

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

PATTY HOUGHLAND, CHAIRPERSON

Hampton Inn Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

November 18th, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patty Houghland, FCCF Chairperson
Bob Wessels, FCCF Treasurer
Ann Millan, FCCF past Chairperson
Joy Frazier, A1 Chair, FCCF Secretary
Frank Carroll, A3 Representative
Beverley DeStories, Suncoast Region Chair
Donna Rauber, A7 Representative
Maria Eash, A8 Chair
Margarita Montalvo, A11 Chair
Betty Kay Clements, A13 Chair, FCCF vice Chair
Sara Howerton, A14 Representative
Todd Decker, A15 Chair

STAFF & GUESTS

Stephanie Khan, APD Central Office
Terri McGarrity, APD Central Office
Charmaine Pillay, Delmarva
Cheryl King, Delmarva
Jack Kosik, Noah's Ark Florida
Brittany Kosik, Guest
Margaret McNutt, Noah's Ark Florida
Jared McNutt, Guest
John Montalvo, A11 Guest
Amelia Rauber, A7 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. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Houghland called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She asked for introductions to include name, area represented and one interesting fact about either you or your council. Contained in the yellow folder is the agenda, memo regarding teleconference call on Monday regarding DOAH hearing process, information pertaining to a excellent website from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Development Disabilities, Healing Thresholds website (www.HealingThresholds.com) which combines community knowledge with layperson-accessible summaries of the latest medical research on autism but relates to all developmental disabilities, a notice from Florida Institute for Family Involvement, an FCCFlorida powerpoint presentation titled "United we Stand" prepared by Ann Millan & Betty Kay Clements which was presented at the FASC conference, a document pertaining to the APD operating procedure on Incident Reporting and Risk Prevention, a Fact Sheet on Pediatric Bipolar Disorder as it's becoming a more common diagnosis, Exhibitor agreement for Family CAFÉ, ARC Florida Legislative Priorities – 2007 Session and a notice from AAMR advising they have changed their name to American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). The green folder provided by APD will be shared at a later time by Stephanie or Terri.

II. WORKGROUP REPORT

Chair Houghland announced the workgroup met on Friday afternoon. She advised several members in attendance will provide information discussed at the meeting.

- **Meeting Location** - Bob Wessels advised the contract with the Hampton Inns expires with current meeting. There are three more meetings scheduled for current fiscal year being January, March and May. Through the efforts of Stephanie at Central Office, she arranged for Bob to contact Holiday Inn Select. The rate would be \$95.00 per room for a block of rooms. The conference room is \$200.00 for Saturday. They have a boardroom suite with a meeting room that can be used for Friday meetings at the same \$95.00 rate.

They have contracted with Holiday Inn Select for the next three meetings which is a substantial savings from the current rates. The block room arrangement made with Holiday Inn Select will be a guarantee of 10 rooms. We must end up with at least 80% of the guarantee. It's very important to note a cut-off date must be adhered to in order to take advantage of the \$95.00 rate. The rate after the cut-off date will be \$114.00. Chair Houghland will send out an E-mail advising of the cut-off date.

