

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

ANN MILLAN, CHAIRPERSON

Amerisuites Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

January 22nd, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ann Millan, Chairperson
Patty Houghland, Vice Chairperson
Frank Carroll, Past Chairperson, District 3
Joy Frazier, Secretary – D1 Chair
Rob Mochrie, Suncoast Region West Co-Chair
Donna Rauber, D7 Representative
Sheryl Soukup, D8 Chair
Bob Wessels, D10 Chair
Lourdes Bravo, D11 Representative
Ka Samar, D12 Representative
Betty Kay Clements, D13 Chair
Jack Kosik, D14 Representative

STAFF & GUESTS

Eileen O'Brien, APD Central Office
Wilma Lefler, APD Central Office
Terri Rodgers, APD Central Office
Art Brown, FARF Guest
Beverley DeStories, Suncoast Region Guest
Bob Millan, Suncoast Region Guest
Amelia Rauber, D7 Guest
Lois Smith, D7 Guest

The mission of the Family Care Council Florida is to advocate, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Millan called the Family Care Council Florida meeting to order. Chair Millan gave a brief summary of today's agenda. A jar was identified to deposit quarters for individuals using acronym/initials not clarified properly. Packets were reviewed. Materials included a copy of the *Blue Ribbon Task Force Interim Report*, an updated CD on *FCC Orientation*, a copy of literature titled "*Protecting your Legal Rights*" from Choice Counseling, 2004 questions and answers from *Family CAFÉ*, and printout from accounting of expenditures for FCC's. Chair Millan asks for introductions and requests that each give a brief comment pertaining to the new Agency for Persons with Disabilities being inclusive of all disabilities. There is a round-table meeting in Tallahassee on Monday with Senator Campbell and Shelly Brantley. Several organizations are participating. The FCCF needs to generate a letter to present at the meeting. The general consensus from everyone is progress should be slow. Inclusion should be long term but it is good. Everyone agreed the APD needs to focus solely on developmental disabilities until all of its programs are in full operation and the wait list is addressed. Many chairs felt moving too quickly can result in major problems. Chair Millan will write a letter addressing concerns shared today by the FCC's to the committee. She will not be able to attend the meeting. No other chairpersons were available to attend. Darlene Golden (Shelly's Assistant) has agreed to provide a transcript from the meeting.

II. BUSINESS

Review of November 19th and 20th minutes:

Chair Millan asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. **Betty Kay makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented.** Frank seconds the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

Chair Millan advises that in the packet of information is a yellow sheet titled Expense Reimbursements Requested 7/1/04 – 01/05. These are all the expenses Chair Millan is aware of that have been or will be submitted for payment/reimbursement. Chair Millan gave an update on the “Florida Institute on Community and Disability (FICD)”.

Wilma provided each representative with a copy of a line item report of expenses per FCC district.

III. PRESENTATION – Terri Rodgers, Senior Management Analysis - APD

Chair Millan introduced Terri Rodgers. Terri is the Senior Behavior Analyst for The Agency for Persons with Disabilities. She sees the Family Care Councils as a means of helping her in the improvement function. She is looking towards preparing a satisfaction survey for behavioral services to be shared with FCCF and APD office instead of to the provider. She stressed there isn't any behavior analyst within the areas working for the agency who isn't interested in improved behavior services. The purpose of her presentation is to provide those in attendance with a knowledge of what families are getting, knowing what the agency wants and what they are striving as they interact with service providers in their capacity to try to improve behavioral services. Terri offered to come to area Family Care Council meetings to give this presentation or a modified version. She explained there is a behavior analyst in most district/area who works for the agency and in their capacity they provide oversight, leadership, direction, help to secure services and evaluate the need for behavior services. Depending on the size of the district/area their job is manageable yet some districts don't have such a position. Example, district 13 doesn't have such a position. They have someone who volunteers and functions in that capacity. She's very good but has a full time job in another area. District 8 just hired a part time person for the committee meeting function. Monthly LRC meetings, in the district/area, are held with behavior analysts and local service providers. The purpose of these meetings is that the persons who are receiving services whose behavior is serious enough to meet the requirements in Florida Statute 65B-4, are brought before the committee for review regardless of the kind of intervention that's being applied. It's in this capacity that FCC's can be of assistance. If you are in an area and find a situation that you think looks like something the LRC should have oversight for but it's not seen, that would be something the agency would like to know about. She provided an explanation on what takes place during an LRC. The question was asked if the LRC's are legally binding committees with by-laws. The answer was yes, they are mandated by Florida Statute and subject to the Sunshine Law. Each committee has separate by-laws which are available for review. It was suggested the FCC chairs request a copy from their area/district.

