

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL
APD AREA 13
JANUARY 11, 2010**

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Isabel S deMartinez, Betty Kay Clements, Caryn Jones, Michael Payne, Jennifer Knowles, Karen Huscher, Tina Renwick,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Dayton, Sandy Shorey, Anna Brynild, Phyllis Novak, Norman Price, Eileen Reidy,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Stephanie Hopper, Eva Knowles

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

APD STAFF: Brenda Stevens, David Johnston

VISITORS: Virginia Taylor, Donald Taylor

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chairperson Isabel. She shared that a movement from Disney for volunteerism is occurring again this year. Organizations signed up with volunteer opportunities can be viewed online for doing a volunteer day and receiving a day at a Disney park. She went on line and got the Give a day, Get a day, information and she and Christina will be doing volunteer work at LRMC. The Disney ticket can be used by the person doing the work or may be donated.

MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Chair Isabel asked for a motion to approve November and December minutes. Tina Renwick made a motion to accept the November minutes as written, seconded by Betty Kay Clements. November minutes approved by consensus. Michael Payne made the motion to approve the December minutes as written, seconded by Jennifer Knowles. December minutes approved by consensus.

BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:

Computer system DCF/APD is down so financials not available. David Johnson said he would get that information as soon as systems are up and get to FCC. Betty Kay shared info on an audit of FCCF and other FCC's were indicated as going over budget. That is not correct from the FCC's records so that is being looked into, and she will be involved in a call with auditors. Area 13 did not have a problem.

AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:

David Johnson shared that Hal Kitchen from Finance has retired. He expects to be hiring soon. He noted that Isabel had attended the Jan. 8, 2010 CDC+ training. Area 13 trained 40 people. Jan 20th and 22 set up at this time, for additional trainings. He said they have not had the numbers anticipated. There are 114 more individuals to be trained, along with any others who may sign up. The process will go over a couple of months. They do expect to be okay with consultants once they are approved. Still taking individuals interested in all Areas, as 2500 not reached at this time Statewide. Another project ongoing is Rebasing. 600 individuals were scheduled to be rebased with 85% requesting hearings, so only about 10% have actually been rebased. The Reconsideration process will be started. He said that CDC+

has priority at this time, only about 7 to do. They will be sending rebasing information back to WSC to determine if errors have been made and try to resolve without a need for hearing. Those who had 18 days out will not be rebased or if there was no service provider available, they will not be rebased. Also, a 5% change in cost plan will not be rebased. Stephanie asked if family was unable to find a provider should they tell their WSC. David said just a simple statement will assist the situation. If unable to resolve then hearing will remain in place. Appeal filed within 10 day will have no change in services. If it goes beyond 15 days, they will have a right to a hearing, but will be rebased. Expect to have this resolved by March. Karen asked if legislators know about the year's time for providers to bill and the impact that has. This can allow for skewing of the budget numbers. She also asked about the possibility of the rebasing actually going over the tier cap, and said she had documentation to show it could occur. She stressed that it is not the use of the services but the failure to capture it that presents the problem. She will get that info to David. David assured her that if there is an error there will not be a Rebasement. Rebasing is about services not being used David stressed, therefore not necessary in the cost plan.

David announced that there are statewide iBudget meetings occurring. He will be attending Jan. 21 in Orlando. Another project staff is working on is QSI training, and the review of all the tier assignments made. Details forthcoming. Asked if that means redoing, David indicated it is to relook at the decision made for accuracy. David continued with information on APD Connect, the Electronic information program that will make the individual's chart more accessible to APD, providers and families. This program will be at no cost to all providers. It is being piloted in Area 2. More information will be available soon.

DISCUSSION OF QUARTERLY WAITLIST/FAMILY FORUM:

David said that he and Brenda looked at various places in the Marion County Area, looking for easy access for Citrus as well. The Marriott Courtyard met most of the needs. It is just off I 75, and SR 200 in Ocala. They close the restaurant after breakfast and can be used for vendors. Food and drink can be brought in. It is \$200 for meeting room, \$10 per vendor table, also an adjoining small room for additional cost. Dates available are every weekend in March. That would give more time for planning, advertising etc. There was mutual agreement to set up for the first or second weekend of March. Isabel will contact Bar Assn. and an attorney in Ocala that does Guardianship. If unable to secure, then Betty Kay recommended Melinda Coulter from APD. Jim DeBeaugrine will be contacted by Betty Kay to be the keynote speaker and she will report back. She will also get with Aaron Nangle and plan to visit hotel as soon as secured. She will work with him for vendors. She would also like to address the group about the Waitlist activities and the FCCF website. Other areas of interest, Medicaid, Social Security will be explored. There will be a dance following the meeting arranged by Aaron Nangle. Planning will continue following the meeting, with the goal to get the waitlist names from Tally to the Area office for mailing soon.

