

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL  
APD AREA 13  
MARCH 14, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS:** Isabel S deMartinez, Sandy Dayton, Betty Kay Clements, Don Taylor, Phyllis Novak, Shawn Mims, Eileen Reidy,

**MEMBERS ON PHONE:** Anna Brynild, Karen Huscher,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Caryn Jones, Tina Renwick, Sandy Shorey,

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Stephanie Hopper, Virginia Taylor, Caroline Short,

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**APD STAFF:** Brenda Stevens, Carmelo (Paul) P. Abisso

**VISITORS:** Grant Harris, Everett Short-family, Craig Greiner- Provider, Connie Bass-Self Advocate, John and Joan Verity-family, on phone- Aaron Nangle-waiver provider.com

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Chairperson Isabel S deMartinez. She welcomed all. She shared that she has completed a course for the National Wildlife Federation Steward certification at BB Browns Gardens in Clermont. With this, she will promote a tool to incorporate the DD population into gardening and create or increase their love for nature while beautifying areas in their community. To qualify for certification, the habitat gardens must have the the four basic needs, (water, food, cover or shelter, and a place to raise young wildlife) along with a commitment from the organization (where the garden is placed) to continue and upkeep the garden.

The Giving Garden (the name of her garden) has a path which they ultimately will have with stepping stones which she is hoping to also attract volunteers from the DD population in personalizing them and then having them be a permanent mark in the garden.

**MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:**

Review of February 14 minutes, with a motion to accept as written by Sandy Dayton, seconded by Shawn Mims. Minutes approved by consensus.

**BUDGET REPORT/BUDGET REVIEW:** Budget report from Paul Abisso shows that there expenses year to date, \$4,014.52, available balance of \$4,985.48. Computer and printer being ordered, but not showing yet. Also he reported impact from the mailings for the Forum should be showing up in next months budget report. No questions from members, Isabel thanked him for the report.

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT/UPDATE:**

In absence of Clarence , Betty Kay reported that she spoke with him before he left the office this morning. He stated that Carl Littlefield has resigned from APD and Bryan Vaughan, Chief of Staff is in the interim position. Bryan has reported to the Area Administrators (AA's) that he is not interested in the position long term. It is not expected that there will be a Director named until the audit of APD ordered by the Governor is completed. Clarence also asked Betty Kay to report that the iBudget has been authorized by the Federal Government.

There is speculation it could be rolled out earlier and across the state. There were no other comments for the meeting.

#### **FCCF REPORT:**

Betty Kay continued regarding a concern for the iBudget as the Budget and Bills are being put together in the State legislature. The iBudget is considered by stakeholders involved with its development to be a fair and equitable distribution of funds. However, the amt. of the allocation to APD is the driver as to whether the iBudget assigned will meet the individual's needs. The shrinkage of allocation makes each budget smaller. Therefore the House and Senate is significant in what they do with the allocations to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). She reported that the Senate keeps DD out of managed care, but the House continues with plan for DD within 5 years. She continues to meet with stakeholders in order to keep informed as to what is happening at the Capitol in Tally. FCCF has also hired a lobbyist (no state money involved) and is planning to pursue increased activity of the not for profit that was developed some time ago, but has been fairly inactive. More will be reported on that soon.

#### **AmeriCorp/updates:**

Isabel reported that she has been able to keep busy, make positive contacts and works under the direction of APD in that endeavor. People have been very receptive and have even seen her without an appointment. However, it is not known if that grant will be renewed by APD and it may end through Federal Govt. Since it expires the end of June, the departure of volunteers as herself has hindered the goal for most of Area 13 counties. She is working in Lake and working closely with the Pierre, a Sumter volunteer. She is excited about the Disability Volunteer/Job Expo May 14, 2011 that she is spearheading for APD/AmeriCorp Area 13 to commemorate AmeriCorp Week 2011. Hours will be 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. It will be a free community event with Not for Profits organizations and Resources related to employment, volunteerism and business for the benefit of the Adult Disability Community. Partnering with Building Blocks Training Center, Clermont, Florida, for the "Business Casual Fashion Show" with the clients from Lora's class. "Dress for Success", will be taking place at this event. A short presentation to the Campaign for Disability Employment, will be shared with attendees to further promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities. She was excited to announce that it is being held at the Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County road 48, Howey in the Hills, Lake Co. She spoke with Connie Bass and Shawn Mims during the meeting to discuss them making a presentation at the Expo in May. They will work on that.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES/DISCUSSION:**

Eileen told of activities in her area that need to get the word out so more participate. There is a good community education program that she said had only 5 people. Aaron said that he would be glad to put it out online if she gives him the information. Betty Kay mentioned the FCCF doing a quarterly newsletter that would be happy to put a story in about it. She was disappointed that AmeriCorp did not work in Hernando County. She did put out a flyer about bowling. Stephanie mentioned that she is concerned also for those who just fall below a DD diagnosis.

Isabel has copied health care surrogate info. and Guardian Advocate forms for the Forum. There was further discussion of the guardianship issue. Karen shared it was \$235 with \$53 for fingerprinting when she had one done. Eileen has the information. Standby guardian issue discussed and that is also a desired approach.

**WAITLIST & FCC FORUM:**

Flyer to get out, discussion on getting to newspapers. Eileen coordinated that discussion and all counties were covered. The invitation/flyer Betty Kay said was to go to the entire Area 13 waitlist, and the Waiver clients in Citrus County. She asked Clarence for the figures and it was around 1300-1400 with both. Agenda discussion resulted in keynote to all at the opening. Isabel discussed with Connie and Shawn speaking at the Forum, as she will give a short presentation on the AmeriCorp project following the keynote. Discussion resulted in Breakouts from 11am-12pm and 1pm-2pm followed by dance from 2pm-4pm. Brenda and Betty Kay to get agenda together so members have it as soon as possible. Aaron has close to 30 wanting to register, will arrange to rent more tables as needed.

**MEMBERS/VISITOR INPUT:**

Isabel went around the room for members/visitors for input. Betty Kay reminded of DD day and Carolyn asked for an explanation of what DD day is about, and Connie mentioned she is trying to understand and memorize the acronyms. It was explained that Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is sponsored at the Capitol each year by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. It is an opportunity to meet with legislators and other advocates. This year The Arc has joined with the DD Council instead of having a separate day as in the past.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. The next FCC meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2011 at the APD office from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kay Clements  
Area 13 FCC Secretary

**Area 13 FCC Mission:**

To Promote the Welfare & Dignity of the  
Individual with a Developmental Disability,  
Allowing Each Person to Achieve His/Her  
Full Potential while Preserving the  
Family's Ability to Function As A Unit