

Area 7 Family Care Council Meeting

May 20th, 2009 Minutes

Mark Street Senior Recreation Complex

I. Welcome and Introductions: Donna Rauber, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and provided a packet of information for attendees to reference during the meeting. Individual introductions followed.

Attendees: Chris Drummond, Chris Dugan*, Don Faller*, Jeannie Forthuber*, Linda Herring*, Patti Jarrell, Lecia Knighton, Rosalind Murvin-King, Donna Rauber*, Ramón Ramón, Karen Rogers, Clara Rosenburg, Maryann Sarra*, Carol Solomon, Simone Tetreault, and Patricia Young.

* Denotes Gubernatorial Appointed FCC Members. A Quorum was present.

II. FCC Business

▪ **Treasurer's Report – Linda Herring:**

The fiscal year ends June 30th, 2009. As of today, the account balance is \$5,420.24 (not yet deducted: \$60.00 for 1000 State FCC brochures). Donna pointed out that Area 7 spends less money for travel expenses than the other districts due to the number of events that take place within the 50 mile radius. Monies not spent by June 30th will be returned to the State.

▪ **Membership Drive Update – Don Faller:**

In hopes of expanding FCC participation, close to 200 letters were mailed out to persons from the FCC data base. 11 responses were received with the majority of individuals expressing an interest in being associate members. Ramón and Lecia were two of the responders and attended today's meeting. Linda made a motion to send out the remaining letters. Maryann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

▪ **Exhibit Table – Upcoming Events**

- Autism Society of Greater Orlando Autism Walk (May 30th, 2009). Maryann will oversee the exhibit table. A \$30.00 AMC gift card was purchased with personal funds to donate to the raffle.
- Nathaniel's Hope (June 6th, 2009).
- Family Café (June 5th – 6th, 2009). Registration is still open and is free. On-line registration is available at: www.familycafe.net.

▪ **FCC Term Explanation – Donna Rauber**

FCC is part of Florida State Statute. Terms are 3 years in duration. The Governor's Council and Board policy reflects that after serving 2 consecutive terms the appointee will step down as a voting member for one year *once the vacancy has been filled* (unless a letter of resignation is submitted). This has not been the practice followed by Family Care Councils. A written policy from APD is forthcoming.

6 out of 8 of Area 7's FCC Governor appointees are at the end of their first term this year. The remaining 2 members are completing their second terms. At the end of the 1st term the appointee will receive a letter of appreciation from the Governor's office along with an application to serve a second term, if desired. The applicant is to complete the application form and give it to the chairperson for review and membership vote. Those completing their second term are to disregard the application packet. If it is not desired to remain as a voting member until the vacancy is filled, then a letter of resignation must be sent to Governor's Appointment Board. After waiting 12 months, the person can re-apply for FCC membership. Carol will conduct new applicant trainings.

III. APD Update – Carol Solomon, APD Area 7 FCC Liaison

- Merari Perez is acting District Administrator for Area 7. The final decision to fill the position has not been made.
- Waiver Support Coordinators have been given more access to the ABC system.
- An additional 2500 consumers (not on the wait list) will be able to participate in the Consumer Directed Care Program (CDC+). Consumers/families will be given extensive training prior to making their decision to enroll.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on June 10th at 400 West Robinson Street between 10 am and noon in room 106. Due to a rule change, children under the age of 21 are going to become eligible to receive PCA services through the State Medicaid Plan. An AHCA representative will attend this meeting to discuss means of getting the information out to families. The meeting is open to everyone. Donna will send out a notice of the meeting to those on the FCC email list.

IV. FCCF Update – Donna Rauber

APD Director, Jim De Beaugrine, attended the FCCF meeting and provided a Legislative/APD update:

- (1) It was approved to create a **Prepaid Services for Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities Study Group** to evaluate the establishment of a prepaid service plan for children with disabilities modeled after the Florida prepaid college program. Consumers/families can opt into this program and pay over years (via vouchers) so that by the time the consumer reaches 22 years of age monies will be available for needed services and,
- (2) **Implementation of a Flexible Benefits Program** was also approved. Monies allocated in the cost plan for ADT, Companion, Respite, Supported Living, Supported Employment and In-home Supports will become interchangeable and no longer require prior authorization.

V. Legislative Issues Update – Donna Rauber

- ❖ **Individual Budgeting Initiative** (approved) – The two goals for this initiative are: (1) “Create a fair process to establish individual budgets for individuals with developmental disabilities so they may live self-directed lives in the community” and, (2) “Create a waiver program that is more fiscally sound and secure so it can support the individuals it serves for the long term”. The handout (available upon request) lists objectives along with contact information for Hilary Brazzell (APD). Ms. Brazzell is asking for comments and suggestions from across all areas.
- ❖ **Wait List Priorities** (approved) – APD received legislative approval to review and amend the current system of Waiver enrollment (the date that the individual became an APD client). The handout provides a listing of the 8 prioritized categories. APD is requesting feedback. FCCF will be devoting a significant amount of time to this topic during the July 18th meeting and is also asking for input.

Donna highlighted the importance of each member making personal contact with his/her local representatives during the summer months. Donna also provided a handout titled: ACTION STEPS FOR EFFECTIVELY ADVOCATING WITH THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE (available upon request).

VI. Open Discussion

- **Area 7 FCC Family Support Plan**
Donna updated and furnished copies of our 2007-2009 FCC Family Support Plan (available upon request) The handout highlighted in **red print** the goals/objectives that have either been met or not accomplished to date. Donna facilitated discussion while reviewing the plan that will be addressed during the June 17th FCC meeting.
- The **June 17th FCC meeting** will be devoted to determining if Area 7 remains an active council or goes inactive. If it is decided to remain active, then in what format and with what type of leadership? Discussion elicited several possibilities. All thoughts/ideas expressed during this meeting will be put on the table as we finalize plans for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

*** For copies of any/all materials cited above please contact Chris Dugan at: cdugan@cfl.rr.com.

Next FCC Meeting: June 17th, 2009 Mark Street Senior Recreation Complex.

Donna Rauber adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rauber, Chairperson

Chris Dugan, Secretary