

Family Care Council Florida
Teleconference Call with APD
Thursday, October 20th, 2005, 7-9 PM

Participants:

District 1 – Joy Frazier, Patty Houghland - FCC Liaison – Linda Hoover
District 2 – FCC Liaison – Lynne Daw, AQL - Melda
District 3 – APD PA – Jim Smith,
District 4 – FCC Liaison – Debbie Wadsworth
Suncoast Region 5 - Ann Millan, APD PA – Carl Littlefield
Suncoast Region 6 - Rhonda Sloan
District 7 - Rob Holl, Donna Rauber - FCC Liaison – Carol Solomon
District 8 - FCC Liaison – Elaine Gage
District 9 - FCC Liaison – Debbie Blizzard
District 10 – Bob Wessels - APD program office – Bonnie, AQL – Gimela
District 11 - Margarita Montalvo, Yolanda Herrera , FCC Liaison - Marcie Britton & Evelyn Alvarez
District 13 - FCC Liaison - Brenda Stevens
APD Central Office – Linda Mabile, Terri McGarity and Eileen O’Brien

Chair Millan began by sharing that she and Bob Wessels attended the Interagency Quality Council quarterly meeting on October 13th and 14th in Orlando. They were very impressed with learning what the area steering committees are accomplishing as part of the Area Quality Leadership project. She felt it important that FCC’s learn about what is going in the different areas.

Updates:

Chair Millan mentioned an excellent article in the Wall Street Journal featuring a couple with developmental disabilities who are planning on getting married.

Yellow books - Six of the FCC representatives have reviewed the yellow books and sent their comments to Melinda Coulter which included a letter with additional concerns and issues.

BLN conference in Tallahassee - The kickoff campaign included the Celebrate Employment awards to the 3 employers of the year. They received plaques from the Governor and Shelly Brantley. The employers were Payless Shoe Source in District 7, Belks Department Store in District 13 and Searcy law firm in District 9.

Governor Appointments - Chair Millan talked with a representative from the appts. office and nothing is being done at the current time and she could not provide a date for the next press release.

FCC Funding dollars - Chair Millan received a phone call from Wilma Lefler advising the approved district funding dollars have been transferred to the state account. Upon her return, she will issue a purchase order to FICD.

Area Quality Leadership - Linda Mabile provided some background information on the Real Choice Grant. Its focus is quality assurance and quality improvement measures. The APD grant focused on developing capacity and resources in each of the areas across the state. The purpose being for outcomes for people would be more positively impacted. They had 2 primary tasks to complete the first year; (1) Selection and training of Area Quality Leaders and (2) Selection of local steering committees made up of a variety of stakeholders in each area. Their purpose is to look at data specific to that area, look for barrier/problems and start dealing with local issues in hopes of resolving those issues.

Linda shared that a part of the Interagency Quality Council meeting was devoted to the Area Quality Leadership project. Representatives from area groups shared what they are doing. Linda shared it's very exciting and is pleased with all the local involvement. Chair Millan shared how important it is for the Family Care Councils to get involved and work closely with their area quality leaders. Linda advised that Family Care Council representatives are a major part of each steering committee.

At this time the area representatives were asked to share some information on the project they have chosen to pursue.

Area 4 – Debbie Wadsworth advised that Terry Mothershed is their area AQL person. Terry does have a wide representation and the leader of the steering committee is a self-advocate. One of the projects they have identified is working to recruit dentists, an identified need in their area. They have held several meetings with a representative from ASK (Advocacy, Support, Knowledge) program who is helping with looking at the enrollment process and how to assist dentists with completing the enrollment packet. They have identified 3 – 5 dentists who have expressed interest. Linda added that Terry mentioned that some system barriers were preventing dentists from participating. This allows them to look at their own system and make improvements. Debbie advised that Terry has been to a couple of Family Care Council meetings to bring them up to date on the projects. She shared about 12 – 15 people are involved in the steering committee.

Area 11 – Evelyn Alvarez gave a summary of what is taking place in their area. They have established a steering and advisory committee. They meet monthly. The project they have chosen is choosing to work. They want to primarily concentrate on employment, self-sufficiency and transitioning. Prior to next monthly meeting, they have been charged with reviewing the partners in transition document that was developed in collaboration with the FDDC earlier in January. They have a very large steering committee which includes FCC, VR, waiver support coordinators, consumers and family members, Dade Co. school representative, other providers, a former Delmarva employee and APD staff. Yolanda provided additional information on the partners in transition and how they are helping the schools to transition especially people with more significant disabilities for work. They are planning to train for the job market, not for what's available. They are planning future local summits to get everyone involved.