Terri began her power point presentation with an overview including examples of essential characteristics of applied behavior analysis. She shared examples of questions effective behavior analysts should be able to answer. Terri was asked if you find a success in improving a person's behavior, can that behavior revert/regress at some point in time? She shared people's behavior is a response to the environment and things that happen around them as well as their history. If the environment changes, the behavior changes. She stressed that every person, every situation is different. Behavior Analysis is really a very complicated field. Terri briefly reviewed the following: Basic Behavioral Principles; Indicators for Need for Behavioral Services; Intensity, Frequency, Effect; Indicators that a person might need behavior services; Residential Services: Intensive Behavioral – Service Characteristics and Eligibility; Behavioral Focus Service Characteristics and Eligibility; Process for Establishing Eligibility; and Behavioral Objectives. Terri stressed that all the different behavior characteristics are all based on a period of time. The service is designed to be short term, not necessarily time limits (ex. 18 months). It's not designed for the individual to have the service for the rest of his/her life. It's based on their need. Nothing in Medicaid Waiver is for the rest of a person's life because of the structure of the funding for Medicaid. The goal is to transition to a less intensive environment. Terri shared she is currently working on service requirements and seeing to it that all area/districts are following

these requirements. This is new, hasn't been done before and is really going to upgrade behavioral services. Chair Millan thanked Terri for attending our meeting and providing an excellent presentation.

IV. TELECONFERENCE CALL – APD Update - Denise Arnold

Chair Millan advised that Patty would be the facilitator of the questions.

Questions:

1. How does the Governor's budget request of \$1.3 billion to APD relate to last year's budget?

Denise advised it's an 11% increase of over last year.

2. What is the status of the law suit brought by FARF and ARC concerning the waiver handbook? Denise advised both organizations challenged changes to the current coverage and limitations waiver handbook. The lawsuit was filed in January, 2004. There has been no final order released. One of the challenges involved are the rates paid for services under the Medicaid Waiver. The resolve to the rate challenge was that APD would file a separate rule which was done in June. It has gone through the normal process of rule development. Too date, there has been no indication from Medicaid that the new rule has been challenged so Denise and others within the dept. are under the opinion that it wasn't challenged and the rates are in rule now. The hearing officer has not ruled yet on the other pieces challenged in the handbook. They don't know when there will be a ruling. ACHA does check on a regular basis. Any new language they proposed is not in rule so any program can't be run by that language until the challenge is resolved. She was asked what rule is being used. It's the official one dated October, 2002 which is posted on the website.

3. What is the status of the RFP that was awarded to PSA and challenged by Maximus? This relates to the company that would review all cost plans not reviewed by Maximus. Denise advised there has been a hearing scheduled for February 2nd thru 4th for the administrative hearing judge to hear the challenge brought by Maximus and make a ruling. One of three outcomes could take place being (1) the APD's decision would be upheld, (2) the APD would be required to re-bid which would mean starting the RFP process over again or (3) they would agree with Maximus challenge and award the contract to them.

4. What is the latest on the Freedom Initiative grant? Denise advised the Florida Freedom Initiative is a Social Security Administration waiver so it waves some of the rules of Social Security and is called a demonstration waiver. What's intended is to try some things to see what works. They are a little behind but she feels they can catch up. They have assigned some additional staff to work on it. This initiative is only open to individuals in the consumer directed care program. It's geared towards individuals wanting employment or home ownership. Informational sessions have been slated from February 16th in Tampa, February 17th in Orlando and February 22nd in West Palm, February 23rd in Miami and February 24th in Broward area. Flyers will be sent to individuals in CDC+ waiver. A 2 day training session will take place on March 14th and 21st for individuals who have chosen to participate. That's where you really learn the details of what the wavier will provide.

5. What is the status of the Family-to-Family RFP (previously held by FND)? Denise advised this RFP was also challenged. They only had one proposal that met all the qualifications so it was decided after the challenge to do a re-bid in order to get some competition. That process has just begun. She was asked if there was a deadline for proposals. Denise didn't have the announcement with her but said she would get that information for us.