- **Year End Report** – Ann advised she has concerns with sending the report to the legislators and Governor which has been done in the past. Instead of doing this, it was decided to form a committee to visit Governor Elect Charlie Crist or his representative and educate him about the Family Care Councils. Much of the year-end report can be used as talking points. Ann shared that Betty Kay has someone on her council who has already been communicating with a Charlie Crist representative. The working group suggested the newly formed committee could work with Isabelle on this project. By including FCCFlorida members, it would show the councils are working together.
FCCFlorida website – Ann shared members who showed up early on Friday participated in a pre-workgroup session and edited the provider satisfaction survey form to be added to the consumer corner of the website. She asked that everyone encourage consumers and families to use the survey. Chair Houghland will send out a notice when it's on the website. Joy will keep the statistics. Ann advised that Jim Miller added a crawl to the website that shows the number of people on the waitlist. Ann shared the website is getting at least 3,000 hits a month. The phone calls Ann receives are mostly from out-of-state people. She mentioned the FCC bulletin has still not been printed.
- **1-800 phone number** – FCCF is requesting the Champs number which is non-existent currently. Chair Houghland explained what they are asking for is to use the Champs 800 number and hire an answering service (a real person) who takes the calls, logs them in, gets contact information and a core group will be responsible for contacting the answering service on a regular basis. They will gather the names and forward on to area representatives who will contact the person who called. The problem is who will pay for the answering service. Chair Houghland suggested one possibility would be the APD consider applying for a grant through the DD council. Terri asked if the council planned on preparing a proposal with all necessary information. Chair Houghland advised yes. Chair Houghland asked everyone to think about the script that should be used by the person answering the call and send any suggestions to her.
- **Getting to know you committee** - Betty Kay asked for a framework of how the council expects her to work with the committee assigned to meet with Governor Elect Crist. Chair Houghland asked for committee volunteers. Chair Houghland, with help, will prepare the introductory letter. Any volunteers will have to pay travel costs to Tallahassee from area FCC funding dollars. There needs to be a time line developed. Committee members are: Betty Kay Clements, Todd Decker, Maria Eash and Isabelle from Area 13. Backup volunteers will be Frank Carroll and Joy Frazier. Bob mentioned the meeting must take place prior to Christmas week. Terri mentioned Governor Elect Crist's transition team has been in touch with APD within the past few days.
- **FCCFlorida committees** – Chair Houghland is asking the FCCFlorida council members to seriously look at people within their area councils who are interested in working for individuals with developmental disabilities and invite them to become FCCF committee members. Currently the council is not as well represented as it should be and we need our issues expressed. Some of the current issues include the wait list, funding, foster care, and prioritizing of disabilities. The council needs committees working on these issues to keep everyone informed. Ann mentioned all the area council members

statewide that have participated in Partners in Policymaking. These people are all well informed and would be a major asset to our committees. Chair Houghland asked Joy to add to her summary notes a homework assignment to seek out new committee members within area councils. Beverley mentioned the need for collaboration between FCCFlorida and APD with regards to any changes being considered to Chapter 393 that pertain to Family Care Councils. A committee should be assigned to this issue and work closely with APD during the consideration process. Terri asked if the council would like to set up a conference call with Lucy Mohs, the APD person who has the lead on 393. The council advised yes. Ann stressed the need for all councils to have a representative on these teleconference calls. Maria asked if people participating on calls and on committees have to be voting FCC members or can they be associate members. Chair Houghland advised they can be anyone interested in participating.

- **FCCFlorida E-list** – Chair Houghland advised that currently the FCCF E-list includes mostly the chairs. Sometimes the E-mails don't get forwarded on to area members. She is asking if the chairs would like others involved in their area councils added to her E-list to send their names and E-mail addresses to her. Bob made a recommendation for Chair Houghland to prepare an E-mail to her current E-list offering this request as several chairs are not in attendance today.
- **FCCFlorida Brochures** – Ann mentioned she and Betty Kay attended the FASC conference and had no materials for the FCCFlorida exhibit table. Maria advised she had to prepare mailing labels with her contact information and insert over Sheryl Soukup's information on the current statewide brochure. Also, there is nothing on the statewide brochure that addresses the Spanish speaking community. Therefore we need new statewide brochures and brochures in Spanish. Bob advised there is no money for brochures. Maria shared with everyone a postcard created by ADA Advisory Board of Southwest Florida that contains all the necessary contact information. It could take the place of a brochure. Maria and Ann volunteered to work on creating a postcard with necessary information and a cost to print.

