

Family Care Council Area 15 – June 10, 2009 Minutes

In attendance: Brian and George Boulahanis, Ruth Wingate, Nancy Moody, Sonja Bielecki, Richard and Theresa Felicio, Diane Ciccarelli, Beatrice Dejoie, Lisa McGlone and Sheila Wilson.

Roll was called, introductions were made, and it was noted that a quorum was present.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Ms. Dejoie noted that four pending members, Adrienne Dsiss, Diane Ciccarelli, Lisa McLone and Brian Boulahanis, are still awaiting notification of appointment. It was suggested that consumers and families on the wait list are potential candidates for membership.

It was also suggested that the Council make their by-laws available on the website www.fcc15.org for reference.

Chairman Moody distributed the modified evaluation and sign-in sheet for the June 17 speaker event. Volunteers agreed to man the sign-in tables and Ms. Wingate was provided the updated sign-in sheets and pens to assist the volunteers.

It was agreed that contact information gathered at the event will remain with the Family Care Council – Area 15, but coordination with Parent-to-Parent for mutual announcements will continue.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the Family Care Council – Area 15 expend the remainder of their budget on office and mailing materials for their use. Ms. Dejoie indicated that Ms. Moody locate a form in the original membership packet and submit it to her at Agency for Persons with Disabilities for disbursement of these funds.

The membership examined the Support Plan for the Council. Exact language will be available in August, however briefly the Council intends to increase its membership to a full complement, withdraw specific figures on individuals waiting for services on the waitlist, improve resources, training and support to empower families working with their school districts, and bring awareness to school districts, government entities and businesses that employment opportunities should represent the percentage of people with disabilities in their local communities. The finalized support plan will be submitted to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, upon its completion.

The Family Care Council Florida requested a document indicating the local Family Care Council enumerate their accomplishments during the past year. This was completed, and will be forwarded to the requesting body.

Member travel requests were reviewed, and it was decided to continue policy of only reimbursing current, pending, and special assignment members for their expenditures. Mr. Boulahanis volunteered to attend the upcoming Family Care Council Florida state

meeting with a yet to be determined Council member. It was moved, seconded and approved that they, along with a sitting member will attend this meeting and be reimbursed for their travel expenditures.

Ms. Wingate briefly discussed the article on legislative relations submitted for the Councils website. She also agreed, upon suggestion by Ms. Ciccarelli that a form letter be created and sent to legislators representing or running for vacant positions in the four-county district to give their opinion of the waitlist, and needs of the disability community. Members agreed that they would report in the fall about visiting legislators.

Ms. Dejoie indicated that Chief of Operations Dave Robinson visited the local Agency for Persons with Disabilities office. Discussed was the concept of flexible benefits, expansion of Consumer Directed Care (CDC) and three year cost plans, which are examined for prior service authorization every three years, but plans continue to be written yearly. She indicated that many tier denial letters have been received by families, and September 1, 2009 is the new expiration date for tier cost plans.

Ms. Moody discussed the recent challenges involved with organizing the speaker event and her experience with APD in accessing family waitlist information. The lead time to acquire this information was indicated as problematic, however both parties acknowledged that the Council plans to include waitlist families at future events, and the request for this assistance will be given as soon as it is known to be needed. This request will come formally during a Family Care Council meeting as the channel for support by Agency for Persons with Disabilities of Family Care Council projects.

Each member gave a brief overview of their experience at the CAFÉ conference. It was suggested by Ms. Wingate that each attendee report on one workshop to post to the Council's website. Ms. Ciccarelli indicated that she attended the "Project Access" workshop, and was impressed with the employment of 40% of participants after participating in internships. She noted that the Project involved South Florida, but the workshop presenter resides in this Family Care Council District. Ms. Wilson agreed to contact the speaker to see if it is possible to duplicate such a project in our area, and have him come and speak to the local community.

Ms. Patricia Moody will attend the National Downs Syndrome Conference in Sacramento in July. Ms. Moody requested reimbursement for Patricia, however, as noted above, members, pending members and special assignments by the Family Care Council are the only individuals who qualify for expenditure reimbursement by the Council. After discussion, Chairman Moody withdrew the request.

The speaker meeting event will be held on June 17, from 7-9 p.m. at the Florida Atlantic University, 500 S.W. California Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Next regularly scheduled meeting on August 12, 2009 from 10 to 12 noon at 2410 S.E. Morningside Blvd, Port St. Lucie and reached at 772-337-5632. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

