

Family Care Council Area 15 – March 11, 2009 Minutes

In attendance: Beatrice Dejoie, Ruth Wingate, Terry and Richard Felicio, Diane Ciccarelli, Patricia Moody, Sonja Bielecki and Karen Nystrom.

Introductions were made.

It was noted that the ARC in Martin County was approached regarding parent participation and parents potential membership in the FCC.

The minutes of January 14, 2009 and February 11, 2009 were moved, seconded and approved as submitted.

Chairman Moody discussed the FCC informational brochure. It was suggested at the Statewide FCC meeting that each district combine their resources and purchase a generic brochure with FCC information. Members noted that Area 15 would still need to add local contact information separately at further expense. The recommendation was tabled until the local FCC receives and reviews a specific cost for the brochure.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Adrienne Dissis and Diane Ciccarelli represent the Area 15 FCC, and have their expenses for travel covered for the Statewide FCC meeting on March 20-21 in Orlando.

Ms. Ciccarelli also requested that she and another person attend, with travel expenses, Developmental Disabilities Day on March 25 in Tallahassee. She noted that there is a possibility for Angel Flight to provide the transportation. It was moved, seconded and approved that Ms. Ciccarelli and a second person would attend and represent Area 15 FCC if they are able to make satisfactory travel arrangements and the paperwork is completed for reimbursement of their expenses.

The members also expressed an interest in finding out when the Health and Human Services Committee meets during the legislative session so that the Area 15 FCC can arrange a representative to attend.

Chairman Moody revisited the meeting room charge for the attendees who missed discussion the previous month. The Area 15 FCC has contracted with St. Lucie County to use the current room for six months with a potential extension upon expiration. The County charges \$25 an hour for 501c3 groups and does not require insurance. The request for payment is now in progress at the APD office.

It was noted that the State FCC maintains an informational website and it was discussed if it is possible to link to a potential Area 15 FCC website. It was also suggested that another potential link could be to the State Support Coordinators website. Ms. Bielecki will investigate the possibility of this linkage with Aaron Nangle. Ms. Nystrom generously volunteered to create an Area 15 website for approval, and the group will discuss potential linkages of this website at a future meeting.

Ms. Dejoie stated that quality assurance regarding support coordinators and their support plans is continuing. Discussion ensued regarding parent training on the topics of managing providers, verifying their hours and services, and their responsibility to review the Medicaid Services Summary. It was noted that training for families on these subjects, along with their rights and responsibilities does not exist in Florida at this time.

Ms. Dejoie also reported that Tier System appeals have yet to be heard.

Ms. Ciccarelli mentioned a program in St. Lucie County called the Rock which provides an alternative placement for school-suspended children, so their parents can continue to work. The program is supported by the Children's Service Council. She

expressed concern regarding the sustainability of waiver services in the State of Florida without dedicated funding. There have been suggestions that a more reliable source of uninterrupted funding for people with disabilities could be the Social Security system, not dependent on state budgets.

Ms. Nystrom also mentioned that she is a grant writer. It was discussed and agreed that Area 15 FCC qualifies as a 501c3 entity and could receive grant funds, including a potential grant for the parent training initiative suggested earlier in the meeting. The members acknowledged that full membership of the Area 15 FCC could be a requirement for a successful grant application, and will continue to address that as a priority.

Both Ms. Nystrom and Ms. Ciccarelli were thanked for their travel on behalf of the Area 15 FCC and the potential utilization of Ms. Nystrom's grant-writing talents. They were both strongly encouraged to apply for membership to the Area 15 FCC.

Refreshment Chairman Patricia Moody brought information about the Maranatha School that she has instituted. Adults, parents, and homeless persons can learn how to be independent and improve their communications skills, provided in a church setting.

The next meeting of the Family Care Council Area 15 will be Wednesday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Morningside Branch of the Port St. Lucie Library. The library is located at 2410 S.E. Morningside Boulevard, and can be reached for directions at 772-337-5632.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.