III. DELMARVA PRESENTATION – Charmaine Pillay, Delmarva Regional Manager Cheryl King, Quality Improvement Consultant

Chair Houghland introduced Charmaine and Cheryl. Charmaine began by sharing how excited they were for the opportunity to participate in our meeting. She felt it was long overdue. She advised they have a brief powerpoint presentation but would like to devote most of their time to brainstorming with everyone in attendance. She shared Delmarva's vision and what they do. They do a lot of individual interviews. They meet one on one, face to face, with individuals receiving APD services and gather as much information as possible to determine what it is they want not just today but in the future. They also work with providers to determine how they are addressing the needs and supports for the individual. They identify how the providers are performing currently and identify any gaps. Many of the gaps come from system issues, communication with APD, families or the individual who needs verbal assistance. They find that many providers have difficulty in communicating with an individual who is unable to speak words. They offer suggestions to show the individual has other ways of communicating. Charmaine shared they work closely with APD and AHCA. Bob asked if they could share with the group the number of individual interviews done on an annual basis. Charmaine didn't have actual data but advised they have done 8,000 individual interviews since they began in November, 2001. Cheryl added the number is only the personal outcome measures. Currently everyone is on a random sample and the individual is open for an interview every 12 months. Once interviewed the person can't be selected again for 12 months. After the 12 months has passed they're put back into the pool and up for random selection. Charmaine added there is a

CORE interview for individuals but not included in above statistic. The CORE process for individuals is different from the POM process for individuals. It was mentioned that Delmarva has a well documented, user friendly website with on-line training tools. The website is: www.dfmc-florida.org .

Cheryl provided information pertaining to the Waiver Support Coordination Consultation (WISCC) tool. She provided everyone with a sheet outlining what takes place when she does a consultation. She advised each consultation is about a 2-1/2 day process. The WSC is randomly selected. Much time is spent gathering information on how the support coordinator is supporting the individuals as well as how the system is supporting the individual. They are really trying to learn about the individual. During the gathering of information, they do follow-up with family or support coordinator. They meet with the WSC on the second day. Cheryl proceeded with a brief overview of the 11 steps involved in the consultation process. Discussion followed questioning how Delmarva addresses an individual's limitations and if they rely on natural supports for assistance. An example would be individuals living in group homes or residential settings who are limited in their ability to communicate their needs. Would Delmarva include the natural support in their interview process? Many times this is not done. The interviewer assumes the individual understands and focuses only on his/her abilities. The natural support is the backup and must be included especially in the event of an emergency. Charmaine and Cheryl agreed. Cheryl added that within the WISCC tool, when she meets with support coordinators she is looking at how they are building a collaborative system where it's all about striving for the best results for the individual and that includes natural supports, families, the district, providers, their churches and communities. Maria explained she is involved in the area quality improvement committee and it continues to come up that there is a huge gap between support coordinators and natural supports. It needs to be identified when Delmarva does the WISCC or CORE, where is the gap and how can it be corrected. Unrealistic goals are established and the parents/guardian/natural support knows nothing about it. Charmaine advised the support planning process is the exact venue for everyone to get together and establish a plan with the individual being at the center of discussion. As indicated in the example above this tends to be a significant problem when the individual lives in a residential setting outside of the family home. The parent, even if a guardian, tends to be left out. Bob asked if example such as this would be identified within the WISCC. Cheryl advised, yes it should be identified within the consultation and they try to build a collaboration with the SC and offer suggestions for improvement and try to develop an action plan for them to address the problem within their system. Ann mentioned that support coordinators are not sharing the Delmarva review with families. They are selective deciding what families need to know. Cheryl advised all of her consults include full disclosure with families. She continued by sharing within 2 hours all they get is a snapshot of the individual. There are automated generated safety criteria they review and automatic recommendations are made. They are not striving or mandating, the recommendations are points of interest for the SC to hopefully generate action on their part. Chair Houghland mentioned she thinks part of the misunderstanding is when the "snapshot" is done and suggestions are made there is nothing to force anything to change. There is no authority behind the recommended suggestions so the SC may not follow through (no dock in pay, etc.) Cheryl advised they do participate in focus groups which look at opportunities for improving the SC program. It's all part of the quality improvement initiatives. Charmaine advised there is a significant amount of data generated from both WISCC and CORE reviews that is reported on a regular basis to APD area program offices and central office. Upon hearing this, Chair Houghland mentioned FCC's need to see this data. Maria mentioned in their area quality initiative committee with the area quality leader a recommendation came from APD that FCC's take on the role of rating support coordinators (3, 4, 5 star) and their corroboration with follow through with the POM's. Frank advised that's fine but if the SC gets a 1 star, who cares, what's

