

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL  
APD AREA 13  
FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS:** Isabel S deMartinez, Tina Renwick, Sandy Shorey, Betty Kay Clements, Anna Brynild (Phone), Eileen Reidy, Phyllis Novak, Caryn Jones, Norman Price

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Payne, Jennifer Knowles, Sandy Dayton

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Stephanie Hopper, Karen Huscher

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Eva Knowles,

**APD STAFF:** Brenda Stevens, Joyce Leonard

**VISITORS:** Sharon Willman, Abilities, Inc.

**Quorum Present**

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chairperson Isabel. She welcomed everyone and introduced Sharon Willman who will speak on Community work Incentives/Abilities, Inc., later in the meeting.

**MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:**

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

**BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:**

Norm noted that this is the first time that the APD report and the FCC report is the same. Encumbrances and \$600 have been removed. 6, 461.26 is the FCC reported balance.

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:**

Joyce Leonard reported for David Johnson who is on vacation this week. She commented on a call from Rhonda Abner about an Aspergers support group meeting on Feb 28 in Eustis. Since there is a Lake County Transition fair that day they may cancel to attend the fair. They are looking for resources so any assist appreciated. They are aware of CARD but looking for others as well.

Joyce said there are still a few over tiers cap, and being worked on. A hearing scheduled was resolved and others are being scheduled. For those receiving a denial of an appeal she stated that there is 10 days to meet with WSC to adjust the cost plan accordingly or make amendments to further appeal. At this time Area office does not have a spreadsheet regarding denials sent. Concern expressed by member that the denial letter does not say to get with WSC. Joyce will get with Wayne Perry to get with WSC's about changes or amendments following denial letter. Open discussion about rebasing and loss of services. Isabel shared how she plans to handle the change in tier with her daughter. Joyce restated

that Crisis or significant life change is necessary to change tiers or regain services lost due to rebasing adjustments. Regarding the QSI assessments, Area 13 office does not anticipate problems completing schedule by March 31, 2009 and starting on the waitlist. She also stated that the group home Room and Board is 543.42, and for SSDI recipients this may increase their personal allowance that could affect the \$2000 assets threshold for Medicaid eligibility. Isabel thanked Joyce for her report and comments.

#### AQL/Lens program:

Brenda Stevens spoke to the Lens project. She said the first meeting is to follow the FCC meeting today. She invited members not on the committee to stay for the meeting. It will be the second Monday of each Month following the FCC meeting. She will ask for all to gather resources on what is out there. They will pick 6 areas to focus on like transportation etc. It is set for May 13-14-15, half day on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be WSC's, clients, providers FCC, and experts in particular areas as a panel. They will pick one county to focus on, but want representation from each to get expert input from each County. The result will be to make an electronic resource book for waitlist, new enrollments and population in general. Usually a large provider is the sponsoring agency, but it will be APD at this point. They have not been able to get a large provider to date. She invited all to be a part of project. She also requested members to send her any resource info that they have access to. She said it is surprising how much there is out there already, but not well publicized. There were suggestions that concentration on a less developed area should be the county chosen for the project. Members were very vocal in support of this project, and some said they would plan their schedules to attend the meetings after the FCC meeting.

#### INTRODUCTION TO CURRENT COMMUNITY WORK INCENTIVES COORDINATOR/ABILITIES, INC.

Sharon Willman addressed the members. She reminded them that Emily Horton, the previous Community Work Incentives Coordinator retired last Fall. She has recently assumed that position and covers Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Lake and Sumter Counties. Her contact information is Sharon Willman, Community Work Incentives Coordinator for Abilities, Inc. 7631 Forest Oaks Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL 34606. Phone (352) 200-3038. Toll Free phone 866-831-4559, Fax: (352) 200-3078 and email [swillman@ourpeoplework.org](mailto:swillman@ourpeoplework.org) Prior, she was a disability program navigator covering Pasco and Hernando so is familiar with transitioning, correctional systems, coalitions, etc. Learning disabilities make up a large percentage of criminal, and juvenile programs she said. In New York she worked in early intervention, now working with adults. When ticket to work and benefits planning began it was informational. Now that it is the work incentive program (Wippa), it is all about work. Her customers do not want to lose their benefits, but they do not know the system. As a result workers would lose benefits and they were afraid of that. Once Washington came up with the ticket to work without losing benefits, it has assisted the work issue. Some can even work into self-sufficiency and can work toward wealth building. However, that is not her job to push people into that. Unfortunately, bad info is out there and she hopes to change that. In Pasco and Hernando a non-threatening way was developed to getting the correct information and that is the goal. Whippa is now about working as a team to avoid the panic or fear of losing

benefits and results in quitting work. SSA takes it seriously and wants to work with providers, counselors, and whoever is managing these clients. She is available by phone, is not cleared through SSA yet, but can give information. She cannot take and advise on specific information. It must be hypothetical at this time. WSC's and job coaches need to know about how benefits can be affected.

