

**Family Care Council Minutes  
October 7, 2009**

**Members in Attendance:** Lou Ogburn, Nan Whitfield, Tracy Stewart.

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Morgan-Byrd, Janet Graham

**Others in Attendance:** David Woodward, Potential Member, Vince Giglio, Potential Member and Lynne Daw, Area 2 Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Tracy Stewart, Chairman. The minutes of the meeting held August 5, 2009 were approved with a motion by Lou Ogburn, seconded by Nan Whitfield and all were in favor. At this point there was some discussion about the membership of the Councils and it was our Chairman's understanding from a discussion held at the last FCCF meeting she attended, that a person's term does not expire until they are replaced by the Governor or they resign in writing to the Governor. Therefore, Janet Graham has been added to our council as a member.

Chairman Stewart asked that we take up the budget for this fiscal year. The FCC is given \$10,000 with \$500 automatically going to FCCF. The recommended budget allocations for the remaining \$9,500 follows:

\$3,000	Travel by members to attend educational conferences with reports coming back to FCC Area 2 members.
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\$1,200	Travel for members within the Area to attend FCC monthly meetings
2,000	Educational conferences sponsored by Area 2 FCC
1,000	To pay travel costs for members and families/self-advocates to attend Family and other conferences
Café	
800	Mailings
<u>1,500</u>	Reserve
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\$9,500	

A motion was made by Nan Whitfield, seconded by Lou Ogburn that we accept this budget. All were in favor.

There was discussion about the request of the State FCC for an additional \$500 from the local Councils to help meet their budgets. Lou Ogburn moved that that we not give money at this time, but when our membership reaches 10 people, we revisit this request. Nan Whitfield seconded and the motion passed.

There was discussion about the difference of opinion among some members of FCCF about whether the emphasis of the Council should be focused on services for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages or limited to focusing services for adults with developmental disabilities. There are some members who believe since children with developmental disabilities receive mandated services through the school system, there should be a greater emphasis on developing services for adults. However, parents of school age kids are concerned that the amount of services ( typically therapies) offered through the school system is insufficient to meet the needs of the children and that the importance of early intervention should make children an equal priority. This disparity of opinion continues to be a point of discussion at the FCCF meetings.

### **Old Business:**

A listening tour was held September 2, 2009 in Tallahassee. The purpose of this meeting was for the Agency Director and Deputy Director to share the Agency's initiatives and also enable the two of them to hear from self- advocates, families and providers. Jim DeBeaugrine, Director of APD and Deputy Director of Operation, Dave Robinson conducted the meeting. There were two sessions, one focused on providers and the other for self- advocates and families. At the direction of the Legislature, some new initiatives were discussed including expansion of the Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+) program and the iBudget concept which would provide more flexibility for individuals on the waiver in managing their service budget. In addition to discussing these initiatives, the provider meeting also focused on the critical need for ABC, the Agency's client information system, to remain updated by support coordinators as the agency relies on this system to mail out critical information and also to extract data for reporting to the legislature.

On October 16 a letter will be sent to individuals currently enrolled on the Medicaid waiver, inviting them to participate in the expansion of the CDC+ program. Each waiver participant will be given a deadline to confirm their interest. There will also be a discussion of the proposed expansion at the November FCC meeting. Should the number of people interested in participating in the CDC+ expansion exceed the 2500 slots allocated, a lottery or drawing will be held to determine the 2500 individuals selected to participate.

### **New Business:**

At the Direction of the APD Director, Area 2 will begin holding quarterly waitlist meetings. Two meetings have already been held- one on September 14, 2009 in Panama City and the other on September 28 in Marianna. Both meetings were fairly well attended. In addition, There will be a meeting on October 20 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Cedars Executive Center in Tallahassee at the APD office. The topics covered include an introduction of APD Area 2 staff with whom the waitlist parents will typically interact, a discussion of the QSI assessment process, a presentation of a community resource list of non med-waiver services available and information on accessing the APD website.

In addition, a future rule workshop will be scheduled to discuss the changes in law during the last legislative session which changes the prioritization for

individuals on the APD waitlist. Notices will be sent out when this rule workshop is scheduled.

Tracy Stewart gave a report of the bi-monthly FCC meeting in Orlando. J R Harding, APD staff and liaison for FCC, was there. In addition to serving as FCC liaison, Dr. Harding also focuses his efforts on transportation and employment issues.

Lynne Daw gave an update on the two challenges to the Tier law. The first challenge was that the assessments used to determine tier level for individuals was not valid. This challenge had previously been heard before the courts who ruled in favor of APD. However, in August 2009, the court rejected the findings of fact and determined the assessment instruments used to determine tier assignments were not valid. APD has filed a motion for rehearing in the First District Court of Appeal. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> challenge, U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle, granted a preliminary injunction to six plaintiffs at the end of September who were challenging their tier assignment. The Agency has 30 days to decide whether or not to file an appeal to this decision. In the interim, the Agency has not been enforcing tier assignments on individuals whose hearing requests were denied because they were considered insufficient.

Lynne Daw also gave an update on APD agency changes. Jim DeBeaugrine continues to represent the agency well before the Legislature. The current Deputy Director, Dave Robinson has assumed the interim title of Chief of Residential and Clinical Supports.. Mac McCoy is the new acting Deputy Director.

The time of the current FCC meeting was also discussed. There have been challenges in obtaining new members and in getting good attendance from current members at the present time for the FCC meetings. It was agreed that as we get additional members, this needs to be addressed and perhaps a better time can be agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4 at 11:30 a.m.

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Lou Ogburn, Secretary