

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL
APD AREA 13
MARCH 8, 2010**

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Isabel S deMartinez, Betty Kay Clements, Tina Renwick, Sandy Dayton, Sandy Shorey, Eileen Reidy, Anna Brynild (phone), Norman Price, Karen Huscher, Caryn Jones,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Payne, Phyllis Novak, Jennifer Knowles,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

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APD STAFF: Brenda Stevens, David Johnston

VISITORS: Darla Wilson, Moving Mountains

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chairperson Isabel S deMartinez. She announced that the Disney Volunteer program met its goals and so is closed now.

MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Chair Isabel asked for a motion to approve February minutes. Eileen Reidy made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Norm Price. Minutes approved by consensus.

BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:

Norm reported that the State report says the budget balance is \$6,381.13. Norm has \$5,599.70. He does not think the first family forum is accounted for yet in expenditures. Betty Kay says there are supplies not showing yet as well. Some questions and concerns arose about Café this year and they will be discussed later in this meeting.

AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:

David Johnston reported that the Delmarva presentations were well received with close to 300 attending. Implementation date will start soon, with procedures more consumer focused. Follow up and remediation will fall with Area office now and work will be continuing on that process.

Rebasing essentially finished except for the 360 requested hearings. 120-130 rebased in Area 13. Karen Huscher stated that letters with contradictory information was very confusing regarding knowing what to do. David agreed that it was an unfortunate occurrence that was corrected.

Legislators are reviewing iBudget so APD is waiting to hear from them, nothing new at this point in time.

APD Connect is being worked on and will be the electronic central record of individuals. Will contain ability to look at reports etc. Will assist monitoring time spent now. Medicaid Integrity and Fraud will also be able to be followed up on with issues such as progress notes

etc. Isabel said we could look at it as transparency. Betty Kay added that FCCF has had a couple sessions of introduction to the new system and families will be able to view pertinent information. David said that there will be all levels of security and everyone agreed that it should have a positive impact.

He reported on the new rule for Tier assignments. Staff are reviewing Tier 4 assignments and those that are in the to be determined (TBD) category. They are checking to be sure rule is applied correctly. 150 have been completed with many left to do. Isabel asked if a redetermination is made for instance from tier 4 to tier 3, what occurs then? Nothing at present David said.

The ABC (Computer system) that is used for cost plans, support plans, service authorizations etc., is being updated and goes live on the 16th. In existence for 20 years, it will now be a dot net system.

David reported on the 15% budget reduction exercise at APD asked for by the Legislature. It would involve \$137 million dollars. It includes such things as caps to Tier one, elimination of behavior assistants in group homes, reduces CDC+ by 10%, reduces ADT services, has supported employment (SE) reductions, and consolidates medical supplies. The APD Director has stressed to legislators that the reductions are not recommendations or proposals. Betty Kay handed out a flyer with the exercise to members. She said that in the Director's presentation he told legislators that individuals could end up in high cost institutional settings, ICF/DD's. She said that he also pointed out to them that other states envy that 80% of the DD Waiver is provided in the home. It is by far the most cost effective way he stressed. He pointed out that since the waiver is 90% of the APD budget, and institutions 10% an exercise like this has no choice but to include service reductions in the waiver. He was asked about any savings not used and he said he hoped to assist the waitlist. David pointed out that cuts to General Revenue (GR) funds affects the waitlist assistance possible from Area offices.

David continued and stated that APD Deputy Director, Pedro Moreno, has made an assignment to the Areas to become involved in and emphasize public/private partnerships. Recycling used equipment was an example given. Helping the individuals and families on the waitlist is a priority. David encouraged members to make recommendations and to be thinking along these lines for resource development and identification. Sandy Dayton mentioned Dream society in Citrus Co. David said in Marion County the Alliance for Disabilities spin-off group is putting together supports from community. He believes they will be successful and should maximize services for individuals with summer programs, swimming, counseling, and others. David will keep involved and keep FCC members informed.

AQL REPORT:

Brenda Stevens reported that there is ongoing work on gathering resources, with something from each county coming in. She requested members to advise her of names of dentists so that letters may be sent for information and enrollment. Personal knowledge of dentist would be helpful, she added. Eileen mentioned that in New Jersey Dentists could take on a percentage of individuals. A quota system is not available in Florida Medicaid, Brenda

shared. She continued noting that the Delmarva training was considered very successful. Charmayne Pillay and Theresa Skidmore gave the training. The actual tool is not posted yet, but is to be out soon on the Delmarva website. Brenda meets quarterly with Delmarva and will get more information. Karen asked if a family does not want to answer questions about non-waiver services how would that be viewed? Brenda shared that the reason to ask is that there might be recommendations that could be given regarding those services. There is no penalty for refusing to answer certain questions Brenda emphasized. There was a request for Charmayne or Theresa to attend a FCC meeting for Q & A and Brenda will arrange.