done about it. Maria shared the family can ask for a new SC. Terri added the APD does de-certify and they do terminate SC's. She added she has seen situations where it is directly related to a Delmarva review. Discussion continued with regards to the reliability of the Delmarva tools and process for determining if the needs, supports and safety issues of the individual are being met. Chair Houghland asked for suggestions on how the council can work with Delmarva to find ways to make the program more beneficial to families because they are not getting any information except in a setting like today. Bob mentioned one of the best ways of getting information on a local basis is to participate in the area quality steering committees. The area quality leaders have access to the entire scope of all the Delmarva information on a monthly basis. It was suggested to ask the area quality leader to attend FCC monthly meetings and share the Delmarva data. Charmaine shared they would like to work with FCC's as they collect a huge amount of information on barriers, things that need to be addressed but they don't have enough staff to do it. It was asked if that could be shared with the council. Charmaine advised yes. Bob suggested the council figure out a way to work with Delmarva to identify the barriers that exist. Another problem that needs attention is IQC and its inability to move forward. There needs to be more accountability from Central Office. Chair Houghland mentioned the council would contact Charmaine once the subcommittee has been established. Charmaine and Cheryl thanked everyone for their time and interest. They look forward to working more closely with FCCF.

IV. APD UPDATE/INITIATIVES - Terri McGarrity, APD Community Development Chair Houghland introduced Terri. Terri began by sharing that Mac McCoy will be replacing Kerry Schoolfield as acting Operations Director. Mac has been a Program Administrator in area 2 and he is a CBA and has been with the agency for many years. The agency is happy to have him in a lead role. Terri shared with everyone the documents in the information packet which include the following:

- **Family-2-Family Quarterly Report** – It provides a summary of the activities taking place in the pilot counties of Duval, Gadsden, Polk, Hillsborough and Broward. She shared in Gadsden County (a very rural, poor county) they arranged for a Family-2-Family networking self-advocacy meeting. Terri advised nine people showed up for the night meeting which was phenomenal because they aren't reaching the folks in these rural areas who have no computers or access to transportation. They are pleased with the contractor.
- **Supported Living Update** – Terri advised a part of the Blue Ribbon Task Force a few years ago identified community living as one of the APD priorities. APD has named Deb Blizzard to oversee the supported living program. She is passionate about supported living and very knowledgeable. She started the strategic planning workgroup. Pete Wesley is representing FCCF on the workgroup. Their focus is getting supported living back in the forefront. The handout includes APD website additions, a brief powerpoint presentation and supported living area liaisons. Bob asked if there were any monies available for transition funding in supported living. Terri advised the SL stipend is general revenue funds and they do have funding but she isn't sure what the increase will be the next few years. They do have enough now for the current commitments. Many within the agency continue to believe that supported living is a much more cost effective program.
- **Outline for Developing Procedures Requesting Personal Outcome Measures through Family Care Councils** – Steve Dunaway developed a draft proposal and referral form for FCCF to review. Ann recommends the FCCF Delmarva committee review the proposal. Terri asked that comments be forwarded to her and Steve Dunaway.

