Isabel related provider issues that affected her daughter's utilizations of waiver services.

David was asked about being able to replace Susan Clark's position. All agreed that this is a major loss to APD and Area 13. David is hopeful to be able to fill this position as it is a key position for Supported Living and is also the Court liaison position.

Members also commented about the quietness of the DD community regarding impacts at this point. There seems to be much confusion. Because information changes so frequently, recession and other issues, it is thought that the impact is so great it is overwhelming to all.

Isabel thanked David for his report.

FAMILY FORUM-DISCUSSION: Isabel brought up the Family Forum for 2009. Betty Kay reported there has been no word yet from the APD Director about attendance. Dates and content were discussed with March 2009 the probable target. As well as a Forum in Hernando County in April or May decided upon. Similar themes of resources at both. Sites to be explored for both Forums. Lengthy discussion ensued around the following topics for forums:

Targeting resources for Waitlist, not just Waiver clients
Screenings such as BP, Dental hygiene
Special Olympics/other activities/Healthy athletes programs
Transition/Education/IEP/ IDEA
Vocational topics, VR having each of the counties
Ticket to work, employer networks etc

Caryn's daughter Amy has gotten a job through ticket to work. Amy is on the Waiver Waitlist. Cindy Drew, APD SE, is looking into ticket to work and employer networks. She has been asked to attend next FCC meeting with information, and David said she has been planning for it. He said that it is varying in the different counties as to their being prepared for this option. He added that this is a program not just for Waiver clients, and those on the Waiver do not need to access Waiver dollars for SE if working through this.

Anna stated the frustration with money in IEP plan and then nothing develops. There should not be the variance in Counties that exists, she said. She works closely with families on IEP's, and is very informed on IDEA specifics. There is a concern that schools may not tell transitioning individuals all the options available to them, but just use specific providers etc.

in the county. FCC needs to be involved in as many of these as possible. Lake has one coming up in March Anna stated. Isabel stated there would be FCC attendance. Anna (expecting baby Gracie in early January) is concerned about opportunities for her daughter Ashley, and with the directives over time that have come down from APD toward programs like enclaves. Betty Kay encouraged everyone that in working on the Stakeholder committee with representation of APD Director, FDDC, ARC, FARF, Self Advocates, and others, she believes that there is a real objective openness to options for individuals not previously held by APD. There is a real willingness to look at the whole picture and bring in stakeholders to help restructure the system so that it works for all, she stated.

Isabel noted that there is a need to make sure that individuals are getting what they need and everyone needs to work together. Isabel reiterated on getting as much information as possible on therapeutic programs and resources for the Forums. She will check with the hospital about BP, and Betty Kay will check with retired RN's (herself included) will be solicited. The Forum goal is to open up resource information for all. She continued to say that we all must have the same commitment to make it better for all, so challenged everyone to look into their contacts, check on resources, thinking outside the box. As resources are identified it is hoped that this information, county specific, as well as Area and State, will be given to the State coordinators and provide outreach to those on the waitlist. Isabel said that she would work closely with Clarence and David on what can be done to assist those on the waitlist to get the info they need.

Eileen and Phyllis, new members from Hernando will assist with identifying contacts and sites there so a plan for a countywide forum with comprehensive Providers, Vendors and Resources can be realized. Schools or community buildings were discussed as sites and Sandy Dayton suggested other facilities also be considered, sites such as churches, VFW etc. were mentioned and all agreed. Isabel indicated a small fee could be worked out as has been done in the past. Aaron Nangle has said he would assist our efforts, Betty Kay said. Isabel said to brainstorm contacts and members can communicate and come to a consensus by email if necessary. She requested some information by next meeting.

Tina said that the Community College told her to advise everyone that they are raising money for their programs. It was said that FCC wants to be sure that they do programs that will not be cost prohibitive and will be targeted to include those with DD as well.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:MEMBERS/VISITORS INPUT

Betty Kay explained the new form that DCF must have to process the travel vouchers. She said to be sure that those eligible for travel reimbursement take the odometer reading when they leave home, form will be filled out with necessary information and will be signed at each meeting. It must accompany the travel voucher.

In regards to Natural supports, Jay Brynild, visitor, spoke to the Kiwanis in Lake County assisting with providing field/park for Miracle League. County Commissioners and others assisting and word needs to get around. Members excited and willing to get that word out.

Isabel handed out Certificates for completion of FCC Orientation to Eileen Reidy, Phyllis Novak, Sandy Dayton, and Caryn Jones.

Position description for State Coordinators provided as requested at presentation by Clarence Lewis, State Coordinator Supervisor, last month.

Concern voiced about Special Olympics and lack of availability of their facilities freely to individuals with developmental disabilities. There was also a concern voiced about the site used for bowling in Orlando tournament this year asking for it to be looked into. Caryn offered to check with someone and bring information back to the next meeting, if possible.

Isabel asked to have someone end the meeting with a happy story. Jay Brynild told of just having been involved with the Miracle League banquet and all the hugs involved. He also offered a story of one of the players and the trials he has had and how much he has achieved that was very uplifting and a great note to end the meeting on.

ADJOURNMENT: No further business, or discussion, Jennifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Anna and approved by consensus. Next meeting scheduled for September 8, 2008, at the APD office from 10 am-12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

**Betty Kay Clements
Area 13 FCC Secretary**