6. What is the agency's position on expanding the APD? Denise shared they are certainly not looking to expand as they currently have their hands full. She shared it's not up to the agency to decide, it's up to the legislators. There are round table discussions coming up, there is a lot of interest and opinions on the subject. Patty shared with Denise that earlier in the day discussion took place among the group and everyone is in agreement with the APD's perspective and the

agency has the support of the FCCF. Denise shared key positions haven't been hired and establishing a table of organization structure isn't even complete yet.

7. What is the criteria for the Supported Living Waiver and issue of cost containment? Patty shared the concern is with new people asking for supported living in their cost plan. They're comparing what it would cost to support that person in a support living situation as compared to a 6-bed group home. Denise advised that cost containment was in last year's proviso language. It's applicable to the Home and Community based services waiver not the Family Supported waiver. The intent is to get some cost containment about people living in their own situations and people that may need roommates. The intention is not for people to move back to group homes but rather determine a funding allowance that can be provided to people. They have to determine a guideline of what it would typically cost a person to live in another arrangement and compare that to a supported living arrangement which might have to include roommates or who can the person live with. There has to be some perimeters on how much money can be spent. It's just impossible for the agency to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for a person to live in supported living on his/her own with 24 hour care. The state can't support that kind of funding. She shared it's not an easy thing to put in place but there are always some exceptions to deal with unique situations.

8. What's happening with Delmarva? We were all surprised about Marcia Hill's resignation. Denise shared that Marcia's original commitment was for 1 year and she has been there a total of 4 years. She thinks it's a personal decision relating to wanting to spend more time with family. Denise shared it will be very difficult to replace her because she knows the system so well. Patty asked about the timeline of the Delmarva contract. Denise advised the current four year contract is good through the end of June, 2005 and will have a renewal contract for another four years.

9. How can the area/districts have input into how the IFS (Individual Family Services) money is designated? Its taking any money that's anticipated not to be spent that has not already been committed to people not on the waivers or court-order situations they must abide by, using those monies to help towards individuals on the wait list. She advised the services will be more flexible. Again this year, it will be a one-time offering capped at \$3,000 per person. The only difference will be a person who is able to gain employment will not be considered one time offering. APD would commit for the next year.

10. What is the status on districts on becoming area/regions? Denise shared they want to change from districts to areas but have not worked out Suncoast region. Patty asked about the organizational structure, has it been finalized? The organizational structure was submitted with the transition plan. They haven't received an official approval of everything in the transition plan. She doesn't think it means it's not OK with the Governor's office its just there's nothing official you can point to. She named the positions that make up the table of organization but it's not complete and actual names haven't been released yet.

11. Can district training schedules be provided to families? Denise advised yes, of course families should be aware of district training schedules. She will add this to the agenda at the next leadership meeting the end of the month. It's very important that FCC's and any other consumer and family support groups be aware of these district trainings. Denise shared that because districts now report directly to the agency she hopes we will see much more consistency and quicker response. Chair Millan shared with Denise that Suncoast region contacted her asking to put the provider training lists on the FCC website as it's easier for families and providers to access.

12. Does Maximus generate a monthly report? Can the chairs of the district FCC's have access to these monthly reports. Denise didn't see any reason why not. Patty asked if Denise had any suggestions on how to make that happen. She will talk to Lorena Fulcher who does the contract with Maximus and ask her to send it to Chair Millan who will forward on to chairs.

13. Can you provide any input on the proposed Medicaid reform issue? Denise shared all she knows is the primary issue with Medicaid reform, and the waivers are affected, but that's not the primary place where there is concern. The Medicaid state plan with all its recipients is a much bigger pot of money than the APD's waivers. In terms of prioritizing how people are affected she doesn't see any great impact on APD waivers anytime soon. She really doesn't know much about Medicaid reform as to how it relates to our healthcare concerns. She suggests getting someone like Beth Kinner from Medicaid office to talk with a few parents or even set up a conference call with her.

