

**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL AREA 4**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 1, 2009**

**ATTENDED BY:**

Members present: Maria Quinones, Sherri Vardas, Lisa Russell, Melinda Willaford, Peggy Houdeshell, Bahraj Mehta, Fran Sepehri  
Guests: Stephanie Willaford, Karen Cole, Jason Cole, Gerry Aveson, Sherndina Moreland, APD Area 4 Liaison, Terry Mothershed, APD Quality Leader, Marcella Kelly, APD Intake and Eligibility, Marcia Ulmer, APD CDC Liaison, Ashanti Jones, APD Budget Coordinator

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

The Council was glad to see new and interested parents come to the meeting and has encouraged them to fill out a membership application to serve on the Council.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Those members whose term has expired will still be considered members and maintain voting privileges once their application has been turned in to Sherndina Moreland, APD Liaison.

**OFFICERS:** Mr. Mehta's resignation as Treasurer was accepted by the Council, and Ms. Peggy Houdeshell was voted in as the new Treasurer.

**BUDGET:**

After welcome and introductions Sherri Vardas, Co-Chair began discussion of the proposed budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. She advised the Council that our booth at the upcoming World Conference on Disabilities – a \$1000.00 price tag – has been taken care of by a grant administered through Nancy Hanisch APD, Area 4 Supported Employment Coordinator.

The proposed budget was voted for unanimously.

**AREA 4 SUPPORT PLAN:**

Discussion on the Support Plan followed. It was agreed to change the wording under Goal 3 to "meet eight times per year". Also we will add a goal labeled "Purpose" which will be to "review the effectiveness of service programs through the APD and to make recommendations with respect to program implementation".

It was suggested to change the heading "Support Plan" to "Action Plan" to avoid confusion.

**JAN. 2010 HEALTH FAIR:**

There was discussion on the upcoming half day workshop which will be a “Health Fair” focusing on the Caregivers of Persons with Disabilities. We will have booths with providers, dental care, foot care, eye care, chiropractic care, massage, physical therapy etc. This will take place in January, location TBA. Ms. Moreland will try to book a speaker.

**LEGISLATIVE CONTACT:** Members and attendees were encouraged to contact their legislative representatives to discuss full funding for the Waiver program and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

**STATE FCCF UPDATE:** There will be free incontinent Supplies available for persons on the Waitlist for each area. This is in the planning stages at the moment, and is graciously provided by Woodbury Products.

**APD UPDATES:**

Marcella Kelly, APD Quality Leader gave an update on the process of conducting the QSI for everyone on the Waitlist. The APD Website will have Waitlist information, Resource Notebook. There will be a quarterly meeting for those on the Waitlist. Those on the Waitlist will also be contacted by the APD and offered assistance with accessing Vocational Rehabilitation as part of the VR’s stimulus funding for employment initiative. However, there is no “follow-up” by APD after a Waitlist person is assisted by Voc Rehab.

Marcia Ulmer, APD CDC Plus Leader gave an update about the CDC Expansion, and enrollment of 2500 new participants in the CDC Plus program over a period of time. If there are more than 2500 clients that would like to transfer into the CDC Plus program, then there will be a type of lottery drawing to fill the 2500 available spaces. The enrollment process will be done over a period of time. There will be significant training for new participants especially on forms and keeping accurate documentation. There is an automatic 8% reduction off the top of the budget amount and a monthly fee for program administration. There will be a Rule Development Workshop held on October 13, 2009, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., at AHCA in Tallahassee for those stakeholders that would like to attend. This Workshop will be for compliance of the program.

Terri Mothershed, APD Sr. Human Services Program Specialist, discussed the Flexible Services Plan, which has been approved by the Legislature, and involves more control by the client of how the budget is spent. The only services provided in the Flexible Services Plan, is ADT, Companion, Respite, In Home Supports, Supported Employment and Supported Living. Also, an automatic 8% reduction will be taken off the top of the budget amount. However, with the Flexible Services Plan, clients will be able to use any of the services included in the Plan at any time without having to request changes to the budget. Any client would have a choice in enrolling in this program.

i-Budgets were discussed by Ms. Mothershed also. This has not been approved by the Legislature. i-Budgets involves each client having their own budget, includes all services, and there is no 8% automatic reduction. The Co-Chair Ms. Vardas asked about

the difference between the i-Budget and the Tier system, because they sounded like the same. And, if the Legislature decides to implement the i-Budget, will the Tier system be eliminated. Ms. Mothershed did not have any information about this.

Ashanti Jones, APD Budget Coordinator, discussed the procedures for reimbursements, as well as current rates of reimbursements. Mr. Jones gave an explanation as to the “actual” balance and “current” balance of the Council’s budget, and that there is a delay in information posted by Tallahassee and the local office. The Council members should provide the Treasurer with copies or amounts of current expenses turned in to Mr. Jones so that accurate records are kept. The Treasurer and Co-Chairs will be the ones to approve travel and other expenses that were not part of the Budget.