- **Request for Information on The Planning, Coordination, and Oversight of a Statewide Conference for Consumers, Family Members, and Professionals related to Developmental Disabilities** – The sole purpose right now is for any entities/vendors, including FCCF, to write a letter stating they would be interested in such a conference. This would be completely separate from Family CAFÉ. Therefore if the council knows of anyone interested in bidding on a conference, as long as they meet the criteria, share with them this request. The request should include a brief description of the organization's capacity to meet the needs as listed in the attached summary. The deadline for expressing an interest is November 30th.
- **Children on the Waitlist** – Included in the packet is a document pertaining to children who are not on the waitlist because of documentation. Terri shared that children age to 3 to 5 cannot be on the waitlist for the waiver without a diagnosis. There are many children in the system who come to the agency who have no diagnosis but they are a risk of later development. The document outlines what is needed to add them to the waitlist.
- **APD Senior Behavior Analyst** - Terri shared the announcement of Dr. Steven Coleman as Senior Behavior Analyst at Central Office. He is a Ph.D. level certified behavior analyst. He will start on Monday, November 20th. He will take over Terri Rodgers responsibilities. He will be working very closely with Mac McCoy on the approval of intensive behavioral services. He will be making some visits to Carlton Palms. Mac asked Terri to convey to the council that the agency will not be reducing any intensive behavioral rates without his signature. The agency is now asking that when there is a six month review, the area CBA (where the individual lives) will be attending the visit on site. Terri was asked about the recruitment of new CBA's. She mentioned Steve would be involved in this and the agency recognizes they have a real capacity issue with CBA's.
- **Waitlist Data** – The data has been compiled by counties. Terri explained the green column is for people who are receiving no waiver services at all, the yellow column is for people on the FSL but want to stay on the waitlist for the HCBS waiver, the blue column is the total of both. It will be updated on a regular basis. Other included charts are a breakdown by county of FSL Enrollment, and HCBS and CDC Plus Waiver Enrollment information. Bob wanted to know how FCC's can communicate with people on the waitlist. Terri advised because of HIPPA the only way would be through the agency. FCC's would give the area program offices the information and they would have to mail to the people on the waitlist. For new individuals applying for services an FCC brochure or postcard or notice requesting contact information can be given to the applicant during the intake process.
- **APD/CBC Waiver Enrollment Data** – Terri advised that Patty had asked for a breakdown by age and area of the foster children enrolled in the Community Based Care program which is now part of APD. Currently they have enrolled 16% of these children. Of most interest are the children age 17 – 18 as once they reach 18 if not on the FSL the agency will have to enroll them through crisis to the HCBS waiver. It was mentioned again that this was enacted upon by the legislature and the APD must abide by it.
- **Delmarva Contract** – Patty requested from Terri the Delmarva Contract dollar amount. The current contract cycle is for \$5,267,000. That is an increase of \$575,000 which represents the addition of the FSL waiver consumers. Terri added this is a 75/25 match (75% federal dollars, 25% state dollars). Therefore the state pays 25% of the \$5,267,000. The council agreed that is a good match. Terri shared with waivers you

have to have quality assurance. Ten years ago the agency had asked for 42 positions to do monitoring, it would not have been available for a 75/25 match. It's a better use of dollars. Beverley shared the state portion amounts to \$1,316,750.

- **Family Care Council Member Roster** – Stephanie explained the roster included in the packet is her roster. The official Governor's office roster drops off slots that were over a year. Several in attendance indicated the roster for their area was incorrect. Stephanie advised she keeps the names of people on her list after their term has expired because she needs to know when they're eligible for re-appointment. It was suggested that Stephanie note via * the ones whose term has expired.
- **Family Care Council Booklet** – Terri advised that they received approval from Mac McCoy to print the FCC booklet. Ann asked if the agency would be mailing it out. Terri advised they will give it out with the application during intake process. It will include the requested post card. As soon as it's approved within the system they will contact Ann who has the printer company info. Sara mentioned how great it would be for the booklet to be sent to everyone on the waitlist. Margarita asked if there will be a Spanish version of the booklet. Terri mentioned she will research this with those who make the decisions. It needs to be recognized that a major portion of the state doesn't speak English. Discussion followed regarding the need for documents to be written in Spanish. It was suggested that FCCF take up the initiative to request the Agency write the supporting documents such as support plans, due process letters, documents used in the waiver process be written in Spanish. Margarita mentioned families, unable to read English, are signing blank support plans which are filled out at a later date.
- **Developmental Disabilities Day** – Ann mentioned DD day will be March 13, 2007. It's very important for all councils to meet with their legislators before session begins. Joy shared that on February 1st, Area One will be partnering with other local providers to have a legislative forum where all their local legislators will be invited to attend. Each organization will take an issue and give a presentation in order to educate the legislators. Forums are an excellent way of showing unity and reaching legislators.