Chair Millan shared the next Partners in Transition summit will be April 25th & 26th, 2006 in Orlando.

Area 10 – Gimela advised their steering committee includes consumers, families, providers and representatives from the school district. They have a number of people still interested in participating. They have about 20 invited members on steering committee and 15 invited members on the advisory group. She gave a brief summary of what has taken place in their monthly meetings. The project they have chosen is affiliation. The consumers are having their personal outcome measures reviewed, discussed and planned for them but it's not necessarily including all the major folks in their lives. Examples include guardians, folks at the schools, people they are affiliated with in the community. The committee members felt this was a good place to start because it's something they can accomplish by working with their partners. She advised they are very fortunate to have very active members on the committees.

Linda advised that all steering/advisory committee meetings are open for anyone to attend. Also, they are working with IT to include a link on their website that provides area meeting dates, members and projects. Bob asked about travel expenses for steering committee members to attend IQC meetings. Linda advised travel expenses can be arranged as long as they know far enough in advance to prepare a travel advance.

Area 9 – Debbie Blizzard advised their steering committee has met and identified several areas necessary to work on. One area is transportation. They are coordinating with the county on this problem. An APD staff member has been working diligently with them but more needs to be done. Another area is outcomes with the person centered reviews. Delmarva met with them last month. The past several months some staff members have been sitting in on person centered reviews. Next

month a few steering committee members will be participating in some person centered reviews. Debbie advised they have assigned an individual to assume the AQL responsibilities within 2 weeks. She shared that several members of the steering committee participated in their disability mentoring day which was very well attended.

Area 7 – Carol Solomon shared they have held about 5 meetings. They have 12 steering committee members and 8 advisory committee members. The project they have chosen is safety awareness. In reviewing Delmarva data they noticed a decline in individuals feeling safe. They decided to work on developing community awareness of safety issues. They plan on targeting the whole community, people living in group homes, family homes, in their own homes. They are currently working on their implementation plan.

Suncoast Region – Carl Littlefield advised things are going very well. He shared they have about 16 people on the steering committee which includes self-advocates, family members and providers. He indicated the most gratifying thing to him is they have really grasped the mission. Under Marcy's AQL leadership they have developed a real desire to work. Under the advisory group they have had multi-disciplinary participation who are also eager to participate. They have chosen as their project supported living. They plan on working closely with the region to accomplish their goals. They are in the process of reviewing the Delmarva data.

Area 3 – Jim Smith shared their program office is very proud of their committee. They have a good cross-section of committee members similar to the other areas. They have combined their steering and advisory committees totaling 25 people. They have reviewed the Delmarva data from the past couple of years, compared their area with the state and national data and looked at 2 or 3 areas they are doing the least well in and chose civil rights as their project. They are looking at some possible root causes for why their performance is not up where it should be. Next meeting they will be analyzing those root causes to see which ones to tackle in order to prepare their implementation plan. He praised the leadership role taken on by their area quality leader. He shared it's been a real good experience for them.

Area 2 – Melda shared their steering committee has 17 members and advisory committee has 10 members. Their meetings also include both committees. They have had 4 meetings in various locations as their area covers a vast geographical area. They are working on identifying the projects but it's been a challenge because of the transportation issues. They are looking into other ways of conducting their meetings rather than face to face. They are currently researching some software by Microsoft titled Sharepoint which is an internet system where people can communicate with each other. They are working to find answers to the barriers of distance and transportation. They are looking to find representation from their Family Care Council.

Area 1 – Linda Hoover advised she is on the steering committee as well as Lynn Carper, FCC vice chair. Joanne David is their area quality leader. They have about 12 members and next week will be there third meeting. They have chosen improving the language barrier so that consumers will better understand their rights. An example is how technically Chapter 393 is written. They have gone through Chapter 393, highlighted the major points and put into pamphlet form. They have given it to the ABE department which is helping them to make the text as understandable as possible. The next step is to put it into some type of picture pamphlet for the individuals unable to read.

Area 13 – Brenda Stevens advised they have approximately 16 people in total on the committees and have held 4 meetings. She shared that Betty Kay Clements from FCC is on the steering committee and very helpful. They have had some POM and Delmarva data training. They have chosen as their project community inclusion. Beginning in Citrus County (the pilot project) they have chosen five services that they want to target with consumers in each service with the support coordinator also involved. They are still working on ideas so they can begin developing their implementation plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Rauber