AQL REPORT:

Brenda Stevens reported that the Committee will meet next month. She is requesting Marion Co. and Citrus Co. resources for the Forum. Isabel clarified that the Forum will target Citrus and Marion, but will be advertised to all, both waitlist and those with Waiver services. Brenda said that the UFO group from the LENS project had a fundraiser and got \$272, so

they are close to the \$800 needed for the non-profit status. Betty Kay shared that she has heard that too many areas have not moved forward on the Lens project goals established. It would appear that Area 13 is doing well at this point. Isabel stressed how important it is to reach for those resources and community supports.

iBUDGET FLORIDA STAKEHOLDER REPORT:

Betty Kay was a member of the working group and said that the 3rd meeting was held and was very productive. The iBudget is for a predictable model that will assist legislators in their management of State funds. Eliminating deficits, and assisting APD to address the growing DD Waiver Waitlist could be anticipated. Individual budgeting plans in other States were researched and helpful in their experiences in similar programs. None have the size of the DD program in Florida, however.

The iBudget plan is at the stage now where the latest input is being fine-tuned. They are working laboriously on the presentation to legislators for the first of February. She stressed how important it will be to assist families to understand the basics of the algorithm that consists of variables significant in determining a fair and equitable budget for individuals. Variables used really address health and safety. Age, living arrangements, and only some specific areas of the QSI are being used in the algorithm. Regarding the algorithm, individuals with exceptional needs, and some emergency needs are not in the mix. There will be a separate fund set aside for those expenditures. Costs used are not based on actual costs, but on the rates and cost plans prior to the Tiers and Rebasing. That was seen as the most equitable way to do the money. If people have similar needs they will have similar budgets. It is important to know that everything is relative to the money that the legislature gives to APD in the overall plan.

The iBudget would be different from how a cost plan is now determined. The individual's budget would be determined first, then, the individual plans for the services needed. This is a new perspective or concept for people to understand. She indicated that the meetings being held Statewide that David spoke about will be asking for input from families.

They are looking at flexibility of several services, so that the Prior Service Authorizations (PSA) will be not be necessary. This will allow for more choice and ability to move from a service to another without a delay. Changes would go through only the WSC. This would also be a cost savings. APD wants to free WSC's up from current paperwork, with APD Connects, the electronic program developed. This is so they can concentrate on seeking resources, and more closely assist individuals to get what they need. The flexibility would be similar to CDC+ but iBudget must use Medicaid providers so it is not the same. It is also expected that Rebasing would not be necessary, nor the Tiers, but they are law at this time and it will be up to legislators to make that determination. Encouraging the use of the iBudget and not trashing the tiers is important since that could make them defensive.

The iBudget would require writing a new Waiver. She encouraged going on the APD website <http://apd.myflorida.com/> go to the iBudget link on the right hand side, and read the materials and the minutes of the stakeholders meetings. The power points will assist

understanding of the algorithm and service categories. This will give insight as to the discussion and recommendations from stakeholders.

Betty Kay also stressed how important advocacy is by families, but with the knowledge that the Medicaid Waiver is not an entitlement. Legislators cannot be approached as if it is something they owe to individuals, but that it is the right thing to do to protect the health and safety of those with developmental disabilities. A real concern is that the Medicaid Waiver could be removed at any time, and many individuals and families do not realize that.

Isabel stressed also the need to realize that the Med Waiver is not an entitlement, and asked if the presentation to the legislature of the iBudget will be able to be viewed. Betty Kay said it could be, and she will send some information on legislative sites to members.

VISITOR/MEMBERS INPUT:

Donald Taylor and his wife told of their 43-year-old son with a developmental disability. They said that attending FCC Forums have led them to want to be a part of the FCC. They said they have learned so much at the Forums that they would like to give back. They live in Marion County.

Gubernatorial Recommendation: Jennifer made a motion to recommend Donald Taylor to the Governor for Appointment to the FCC. That motion was seconded by Tina Renwick. Motion passed by consensus. Donald will complete an Application and Virginia (Ginger) will become an associate member. Donald will be considered an Associate member while awaiting appointment by the Governor

Betty Kay spoke about the activity on the Waitlist, working with ARC, FDDC and APD. A website will be up soon on the FCCF website www.FCCFlorida.org

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, meeting was adjourned at 11: 45 am. Next meeting scheduled for February 8, 2010 at the APD office from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements
Area 13 FCC Secretary