

## Family Care Council Area 15 – January 14, 2009 Minutes

In Attendance: Ruth Wingate, Beatrice Dejoie, Sheila Wilson and  
Sonja Bielecki

Meeting called to order at 10:11 a.m.

The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as written.

Ms. Wingate was formally appointed by the Governors office as a member. Another applicant received notice that she was not approved. Ms. Dejoie indicated that no other interested parties receiving applications have filed them for membership consideration at this time.

It was noted that Chairperson Nancy Moody had an article published in Special Needs Parenting Magazine. She also met with Ralph Poppell and three things were discussed to be priorities:

1. The waitlist
2. Support of APD as a fully-funded standalone agency
3. The protection of health and safety of clients by not enacting further cuts

Ms. Moody also suggested that a delegation approach the Governor on these and other APD issues, either before or during session. She reiterated her suggestion to contact our local legislators by letter, to indicate our concerns about appropriations for APD, and how families will be impacted. Mike Haridopolos was cited as a priority legislator to contact as he sits as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. She also indicated that she continues to work on the FCC brochure, and hopes to have it completed soon.

Ms. Dejoie stated that rebasing of cost plans continues. She indicated that although there are four financially-capped tiers, rebasing causes tier caps to be adjusted as to individual needs.

Ms. Wilson discussed the suggestion by Ms. Ciccarelli regarding the legislative summit as a venue for the FCCs supported employment support plan goal. She spoke to the coordinators of the Legislative Summit and

they stated that the group prioritizes only two of a host of presented issues. They felt that it would be more effective to get together with other social agencies to initiate a groundswell of support to make the employment issue one of these two priorities. There is also no opportunity for a formal presentation, but instead discussions to map out the two legislative priorities of the year. As the Summit is held in September, Ms. Wilson will contact Mike Capps for his input on how to raise supported employment to the top of the priority consideration.

Ms. Wilson also mentioned that since Vocational Rehabilitation has instituted an order of selection and financial participation criteria, the waiting list for services has been created. Mr. Black of VR approached AHCA with the request to use waiver dollars for Phase 1 of VR services, but the request was denied.

Ms. Dejoie related that Agency for Persons with Disabilities staff have recently participated in a basket raffle to raise funds for Autism Speaks. A hot dog lunch is planned for January 30 at APDs office and volunteers will also participate in the Walk for Autism on February 21 at Jensen Beach High School.

The next meeting of the Family Care Council Area 15 will be held February 11, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Morningside Branch of the Port St. Lucie Library at 2410 S.E. Morningside Boulevard, with directions at 772-337-5632.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.