

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL  
APD AREA 13  
JANUARY 12, 2009**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Payne, Anna Brynild

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Eva Knowles, Stephanie Hopper

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Huscher,

**APD STAFF:** Brenda Stevens, David Johnson,

**VISITORS:** Helen Sciabica family member

**Quorum Present**

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Secretary Clements as Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson were on their way to the meeting. Business held until their arrival. Area Administrator to start meeting with his report.

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:**

David related that the Area office personnel are very involved with the Rebasement project from a legislative mandate. They are looking at 07-08 cost plans and adding 5% and then the 08-09 cost plans. They then apply whichever is lowest. Rebasement is a follow up of tiers for cost containment. Letters have gone out and fair hearing notices apply with 10 day for applying and no change will be made at that time to cost plan. Originally there was a larger amount of individuals involved but only 340-350 since numbers were refigured. WSC's coming in and going case by case. Letters returned will be individually addressed quickly. The Area is sending up claims questioned to Central Office. They have found a lot of Respite never used and taken out. If respite needed WSC will look at on emergency basis. Discussion that though Tiers and then Rebasement are separate issues a client could get both. Those issues of outliers or extenuating circumstances can be evaluated. Member shared hearing of cases that seemed to be unfair, one cut and another not. Comparison of case situations is difficult to do without the specific knowledge of criteria and the individual, David said. The Area office has looked at each case individually and has sent for reconsiderations, but they must have that information to be able to address he affirmed.

David shared information that a long time provider, Bethesda Lutheran, is leaving the State of Florida. They have 4 homes and 18 individuals in Area 13. They are interested in selling, and have very modern homes. Homes could be bought intact and temporary licensure could be done with staff and transportation in place David said. They only have to give 30 days notice David said. Betty Kay said her daughter told her 60 days is what she heard was the notice they have given, at the day program she attends with a couple of their clients. This Closure was not expected David said, but headquarters said they had been losing money in Florida for some time and have now made this decision. David shared that moves can be handled, but it will take a lot of work. One home is a specialized medical home. Asked if APD could do something David said that the State is not able to be in operations. Another

question about whether rules could be relaxed, David stressed the need to find balance of health and safety essential in any decision making. He also shared they have rec'd notice of a home in Hernando and one in Citrus that is closing.

There was a question asked about AHCA taking over APD and David said there was no talk of that to his knowledge. A discussion ensued about negative blogs about APD and some suggesting FCC should push for doing away with APD. Several members shared that knowing what it is like to have been within DCF and the splintering that there was, movement to another large agency would be a major step backwards. It was intimated on the blog that APD wanted the 5% reduction. Betty Kay was present at the special session opening day and has knowledge that House Legislators, , pushed along with ARC and along with Senator Baker that the money be put back into the APD budget. It was the Senate leader alone who shut it down. She also emphasized that she witnessed the testimony and response to questions Director, Jim DeBeaugrine gave to the committees and he acknowledged clearly the difficulties this would put on the providers and the individuals services. He also indicated that APD had no awareness of this issue prior to its showing up in the bill. Betty Kay and Patty Houghland of FCCF both presented testimony to the House committee, health and human services. She asked members to thank the House Committee and Senator Baker for their stance. It also bears saying Betty Kay said that legislators have written the law to show that they are not going to put back the money when a stimulation package is received. Nan Rich was very vocal and often seemed the only voice of reason, but others were brought around and that is positive for advocacy. It was to save money, Stephanie said so they can say it is not their fault there are no providers. Norm voiced concern also about regular session and it is apparent everyone will need to be alert and active as it goes forward. Norm said we need to educate, get up as a group and continue to go to our own legislators. Eileen said we need to go to offices in their districts, and take the "kids" with us.

David continued with his report stating the first tier hearing is Thursday for this Area. He stated that just not hearing or not getting a letter does not mean it is going to DOAH. Letters are still going out, moving slowly.

David announced the APD management team of Chief of Staff, Tamara Demko, Deputy Chief of Operations, Dave Robinson, Director of Planning and Budget, Rhonda Stoddard, Chief Operations Officer Mac McCoy, General Counsel John Newton, and Communications Director Melanie Etters. Dave Robinson was the AA in Area 1, Rhonda was asst. to budget and planning, so the only new person is Dave Robinson, and this management team is effective Jan. 23, 2009. David reported he is relocating the State Support Coordinators to the Area office. This is an economical move and efficiencies will be worked on. They are working on locations in each of the Counties where they can meet to assist those residents without undue inconvenience or hardship to families and individuals.

Caryn asked David about her daughter who is on the waitlist. She no longer has Medicaid and she asked if that takes her off the waitlist. He said she does not go off list, but if slot available will need Medicaid. Therefore, he advised that she needs to have this looked at, as even though it may be a while, it is important to know if slot opens, whether she will then qualify

for Medicaid. Another question led to discussion of Medicare and Medicaid dually eligible and confirmation that Waiver is not disqualified in that case, as long as Medicaid eligible.

