

Family Care Council Area 15 – February 11, 2009 Minutes

In Attendance: Nancy Moody, Beatrice Dejoie, Ruth Wingate, Patricia Moody and Sonja Bielecki

Roll was called with all members in attendance.

Approval for January 14 minutes was waived until the next meeting.

Under old business, it was noted that there are no new membership applications pending at this time.

This prompted the discussion on how to build membership.

Ms. Dejoie asked if brochures would be available from the FCC to pass out through Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Ms. Moody indicated that she would get them completed and printed as soon as possible.

Ms. Wingate suggested that it might be productive to have the Chairman approach the media for interviews to bring our Council to the attention of the community.

Ms. Dejoie also mentioned that the Walk for Autism function at Jensen Beach on February 21 might be a good opportunity to bring our message to families and people with disabilities. Ms. Moody said she would contact the organizers of the event and see if it would be possible to hand out flyers about the FCC at that function. She asked Ms. Bielecki and Ms. Wingate to assist in their distribution if it was not too late to participate.

Chairman Moody indicated that the brochure is still in the works, but computer glitches have made the task challenging. She also passed out the list of legislators representing our districts or those in leadership positions.

Ms. Wingate asked the group to go back a couple of meetings to consider the goal of addressing training for families regarding transition. She received a brochure from the Family Network on Disabilities about workshops on transition through the TILES program that can be presented locally.

Under New Business, Ms. Bielecki said that the current meeting room at the library has indicated that they would be charging \$50 an hour for use of their facility starting in March. They will reduce the fee to \$25 an hour if the FCC will provide a tax number and its own insurance coverage. Discussion included the possibilities of contracting only for the specific months the FCC meets, to alternatives, and the need to have an appropriate meeting facility, especially once membership and community participation increases. Ms. Bielecki will investigate further into the contract. Ms. Dejoie will explore how to get the library to become a state vendor so they could be paid for this service in time for the March meeting, but also will explore a room at Agency for Persons with Disabilities, if this is not possible at this short notice.

The discussion was tabled on renegotiating the room rental contract with the library until Ms. Bielecki obtains further information.

Ms. Bielecki passed out the January 17, 2009 minutes of the Family Care Council Florida. She also distributed information regarding a potential speaker for the community. She heard his presentation at the statewide FCC meeting. The organization "Life Services for the Handicapped, Inc." provides continuing care with both a personal advocate and a fiscal trustee to manage the persons future services. There was lively discussion regarding this speakers business, and Ms. Dejoie opined that if the speaker was able to separate useful information to families on long-term care planning from the specific sale of long-term care planning and provision, it might be a worthwhile speaker to have make a presentation. Ms. Wingate was concerned that the Area 15 FCC would appear to be supporting a specific vendor for this service, and concurred with Ms. Dejoie. The members will explore the information in the brochure and consider the speaker for scheduling at a future time.

The second speaker at the State FCC meeting was William Proctor who gave useful tips on working with legislators. The State FCC has already developed three major issues to develop talking points on with our representatives. He indicated that summer is the best time to form relationships with legislators as they are in their districts, to take the specific list of legislative priorities, and approach the legislator to visit specific Family Care Council Districts so concerns could be presented as a group.

Ms. Moody had applications for the upcoming "Partners in Policymaking" session, and Ms. Wingate took an application for her son to consider participation.

Ms. Dejoie indicated that work is continuing on the QSI assessment tool with a target date of March 31. The hearings for tier appeals have not occurred yet. Rebasing of cost plans has been completed. She indicated that rebasing could be reversed if significant change in condition or life was determined. Rebasing was legislatively approved for a single year and would have to be reinstated by mandate yearly.

Governor Crist vetoes the 5% cut across the board for providers in special session.

Ms. Patricia Moody attended the National Downs Syndrome Congress in Sacramento, California and their next conference will also be in Sacramento in July. Ms. Moody attended the Board meeting independently, and was complimented on her participation.

Support of Family Café attendance was discussed, and considered at a future date.

The next meeting of the Area 15 Family Care Council will be on March 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, directions at 772-337-5632.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