Denise reported on some issues with regards to employment. They are trying to get clearance to use APD supports in helping the person now who has found a job rather than the person having to wait on VR referrals, wait for the person to get through eligibility process, wait for them to get a counselor assigned, and wait for getting a provider assigned. Once the person gets through the VR process then the agency can work with VR to request they pick up additional costs such as adaptive equipment, personal care assistance, transportation, etc. which would be their contribution since APD has provided the supports in the early stages. Chair Millan shared she thinks this is an incredible boost for natural supports and family members. They are also looking to get clearance on individuals who don't have employment yet but have started the process with VR, can APD commit to what is referred to as phase I (job development phase) while they are being processed through VR system. The first scenario is an employer will hire the individual. The second scenario is an employer has not been found and they need someone to help the person find the job. These are two policy changes that could really make a big difference. Denise wanted to remind the group of the quality management grant that Linda Mabile presented to the council last meeting. They hope to begin training the end of February or early March for the district staff to begin to learn what to do to bring the steering committees together. Once the staff has been trained they will begin pulling in committee members from the area probably around May or June. Denise said the Council on Quality and Leadership will be doing the training.

Will there be a future expansion of the CDC+ program. Denise advised yes they have a meeting scheduled with Medicaid in early February to determine what needs to be done to expand the program. A statement brought forth is there are still many problems with Acumen.

V. PRESENTATION – Art Brown, Florida Association of Rehabilitative Facilities (FARF) gave a presentation on Grassroots Advocacy. He shared information pertaining to the February FARF meeting, Ft. Lauderdale. A good portion of the meeting will be dedicated to Medicaid Reform. FARV has waived the registration fee for the 3 South Florida district FCC chairs to attend. Any other parents wanting to attend can at a reduced rate of \$60.00 per person. Chair Millan will be a keynote speaker on “Celebrate Employment” at the Wednesday lunch. Bob shared he contacted the offices of Senator Nan Rich and Representative Susan Goldstein and made arrangements for them to distribute a “Celebrate Employment” brochure to every Senator and Representative's mailbox.

Art asks, “How many in the room have been in contact with their congressional representatives and state level legislators?” He advised the need for more family participation in advocating both statewide and nationally. His presentation shared the importance of advocacy, examples of how people can get involved in advocacy, the importance of uniting and agreeing on a common goal, how to include personal stories in the process, getting to know your legislators, and the various different ways to communicate with your legislators. He stressed the importance of building alliances, working with other groups/organizations with the same common goal. The power is in the numbers. It's important the legislators know who the Family Care Council is and what is their platform. Art shared a little about the Step Up campaign which is a coalition of individuals, families, support providers and community agencies advocating for valid

assessments, consumer-driven choices and adequate funding of critical and vital services for Floridians with developmental disabilities.

Discussion followed stressing the need for everyone involved in the lives of individuals with disabilities must find a common ground, a platform to support. This includes self-advocates, parents and family members, guardians, support groups, small and large providers, and the organizations which support the providers. Ka mentioned how difficult it is to make contact with the legislators. They write letters, E-mails, etc. but don't get any feedback. He shared they have had much more success in going to the legislators office and talking to the office staff and legislative aides. He distributed his business card and shared that our voices will not go unheard. He shared that FARF has legislative guidebooks for distribution at \$5.00 per book. It includes all pertinent information regarding the upcoming legislative session. Also he suggested visiting the FARF website at www.floridaarf.org. He stressed the importance to get involved, contact your legislators. This will be a crucial legislative session with Medicaid Reform being a top priority. The entire country will be focused on what takes place in Florida on this issue. Florida Medicaid reform could become the model program for all states. Chair Millan thanked Art for his presentation and shared it's a lot to think about.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Home and Community Based Services Waiver, Support Living Waiver:

Patty shared on August 10th, 2004 the department issued a Policy Directive #04-02 titled Supported Living Cost Containment Measures which becomes effective July 1, 2004. It was previously discussed with Denise during the teleconference all. The directive does provide a method for requesting exceptions to the rule. Patty's concern is support coordinators aren't doing it because it's too much work. Therefore, it's up to parents and family members to push the issue if that individual should be in supported living. **A question that needs to be asked to Denise is how are they handling those individuals currently in supported living prior to July 1, 2004 and they are high cost. Will they fall under the scrutiny of this directive at the time their cost plan is renewed?** Currently, there are individuals with high cost plans, for various reasons. Will they lose their supported living arrangement? She wants people to understand there are solutions and options to pursue. She understands they do have to look at cost containment. Some cost plans are very high for persons in supported living but there may be a solution out there to bring down the cost.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

Chair Millan advised that Family CAFÉ registration begins on February 14th, 2005. Also mark your calendars, April 7th, 2005 is Developmental Disabilities Day sponsored by the FDDC at the capitol in Tallahassee.