Tier questions were asked as to going over the tier cap. David said an emergency could be temporarily assisted if above tier, for 30 days of service, but is not automatic tier change. It must be justified, but APD wants to be sure emergency needs are met. Area office can make short term emergency decision, change in tier would go to Central office. Asked about status of denials etc, he said they are still making decisions and sending out letters. He has received no lists of status except for those that made a request timely, he stated.

David was asked if there could only be a hearing on rebasing if wrong. If figures are correct and then if there are no extenuating circumstances, he said that it is possible they may not prevail with hearing. Also asked about cost plan reductions he said they must be reduced by WSC and individual/family, stressing that APD does not make the reduction. He also said that the W SC does know the individuals rebasing status.

Chair Isabel having arrived during David's report thanked him for his information.

#### **MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:**

Isabel asked for review of meeting minutes of last month. Eileen made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jennifer. Motion Approved by consensus.

#### **BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:**

APD report has balance of \$7, 5009.20 but \$6, 886.06 is the actual Norm reports. Encumbrances have finally been removed, but not the \$600 for hotel expense for FCCF meetings attendance. Once that is removed balances should be closer.

#### **TICKET TO WORK PRESENTATION:**

Cindy Drew SE Liaison Area APD, spoke on the Ticket to Work. She explained what it is and how it works. In July, it had changes primarily in payment. They had difficulty early on with the way balloon payment was made at 5 years. Voc. Rehab had the program because it was the only one able to handle the overhead. She handed out a form (see attached) explaining it. An Employment Network can become eligible for ticket to work, SSI or SSDI. She sent out to Area providers telling about changes and recommending they check into this. Maximus administers this program for the Social Security Administration. There are Webinars and Trainings ongoing. APD cannot be an Employment Network because of payment through the Med Waiver. Initially with changes made it was thought it would be great but reality is that it has become a paperwork bureaucracy substantially. Only 2 providers in Area 13 would look into it. One would not consider and one said down the road, but interest stopped. Research shows there are some in similar size areas. One Stop Workforce is in Ocala and Hernando and they do not need to jump thru as many hoops she said. Ruth Johnson, Disability Navigator in Ocala says that because of the economy it is not being encouraged though.

Ticket operates on 2 tiers, an individual or provider can become network, but must have substantial liability, so it puts people off. Initially if provider approved they must pick

between helping individual get off benefits or be moving towards getting off. They can only change once a year. If they choose, help getting off benefits, they get: SSDI, \$23,052 or for SSI, \$22,620. If working on, moving toward getting off, then: SSDI, \$21,219 or SSI, \$20,542. So payment is not that much different. Because of paperwork, it is not being done. There was to be ability for Networks to get identification of those qualifying. That is a problem. VR is the competition and with confidentiality issues, there is no one being identified. So they are working on that. Reality is that it has obstacles that discourage participation of providers. Some concern voiced by member whose daughter has done this through VR, about the amt. of money with little visible activity by provider. Cindy reviewed how good job coaching is to be done, including the fade out phase. Responding to questions of SSI and SSDI, Cindy answered questions and offered to attend another meeting to go over these details and the differing limits, earnings etc., how to retain or get off benefits.

Isabel shared the story of her daughters experience with Ticket, that was started with her daughter and was a negative experience. She would like to track what was done with her Ticket to work since nothing materialized. She had followed through on the information she was provided by Maximus and would like an answer. She will follow up with Cindy for guidance after the meeting.

#### **FAMILY FORUM-DISCUSSION:**

No concrete plans as yet, though March or early April target. Betty Kay still trying to get confirmation of Central office attendance if Director not available. Stephanie has checked with Donald Roberge, VR and he would be interested in presenting, though he is not available 2-21. Caryn has been trying to reach someone from Special Olympics for over a month with no results. Norm said it is set up through Schools in Marion County. Betty Kay will look for contacts. Discussion of location determined Community Center works well for Centralized Forum. Next meeting needs to concentrate on details of Forums for this year.

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:MEMBERS/VISITORS INPUT:**

Betty Kay reviewed time sheets and vicinity mileage form with members, both the voucher and vicinity need to match. Members told to be sure they provide odometer readings. Asked about discrepancies, she stated that for budgeting purposes it had been determined to pay each person based on their home to office to home mileage when meetings are at the APD office. Starting from varied or further points would need special okay in a vote from members. For instance, Isabel coming in from Miami this morning, not covered she said and all laughed. Other FCC travel or if meetings held elsewhere, mileage will be from home to that meeting or occasion and is subject to decision and authorization of FCC members.

**ADJOURNMENT:** - No further business, Eileen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandy Shorey and meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be held at the APD office on February 9, 2009 from 10:00am-12:00noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements  
Area 13 FCC Secretary