### **FCCF REPORT:**

Betty Kay handed out the FCCF legislative platform, and spoke to the issues. The waitlist is of significance. In the draft plan being put together in the FDDC Stakeholder meetings it has had a lot of discussion and sampling of how other States are handling waitlists. It ties together what APD needs to work toward. Assessment is significant to advise legislators on waitlist issues. Restructuring of waitlist to identify priority of needs could be a concern for those who have been on it for a long time. So much needs to be learned about the waitlist. Resources are significant and the Lens project is important, for waitlist and others. Health and safety protection is necessary to meet needs and educate legislators on health and safety. Money is the key to legislators thinking and puts health and safety at risk. There are questions of what programs are really protecting health and safety. We need to help define the programs and how a meaningful day activity applies for instance, she noted. The third is to support a stand-alone agency (APD). Managed care is a concern even if seems to be falling apart in Florida. This is not acknowledged at the level of AHCA, so it is lurking. Also, individuals with DD remember being with DCF as a stepchild. She noted that legislators are respectful and have confidence in Jim DeBeaugrine that she has observed personally in Tally. He is very supportive of FCC's and does seek the input of Stakeholders. The Stakeholders also seem to be working well with him and have very open dialogue, stating openly their differences. His relationship with his brother in law who has a developmental disability does provide personal insight for him to relate to the consequences of service cuts, delays etc.

She stressed that as a FCC we need to do major activity with legislators as they look at the State economy and define and redefine programs etc. It was a valiant drive to get the Governor to veto those issues advocates spoke to in reduction of rates to providers. That and so much else must now be followed up on in the regular session. The key is again to see them while they are at home and be alert to whatever is out there that compromises the lives of individuals and their families.

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

Aaron Nangle unable to make it but plans went forward. Brenda shared Dates of availability of Wildwood Community Center are March 27, and April 4. April 4 decided upon and Betty Kay will check with Director Jim DeBeaugrine as to the date. He has agreed to address the Family Forum. If date cannot be secured with him until May, members to consider doing Hernando County Forum first.

Members wanting to showcase as many resources as possible. Outdoors unlimited being approached for display or presentation Isabel stated. Stephanie Hopper suggests that VR

information would be best with a general presentation and Q & A session. Transition would be best done in that manner whether panel or single presenter, as well. Betty Kay has contacted Special Olympics programs in each County, except Sumter where there is none. She is awaiting responses. She asked for attendance at a FCC meeting, and at least materials for the Family Forum. Miracle League representation to be invited as well. It will be determined on basis of who agrees to attend, how they will best be showcased. Discussion ensued as to special needs trusts, guardianship presentations. Stephanie suggested separate special needs and guardianship, as they are each significant. Different types of presenters available for these types of presentations. It was felt by members that a lawyer is necessary. Norm pointed out that there is a financial element with trusts that will need addressing as well, whether it is lawyer or other.

There was discussion on Hernando County Forum that will soon be put together. Joyce Leonard advised that there have been various forums from other organizations in Hernando on developmental disabilities. She suggested members have Linda Weeks be contacted for meeting with FCC to learn of other resources and educational sources for Hernando. Linda is the State SC for Hernando and now has an office in the Area APD office. She will be asked to attend as the Forum for Hernando is discussed soon.

Karen is working on the display board for Area 13 FCC and requests pictures etc. so that it can be ready for April 4 Forum. She will hold scrapbooking sessions as in past forums. This has been well attended and individuals have thoroughly enjoyed this activity.

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

Stephanie asked about a dentist for an individual in Citrus Co. The family needs one who will sedate and Brenda will get that info to her.

Question to Joyce about the status of Bethesda Lutheran group home closings. There is apparently an attempt for someone to take it over and run it as is. FCC will be kept posted.

Discussion about group home beds and dilemmas involved. Beds are not equal across the state though many exist. Several APD Areas deny any openings Betty Kay said, most are further south. Stephanie noted that even with a local community group home vacancy, it is not available unless a crisis or life change occurs.

**ADJOURNMENT:** - No further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting. Next meeting will be held at the APD office on March 9, from 10:00am-12:00noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements  
Area 13 FCC Secretary