FCC/Agency Liaison Teleconference Calls:

Chair Millan shared the concerns that the calls need to be restructured with better organization and a purposeful agenda. She thinks Denise's suggestion of inviting someone from Medicaid to participate in a teleconference call is an excellent idea. Eileen stressed again to please give her ideas for what we would like to have included in the agenda. She shared it's our calls to be structured anyway the FCC wants. Chair Millan suggested possibly doing the calls bi-monthly. Eileen's concern is there is so much going on within the agency that she doesn't want the sharing of information to become outdated. The purpose of the call is to do two things, (1) to strengthen the relationship between FCC chairs and area/district FCC liaison's; and (2) to share information between FCCCF meetings. She shared the agenda is open to all FCC chairs and liaisons. She will make arrangements for a Medicaid representative to participate on the February call. Bob suggested one segment of the call to be a 2 minute each chair district update as the liaisons would be interested in learning what is taking place in each FCC district. Chair Millan advised one problem with the call is that many of the chairs work during the day and are unable to

participate in the call. Chair Millan shared we have to be respectful of this and recognize if a district is not represented it's not that they're not interested. That is why she is suggesting that Donna take minutes of the teleconference calls so those not in attendance will know what has taken place. Eileen shared that in May or June she wants to arrange for Charles Ball, chairperson of the hurricane/emergency preparedness committee to participate in a teleconference call. Chair Millan reminded Eileen that we had requested that Sheryl Soukup be a part of that committee. If this isn't possible could she at least receive the information of what is taking place? Patty suggested that a portion of the calls be designated to the liaisons to share what they are doing to support the Family Care Councils.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Medicaid Reform:

One of the questions directed to Denise was prepared by Sheryl sharing her concerns with regards to the proposed Medicaid reform and specifically how it will affect the healthcare of our individuals with developmental disabilities. **Sheryl makes a motion that a letter be written to our legislators expressing our healthcare concerns.** Jack seconds the motion. Chair Millan asked if there was any discussion. Donna would like to see added to the letter the concerns we already see with doctors and dentists continually dropping out of the Medicaid program. With this proposed reform, where is the guarantee there will be medical specialists to care for our loved ones? Lourdes shared University of Miami is very interested in working out something in developmental medicine. The motion was approved by consensus.

APD Expansion:

Chair Millan reminded everyone of the meeting taking place on Monday in Tallahassee with Senator Campbell, Shelly and representatives from organizations throughout the state. She is asking if anyone can attend this meeting. No one was available on such short notice. Under those circumstances, Chair Millan would like someone to make a motion that the FCCF send a letter based on the comments the group shared earlier. **Bob makes a motion that we authorize the chair to summarize our comments and present in letter form to Senator Campbell and Shelly at the Monday meeting.** Rob seconds the motion. Any discussion? Sheryl asked if possibly Eileen or Wilma to read the letter on our behalf? Eileen advised she would make sure it was read and included in the minutes. Chair Millan has requested a transcript of the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Celebrate Employment:

Chair Millan reminded everyone that a vote was taken and approved at the last meeting to reprint the current Celebrate Employment brochure. One reason is for the legislators and to keep promoting the project by continuing to focus on individuals out in the workforce. Chair Millan would like to ask for a motion to give the chairperson the authority to negotiate a contract or agreement, if appropriate, if the opportunity arises for a 2005 Celebrate Employment brochure focusing on competitive employment. Chair Millan thinks she might have an opportunity for someone to partner with the FCCF as this is a very large project for our group to tackle alone. Lourdes shared she would think this is the type of project that FDDC would want to partner with the FCCF as this is the type of thing their funds are used for. She would suggest contacting the FDDC. Chair Millan says the reason the FCC did not partner with anyone this past year was because of the short time frame and no one on the counsel volunteered to write a grant. **Sheryl makes the motion to give the chairperson permission to negotiate with another entity to create the next Celebrate Employment brochure.** Frank seconds the motion. No additional discussion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Miscellaneous:

Chair Millan advised that Beverley DeStories has agreed to attend the grant writing class sponsored by FARF. The cost is \$150.00 and if the FCCF agrees to pay for the class she has

agreed to write a grant proposal for the FCCF. **Frank makes the motion to authorize the expenditure of funds for this purpose.** Rob seconds the motion. No further discussion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Sheryl advised the group that the Senate and House Select Committees will begin holding Medicaid Reform public hearings throughout the state beginning the week of February 7th. In addition to the letter the FCCF is writing, it's a good opportunity for Family Care Councils and individuals to write letters. It's important to copy the Governor and Enpowercare.com. Chair Millan shared that Pete Dubroff and Jack Kosik will keep the FCC updated with legislation and she will pass on to the council.

