

Family Care Council Area 15 – September 9, 2009 Minutes

In attendance: Beatrice Dejoie, Nancy Moody, Patricia Moody, Brian Boulahanis, George Boulahanis, Ruth Wingate, Diane Ciccarelli, Peter Karlan, Joan Milligan, Ashley Arnold, Lisa McGlone, Sonja Bielecki, Adrienne Dissis and Karen Nystrom.

Introductions were made, and it was noted that a quorum was present.

Ms. Dejoie indicated that the four pending members, Brian Boulahanis, Diane Ciccarelli, Lisa McGlone and Adrienne Dissis have not yet received appointments to the Family Care Council from the Governors office. Ms. Milligan indicated that she would pursue informing parents of their opportunity to apply for membership to the Council. Chairman Moody noted that once the four new members receive appointment, there will remain up to 8 vacant positions on the Council.

Ms. Dejoie also described the communication difficulties in getting the invoice, and subsequently delaying payment for the Councils meeting room rental. Ms. McGlone excused herself from the meeting, acquired the statement, and Ms. Dejoie indicated the invoice would be paid promptly. Ms. Bielecki also indicated that she got the impression that the contract with the library for room rental would be expiring at the end of September. She and Ms. Dejoie agreed to seek out the library room rental agent after the meeting, and attempt to secure the room for the October and November meetings.

Mr. Karlan indicated that the second waitlist meeting would be held on September 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kite Center at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. When questioned as to how this would be the second meeting, Mr. Karlan stated that he considered the first waitlist meeting to be the speaker meeting on behavior that the Family Care Council sponsored in June. Chairman Moody indicated that the waitlist formerly held over 700 names, but with reexamination of the list it was found that about 200 people were dropped from the list due to inability to contact, non-qualification for services or individuals moving from the area. It was noted that 52% of Floridians in Area 15 reside in St. Lucie County. Mr. Karlan indicated that mass mailings and phone calls were placed to families or individuals on the wait list to inform them of the upcoming waitlist meeting.

Chairman Moody regretted that the letters she composed for donations to support the APD waitlist meeting were not mailed due to misunderstanding about the 501c3 status of the Area 15 Family Care Council. Ms. Bonnie Starling of Parent-to-Parent has agreed to allow us to use their status in soliciting donations for the FCC. It was thought that it would cost approximately \$500 to initiate the 501c3 non-profit status. As APD has plans for another wait list meeting in December, the revised letters will be sent in time for donors to respond to our request. It was noted that on the state level, the Family Care Council Florida has been offered 50 cases of diapers per FCC area, to be distributed 2 areas per month by the Woodbury Products Company. Their generous donation was acknowledged, and appreciated by the local FCC membership and staff.

Ms. Wingate reported that the legislative letters that received suggestions for improvement by the president of the FCCF and approval by the Area 15 FCC were mailed the past week. She asked for direction when receiving responses from the legislators, and it was suggested that the responses return to Area 15 FCC, but also be forwarded to the FCCF to gauge interest in the cause the waitlist among legislators. It was suggested that this letter be provided to the FCCF to consider individualizing the statistics and distributing this letter statewide, covering all of Florida's legislators. Mr. Karlan also indicated that a good venue for Ms. Wingate's legislative participation would be at the Treasure Coast Legislative Summit. He suggested that she contact Ms. Elizabeth Wittles of the Children's Services Council for further information.

Mr. George Boulahanis forwarded a number of questions through Chairman Moody to the FCCF regarding financial information they provided at their July meeting. It was his opinion that the questions need further clarification and deliberation before additional funds are allocated from FCC 15 to the FCCF. He indicated that he plans to attend the upcoming meeting at his own expense, and will pursue these answers. It was also indicated that the FCC maintains an officer position of past chairman, and they continue to support the expense of \$1,800 to produce minutes. As these financial expenditures are not expenditures at FCC 15 area local level, there remains the question of the necessity of these items on a statewide level, as they account for the majority of the FCCF budget. It was indicated that the representative from Area 15 will raise these concerns and their justification at the next statewide meeting.

Minutes of the June, 2009 FCC Area 15 meeting were moved, seconded and approved as submitted. The minutes of the August, 2009 FCC Area 15 meeting were also moved, seconded and approved as submitted.

Ms. Moody indicated that the last election of officers was in May, 2008. It was moved, seconded and approved that the October meeting agenda would include election of officers.

APD representative Mr. Karlan and staff attended the state meeting on August 25 sponsored by the Central Office of APD. They discussed lawsuits regarding tiers, tier changes and cost plans. He indicated that a statewide APD website allows access to a newspaper with information valuable to current and future clients of APD. He also acknowledged that tier changes are available only due to significant change in condition, all others are on hold at this time.

Ms. Ciccarelli requested that the Individual and Family Supports budget be sent to FCC 15. Mr. Karlan indicated that this information is available as public record. Ms. Ciccarelli noted that a statutory requirement of the FCC is to review these expenditures and make recommendations to APD with respect to any new funds made available for family care. Chapter 393-503 also indicates that this information be made available to the family care councils and to others requesting the information. Ms. Dejoie said she would relay this request for information from the FCC to Mr. Delevan, who manages this information for APD.

Chairman Moody reviewed the amended budget for Area 15 Family Care Council. She asked that members consider not requesting reimbursement for all travel expenses for FCC activities. Only one member indicated hardship in this area. Ms. Ciccarelli voiced her support for attending as many FCCF meetings as possible by as many members as possible as that venue provides experience unavailable elsewhere, and not targeting that travel for budget decreases. The members agreed, and it was suggested that either the CAFÉ expenditures or miscellaneous categories bear the cost of this participation. The budget was moved, seconded and approved as presented, with the understanding that it can be amended as needed throughout the year.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the FCC expend, \$20 for postage and \$55 for ink and paper for minutes production, \$200 for Chairman office supplies, and to pay the \$300 invoice acquired by Ms. McGlone for FCC room rental from the library.

The next meeting of the Family Care Council Area 15 will be held on October 14, 2009 from 10 to 12 noon at 2410 S.E. Morningside Boulevard, Port St. Lucie and reached at 772-337-5632 for directions.

Please note that the Family Care Council Area 15 meeting in November will be moved to the THIRD week of that month on November 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.