

Family Care Council Area 15 – April 8, 2009

In attendance: Beatrice Dejoie, Ruth Wingate, Grace Calabrese, Terry and Richard Felicio, Sheila Wilson, Diane Ciccarelli, Nancy Moody, Patricia Moody, Karen Nystrom and Lisa McGlone

Roll was called, introductions made, and the minutes of March 11, 2009 were moved, seconded and approved as submitted.

Ms. Dejoie stated that she has received no new membership applications at this time. Ms. Nystrom indicated that she will be submitting an application, and members encouraged Ms. Ciccarelli to also apply.

The Family Care Council brochure was passed around for approval by Chairman Moody. Ms. Dejoie indicated she would assist the council with an insert to make the generic brochures specific to Area 15. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved that 3,000 brochures would be purchased at a cost of approximately \$200 and inserts added locally for distribution.

Ms Nystrom spoke to Mr. Phil Pearson regarding website design for Area 15 FCC. She brought in samples of his work. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved to have Chairman Moody contract with Mr. Pearson to develop the Area 15 website and get it up and running.

Ms. Ciccarelli attended the Bi-Monthly State Family Care Council meeting in Orlando on behalf of the membership. She stated that she is encouraged by the attitude of Deputy Director of Operations for Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Dave Robinson. She has brought him issues through conversations and e-mail. Of the 7,000 total tier appeals, 50 have been heard, and 50 have been denied, including those represented by the Advocacy Center. Using the Pennsylvania Model, a second waiting list will be created to indicate urgency of need. She also stated that within the next 18 months the state plans to go to individual budgets based on level of need. Services would be bundled so that instead of specific hours for individual services, a group of services could transcend former hourly limitations. Consumer Directed Care participants would be brought into this new method of purchasing services on a staggered basis. Ms. Dejoie acknowledged that the rebasing concept is also being considered on an annual basis. Ms. Ciccarelli noted that Delmarva's contract has expired, and a new 3-year contract is going out for bid. The state will also be receiving a new cost share from the Feds of 69 cents from the former 54 cent Medicaid participation. Mr. Robinson will also be meeting with JP Morgan regarding fees to act as fiduciaries, and it has been suggested that clients own a credit card swiping machine to use as a time clock for providers, to ensure accuracy of service hours provided. A new change with APS would have local districts review requests for service changes and grant approvals with only the large modifications retained by APS.

Ms. Ciccarelli and Ms. McGlone also represented the FCC membership at the annual Developmental Disabilities Day in Tallahassee. They met with Ken Pruitt, but were disappointed by committee meeting cancellations. She noted that participation this year was low compared to other years, and acknowledges that budget cutting years should be high priority for the FCC. She also felt that better coordination between the FCC and Developmental Disabilities Council would be a good goal for next years event.

Ms. Wingate was nominated, seconded and approved as the Area 15 FCC Legislative Committee Chair. She indicated that she would rely on Ms. Ciccarelli as a resource due to her extensive experience with legislators as a former member of the FCC. Ms. Wingate accepted the nomination with the understanding that her possible selection for participation with Partners In Policymaking would not conflict with the Legislative Chair obligations.

Ms. Moody indicated that she, Ms. Bielecki and Ms. Wingate met as the Media Committee. They determined that increasing membership and meeting family educational outreach goals might be combined by hosting a speaker. The topic of behavioral issues of special needs children was chosen as a universal topic of interest to parents. Ms. Bielecki contacted Alex Remy for his thoughts on a speaker, and he recommended Jessica from the Pinnacle Group. Ms. Wilson also suggested contacting the APD behavioral specialist as an option or addition to the event. Ms. Wingate also mentioned that she has begun investigating venues for this event, and has approached FAU and privately owned conference options. Discussion ensued, and it was suggested that the first event determine the needs of the community, with a second workshop setting for specifically addressing those needs. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Media committee continue to organize the speakers event in June, and present their final plan at the May meeting.

It was moved, seconded and approved to send the four current members, and any pending members of the FCC to the Family Café in June.

Ms. Moody apologized to Ms. Calabrese for the lack of time to address her interest in attending the meeting, and encouraged her to attend next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.