FCCF REPORT:

Betty Kay stressed the importance of using the FCCF website to pull up status of bills, and other important legislative strategies. Updating is ongoing. She suggested that if possible members try to watch some of the committee meetings on video feed. It particularly helps to see body language, hear questions and answers and prepare for possible personal appearance in front of legislators. FCCF is partnering with other advocacy groups regarding the waitlist and addressing the issue that the med waiver program cannot cover everything and so alternative resources must be identified or developed. FCCF was represented at the Capitol for Arc of Florida Day last week. She addressed the issue of a House bill that extends the start of the waitlist prioritization #3-7 to 2012. Fair hearings will go to DCF according to the bill. The bill was held up for one week to take input from stakeholders and APD lawyer worked with stakeholders on language to keep hearings in APD and then DOAH, but very doubtful success as there seems to be a determination for hearings to go back to DCF. Betty Kay wrote letters to each member of the committee and also Kerry Schoolfield who is the staff person for the committee. Isabel brought up a bill about Planned Residential Options; she said she supports it and would like members to give feedback and consider taking a position. She spoke of a planned community that she is aware of, Lambs Farm in Illinois. She had considered it for Christina before moving to Florida. Betty Kay was involved in the workgroup and said the two sides are those that support them and those that believe they will become an institution. The group that opposes does not want services of APD in a community of that type, or other things such as a common dining hall on the grounds. Betty Kay handed out information on both sides of the argument for and against.

DISCUSSION OF QUARTERLY WAITLIST/FAMILY FORUM:

Last minute preparations for 2nd Quarterly waitlist and Family Forum discussed. Many calls received by members and APD staff, so members optimistic about turnout. Betty Kay asked David for the # of returned mail outs, and he will get that info and share. Karen needs supplies for appx. \$20 to have a special scrapbook project for individuals at the Forum. Eileen made a motion for purchase of supplies up to \$20, Sandy Shorey seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus. Isabel plans to hand out cards and encourage people to exchange names and network with one another for support and resources.

Café DISCUSSION

Earlier discussion regarding CAFÉ ensued and the late date it is held this fiscal year. That could present a problem for getting vouchers in. Betty Kay will follow up with Tally to check on process for this year. Norm mentioned that he had gotten a call from a mother in Area 3

who was told to contact Area 13 FCC about sponsorship for CAFÉ. Consensus was that Area 13 could only sponsor from Area 13 and he will advise accordingly.

Discussion of sponsorship for CAFÉ, and it was determined that FCC members and waitlist individuals would be the priority. There needs to be a united response as to sponsorship from members. They usually want travel and overnight, so decisions will be made at the April meeting. Karen Huscher discussed the benefit of CAFÉ not just to Korey, as an individual with DD, but also to her daughter as well from the sibling support that is so appreciated. Strong bonds of friendship have been realized she offered.

VISITOR/MEMBERS INPUT:

Karen followed up on last month's discussion about guardianship. She identified the 9th district circuit court Orlando website is where information on guardian advocate assist for families is. She said to go to probate section and forms are there. This was done by a judge specifically for parents because of the resource issue. You need to go to court but do not need a lawyer, she stressed. Isabel will print some of the forms out and bring to meeting for members.

Eileen got a call from the son of an 81 year old, about her daughter with a disability and wanted to know who could assist him. He had Eileen's name from Forum letter so sister is on the waitlist. David told her to have him call the Area office. She also asked about YMCA programs and scholarships available. Programs could be particularly helpful to individuals on the waitlist she added and should be encouraged.

Isabel said that the Boy Scouts were at Publix this weekend with coupons. She learned that there is a disability awareness badge and suggested the DD population to them. One of the mothers was going to pursue it. Karen said the girl scouts do have this badge as well.

Karen shared a great story about Korey who is now a high school track team member. He just ran his first race and though finishing was excellent, the best part she said was that the kids on all the teams cheered him on as if it was for a gold medal in the Olympics.

Isabel reminded everyone to be at the hotel by 8:30 am Saturday for the Forum. Sandy Dayton said she is going early to help Aaron set up that night.

ADJOURNMENT:

In closing Isabel read a quote by Oscar Wilde "Be Yourself, everybody else is already taken" She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements
Area 13 FCC Secretary