Citizen's Concern - Lourdes Bravo, District 11

Lourdes asked how many have been through a Medicaid fair hearing? She shared the events that took place with her daughter after receiving a letter of reconsideration in October, 2004. The events included a change in support coordinators and changes in her daughters support plan due to health issues. After deciphering the letter, the choice given was to add to the reconsideration and/or request a fair hearing. She sent what she had from the doctor again and what was returned was a denial of service requested as it wasn't medically necessary. Lourdes shared there is a disenfranchisement with the process as most parents within her district wouldn't know where to begin to get advice on what to do once they received the letter. You're given only 14 days to reply. Lourdes downloaded the huge Medicaid handbook which she brought with her which when reading the definition of medical necessity, her daughter does qualify. They don't say it's medically necessary prior authorization for the particular services her daughter needs. Lourdes felt she had a clear cut case and contacted the Advocacy Center to represent her. They finally advised they don't represent these kinds of cases. She started looking for an attorney. She unsuccessfully went through numerous contacts, finally found one attorney who would charge \$3,500 just to show up at the hearing. He told her they probably wouldn't win because most administrative hearings are not won, however, when you appeal them at the next level (5 days to do that) in front of an appellate court judge and usually at that level 90% are overturned. The majority of parents don't know this and they don't go to the next level. The attorney stated his fee for the appeal process would be \$7,000 - \$10,000. She detailed the appeal process she went through and to date still doesn't have an answer. She shared people on the CDC+ program don't have to abide by medically necessary guidelines as they receive a pot of money which they can use for any service they want. She has brought this to the attention of the council in hopes that FCCF and Family Care Councils can take some steps to educate self-advocates and families on how to deal with the fair hearing process. A step-by-step documentation of the process needs to be developed for families. Chair Millan shared one of the issues discussed during the communications committee meeting was that each Family Care Council, in developing their Family Work (Support) plan, should include in this plan to review the cost savings with Maximus within each district on a monthly basis. The communications committee goal is to review and make recommendations on the use of recouped funds from Maximus, prior service authorization monthly activity reports. Bob shared he went through the exact same thing as Lourdes and everything she stated is true and factual. He said the only difference is they went through Legal Aid. Lourdes shared she contacted Legal Aid in Miami and they wouldn't take her case. It also mentioned the role of the support coordinator and his/her role and the importance in writing a good support plan. Many individuals are at risk depending on who is writing the plan. It was learned at the IQC meeting that 98% of all fair hearings are denied. It was shared how discouraging it is that the Advocacy Center refuses to get involved in these cases. Bob suggested the chair form an Ad-hoc committee to research and make recommendations regarding this very serious issue. Chair Millan agreed and asked for committee members. Lourdes suggested this could be an issue to present to the Bar Association and ask if they would partner with the FCCF in finding some solutions to obtain funding needed

for attorney participation and/or help educate families who are confronted with the fair hearing process. Chair Millan also shared she could write a letter to SAC asking for statewide fair hearing statistics. The following attendees have agreed to be on the Ad-Hoc committee: Bob Wessels, Lourdes Bravo, Sheryl Soukup and Beverley DeStories.

Upcoming Meetings:

Chair Millan advised there has been some thought from the APD that one FCCF meeting a year should take place in Tallahassee. She needs some feedback from representatives. It's not easy for all of us to travel to Tallahassee. Several indicated their FCC district budgets didn't allow for dollars to travel to Tallahassee. Possibly it could be considered for next fiscal year with time to plan and budget for such a meeting. Chair Millan suggested giving it some thought and she'll bring up the subject at the March meeting for consideration during next fiscal year.

Nominating Committee:

Chair Millan advised it's time to select a nominating committee for next fiscal year's officers. Rob has agreed to be on the committee. Anyone else interested should contact her.

Closing comments:

Several of the representatives expressed much concern in regards to the importance of the Family Care Councils and newly approved potential members not being appointed by the Governor. Also that Shelly has been invited often and hasn't attended in over 2 years. The solution to travel to Tallahassee isn't a guarantee that she would be available. Besides it's much more costly to use taxpayer dollars to send 15 representatives to Tallahassee than have Shelly attend one of our meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, Chair Millan officially adjourned the meeting at 4:00.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DONNA RAUBER