

Family Care Council Area 15 – October 14, 2009 Minutes

In attendance: Peter Karlan, Gregg Howard, Beatrice Dejoie, Ruth Wingate, Lisa McGlone, Diane Ciccarelli, Adrienne Dissis, Brian Boulahanis, Karen Nystrom, Micki Tirado and Sara Vera

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made and it was noted that with the absence of the chair and vice chair, a quorum of members was not present. Acting Chair Wingate indicated that because of the lack of quorum the election would be scheduled on a later date.

Ms. Dejoie noted that there is no movement regarding pending membership appointments. Mr. Howard displayed interest in submitting an application, and would like recommendation by vote from the Council to do so. Ms. McGlone requested two applications, and will be bringing a name to the Council for recommendation for membership also.

Ms. Ciccarelli also noted that she has communicated with an inactive member for resignation. Ms. Lisa has not produced the resignation as of this time, but Ms. Ciccarelli acknowledges that the potential resignee has been occupied with family matters, but that a resignation has been requested.

Mr. Decker has indicated to the Council that he would like to continue as a member, but with transportation issues, cannot do so. Members discussed making a phone connection in a new meeting venue a requirement so that this could be accomplished. Ms. Dejoie indicated that APD has the equipment, but the cost of the calls would be the responsibility of the Council. Ms. McGlone was asked to contact Ms. Bielecki regarding potential meeting sites mentioned at the last meeting. Ms. McGlone indicated that she would start investigating conference rooms off I-95 that would meet membership needs and will report on her findings at the next meeting.

Ms. Wingate noted that the Council still needs communication with Bonnie Starling from Parent-to-Parent regarding the Council's use of their 501c3 to solicit donations. Ms. Ciccarelli noted that she has contacted Ms. Starling regarding this request, and has also given Chairman Moody the contact information for Ms. Starling to move the process along.

The Treasure Coast Legislative Summit was held this past month. Mr. Karlan gave background information on this group regarding their active advocacy with the local legislative delegation, and Ms. Wingate discussed her participation at the first meeting. She will gather membership information and report at the next meeting on potential activity with this organization.

Ms. Wingate indicated that individual letters were sent to all local Legislators, and Senator Negrón was the only respondent, stating he would "monitor" the wait list for the Medicaid Waiver for the Developmentally Disabled during his term in the Senate. Ms. Ciccarelli agreed to assist Mr. Negrón and his office with additional information through a personal visit to his office. As Senator Negrón was the only respondent, Ms. Wingate emailed the remaining legislators, citing the written correspondence of September 4, 2009. Representative Fetterman's office then responded with a request for further information on issues related to people with Developmental Disabilities, and specifically the CDC+ program. Ms. Dissis has agreed to communicate on behalf of the Council with his office on this matter.

Secretary Wingate communicated by postcard the Council's thanks to families for participating in APD's wait list informational meeting, where the Council made a brief presentation. This card also indicated that the Council is pursuing representatives from those waiting for services in our community, with Council meeting dates and location. Three family members attended the October Council meeting as a result of this mailing, with one expressing interest in membership, and the others for further information from APD regarding services. Ms. Dissis indicated that the Council should consider this means of communication with all members of the wait list at least, and potentially also with all Waiver participants to stimulate membership and to assist families seeking information. Ms. Wingate offered to create another postcard for future discussion that would include up-to-date meeting site information.

The Family Care Council Florida meeting was held in Orlando on September 18-19 with Ms. Wingate representing Family Care Council Area 15. She indicated that each Area reported on wait list meetings and legislative efforts. Hillary Brazelle stated by phone at the meeting that after the last I-budget community input meeting, APD will be formulating I-budget policy. Mr. J.R. Harding started working with the FCCF 6 months ago. His cell number is 850-510-4628, with email at jrfsu@comcast.net. He indicated that the APD-owned Billy Joe Rish Park is reopening, with complete access to those with disabilities and their families, and rents heated and air conditioned cabins for \$15 a night. The park is located between Apalachicola and Panama City. Mr. Harding is interested in finding out from Council members those APD Administrators who have a good relationship with their FCC, so as to create a model of best practices. He also cited the October 21 Mentoring Day relating to employment, and indicated that he will work with Stephanie of Central Office to assist FCCs in gaining full membership. FCCF then indicated that it is necessary for the FCCs to purge their rolls of inactive members. Ms. Sylvia Smith then discussed by phone House Bill 81, sponsored by Representative Dorothy Hukill regarding the prevention and reduction of seclusion and restraints on students with disabilities in public schools. The FCCF voted to support this bill, as currently there are no standards governing these interventions, they are used for compliance, not just behavior that is self-injurious or dangerous to others, schools don't have adequate supervision for these interventions to ensure student safety, mechanical devices have been utilized for interventions by means not originally intended, and families are not informed of interventions and incidents are neither documented or reported, circumventing outside review. HB81 was filed to address these restraining/secluding abuses.

Mr. Karlan discussed the timeline for additional CDC+ enrollments. The letter indicating that families are eligible and to show their interest is being mailed October 16, 2009, with returns requested by November 13. The 2,500 families will then be selected by the Central Office exclusively by random, not by date or time returned, and not on a quota basis by APD Area. A letter will be sent approximately in December to those selected, indicating the next steps they need to take, including the training and formal application process. Mr. Howard stated that his former state of residence had an option for service delivery similar to CDC+ and his family participated for many years before they moved to Florida. It was also noted that some states are opting out of CDC+ for financial reasons, as the program is not necessarily a money-saver, but projected to be cost-neutral.

Ms. Dejoie indicated that she needs the finalized budget that was approved at the

September meeting from the Chair. She also indicated that Agency for Persons with Disabilities employees will again be participating in the annual Autism Speaks Walk, and invited the Council members to both participate in the Walk, and exhibit a display of Council information at the event.

The Family Care Council will meet on November 18, from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Morningside Branch of the Port St. Lucie Public Library, 2410 S.E. Morningside Boulevard, in Port St. Lucie. Contact the Library for directions at 772-337-5632.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.