

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

ANN MILLAN, CHAIRPERSON

Amerisuites Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

September 30th, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ann Millan, Chairperson
Bob Wessels, D10, Vice Chairperson
Patty Houghland, Past Vice Chairperson
Frank Carroll, D3 Representative, Past Chair
Rhonda Sloan, Suncoast Region
Donna Rauber, D7 Chair
Sheryl Soukup, D8 Chair
Margarita Montalvo, D11 Chair
Betty Kay Clements, D13 Chair

STAFF & GUESTS

Jean Sherman, D10 Guest
Zoharah Peters, Suncoast Region 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 meeting to order and asked for introductions. She began the meeting by sharing a situation within one of the district FCCs that requires some crisis intervention.

Discussion followed among the group to arrive at some solutions to solve these problems. Chair Millan shared some conversations she has had with Kerry Schoolfield. He has included as part of the district PA's job description the need to communicate with FCCs on a regular basis. He also shared that in the future he will see that more representation from Central Office is present at FCCFlorida meetings. Chair Millan is hopeful that Kerry will be of assistance with regards to the district FCC issue. Chair Millan believes there is a need to establish some FCC ethics. There is some responsibility associated with being governor appointed, not just supporting him. It should include acting responsibly as an FCC member. It was suggested to check the governor appointment website to see if it includes guidelines associated with membership. It was discussed that each district FCC have the authority to approve whoever is making application to become a member. Everyone was reminded that it states in the FCC legislation that "each district FCC shall consist of at least 10 and no more than 15 members recommended by a majority vote of the district FCCs and appointed by the Governor". Some appointments are being approved at the Governor's appointment office without district FCC approval. One of the problems is it specifically states on the application to send to the Governor's appointment office. This is an issue that needs to be addressed to Kerry. It was suggested a liaison needs to be appointed between APD and Governor's appointment office. If they refuse to do that then an officer of FCCFlorida should be named as liaison.

Chair Millan mentioned another issue needing some ethical guidelines pertains to FCC funding dollars and how they are used within the districts. An example is Family CAFÉ attendance. Some districts are sending the same people every year. We need to remember our purpose and give other people an opportunity to attend conferences such as Family CAFÉ. The districts also need to be in control of who is attending (using FCC monies) to be sure they are participating in Family CAFÉ and not taking advantage of where they are and doing other things.

Chair Millan also wants chairs to remind their councils the importance of representing all individuals with developmental disabilities, not just their own child. It's important when

attending conferences that you step “outside the box” and attend workshops/meetings that you’re not familiar with in order to be more knowledgeable on other disability issues. People tend to think FCC’s don’t represent diversity which is not true. She reminded everyone of the different handicapping conditions that FCC’s represent is unique to any other statewide board. This was one reason she had each FCC representative share with Rep. Goldstein their loved ones disability at the last meeting. She also shared this with Denise Arnold. We should all be very proud of the diversity of developmental disabilities represented on the FCCFlorida board.

Chair Millan has developed a survey to be filled out by each FCC chair which provides questions relative to district program office involvement with Family Care Councils. This is to be sent to Kerry Schoolfield.

Chair Millan shared that she will focus on all developmental disabilities being represented. The family care councils need to be bringing on more individuals with developmental disabilities and not just individuals that have one particular handicapping condition. She believes as family members we can lead the way on this issue. She shared Patty will provide more on this during Saturday’s meeting.

Chair Millan reminded everyone of the benefits of using FCC funding dollars to attend conferences. It’s a wonderful learning process which can be shared with your councils and the people we serve.

Yellow Book Training committee – Chair Millan advised that Sheryl resigned from the committee. It was decided to disband the committee until FCC has reviewed the new book. Chair Millan’s consensus from other FCCFlorida chairpersons is if FCC takes on the yellow book training we should accept interested persons and designate 4 trainers in the state. It’s not necessary to have a trainer in each district. FCCFlorida picks the trainers with support from APD. She asked if anyone is interested please let her know. She sees the family care councils as being the facilitators and responsible for setting up the trainings in their district. The latest edition will include information on all the waivers. The agency is currently proofing the book. Chair Millan thinks the trainings should take place between March and June. Bob requested that we make sure we’re given several weeks to review the book. Also, request review before the book goes to the printers. Margarita wants to review the Spanish version before it’s sent to the printers. Jean shared a part of the new book is the FDDC Planning Ahead handbook which is an updated version of her PREPARE modules of years ago. She explained this new part of the handbook will also require training of consumers and families as to how to use the material. It should not be passed over in the training process. Discussion followed pertaining to the last trainings and the problems that occurred due to not knowing that Gulf Coast families were notified to attend trainings. Trainers were not prepared and no one from district program offices was notified to attend to answer these families’ questions.

Future Meetings – Discussion followed regarding other possible solutions for future meeting locations. Comparisons were made between Amerisuites and Wingate. Chair Millan and others will check out the Wingate after today’s meeting. A decision will be made on Saturday. Chair Millan brought up the subject of FCCFlorida considering a future meeting in Tallahassee. Previously it had been discussed to hold the FCCFlorida meeting the same time as FDDC’s DD day. Chair Millan’s recommendation is to not have meeting during DD day. Discussion followed to determine when would be the best time for a meeting that would provide the opportunity for legislative attendance. It was suggested to check into if the council could use the Capitol Observatory for a breakfast meeting with invited legislators. Patty emphasized the need to develop a clear purpose for going to Tallahassee. Sheryl shared several reasons to consider doing this. One is to educate our family care council advocates and another is to educate the legislators. Another possibility while in Tallahassee would be to have an informal FCCFlorida meeting at APD and invite Shelly and other staff to attend. It was suggested to write a letter to the Senate President and Speaker of the House.

FCCFlorida Funding Dollars – Chair Millan advised that she will be asking for a motion on Saturday to vote on requesting APD to transfer FCCFlorida funding dollars to FICD. Bob Wessels will be in charge of the accounting functions. Chair Millan also advised that Suncoast Region West has voted to have their funding dollars transferred to FICD. She advised that APD has changed their format on paperwork requirements resulting in Wilma having to re-do previously submitted invoices. Rhonda asked if the forms and documentation will be the same as what is currently submitted to APD. Bob shared yes. All procedures will remain the same except forms/documents, after approval by FCC chairperson, will be sent to FICD instead of to the district liaison and APD for approval. Each district council will have the opportunity to vote on having FICD as their fiscal agent. FICD will charge a fee of 10% for administrative costs. The question was asked if the chairperson can purchase items such as office supplies and be reimbursed rather than having to go through the district program office. Bob advised yes. Another question the APD required purchases be made by April. Can purchase be made in May or June? Bob advised yes as long as the receipt is dated prior to June 30th. FICD will require the district council to submit a budget.

At this time Chair Millan asked for those in attendance to separate into 2 groups, one pertaining to FICD and the other to discussing legislative issues which includes whether FCCFlorida should consider becoming legislatively mandated.

Respectively Submitted,

Donna Rauber