V. BUSINESS

Review of Minutes – Chair Houghland advised she did not receive any corrections to the July minutes. She asked Donna if she received any. Donna replied no. Chair Houghland asked for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Joy makes the motion. Beverley seconds the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report – Bob requested from Stephanie a financial report for last fiscal year but unfortunately it doesn't include the certified forwards so is basically meaningless. Joy expressed her apologies to FCCF but it is not her fault. She has requested on numerous occasions for the Area office to transfer \$1,500 to FCCF and it yet has been done. Bob advised their normal FCCF budget is \$7,500. As of today FCCF has received area transfers bringing the current budget total to \$10,250. He has not received a response from Area 2, 4, Suncoast, 8, 11, 13 or 15. Taking into consideration current expenses paid and in process of payment the remaining balance is \$7,788. He has projected expenses for the balance of the year, just for meetings, at 7,078. Any additional donations will increase the budget.

Orientation Training Manuals – Ann expressed her concerns regarding the councils not having updated training manuals. She gave examples of new members who haven't received any training and therefore don't know the guidelines established by the FCC Florida Statute. Council members have responsibilities associated with their role on the council. FCCF needs representation on the agency committee responsible for the training manual update. It needs to be reviewed by FCCF rather than just presented to the council when completed. Terri expressed

her agreement that the manual needs updating and additional material included. FCC Liaisons need training also. Terri suggested giving the FCCF council what they have completed for review. They will make the changes and take responsibility for getting it updated but FCCF needs to tell them what to do. It was suggested that Terri send it via E-mail to Patty who can forward on to all chairs and their input can be directed to the review committee. It was suggested it be one manual for both FCC members and Liaisons. A separate chapter can be devoted to liaisons responsibilities. Terri advised she would send the Monday after Thanksgiving. Review Committee members: Patty, Beverley, Frank, and Margarita.

FASC Conference – Ann shared that she and Betty Kay were invited to have a session for support coordinators on the importance of the Family Care Council. They also had an exhibit booth. Included in the yellow packet of information is a copy of their powerpoint presentation titled “United we Stand”. She shared the presentation can be used by any FCC with other organizations within the community. A .pdf version is on the FCCFlorida website. She reviewed the presentation with the council. It’s very important for Family Care Councils to work closely with support coordinators. They were asked to share their issues and advised the same as FCC’s. They are very frustrated with trying to find good providers. Terri asked if the same presentation would be given at the ARC conference. Ann advised only if FCCF has the money for travel expenses.

VI. THE VILLAGES OF NOAH’S LANDING PRESENTATION – Jack Kosik

Chair Houghland introduced Jack Kosik. Jack began by thanking everyone for the invitation to speak at the meeting today. He introduced Margaret McNutt, another founding member of Noah’s Ark, his daughter Brittany and Margaret’s son Jared. Jack provided a brief summary of Noah’s Ark, a not for profit which began 9 years ago. Reality set in for many families that there just wasn’t a future for their loved ones who were young at the time. They decided to start an organization and provide some funding to look for future directions and couldn’t find anything they liked. They wanted to take the “holistic” approach. Concerns included where are they going to work, live, what about socialization and friendships, spiritual components. He calls it the four bubbles of life. They were looking for avenues to research that weren’t restrained by government and the typical boundaries. Several within the group visited Lamb’s Farm in Illinois, a campus setting in existence since 1961. They spent several days on the campus and learning the internal operations of the organization. They liked what they saw and decided to model their organization after them. They decided the long term goal was to build a residential community. They have received tremendous support from the City of Lakeland. Noah’s Ark has developed into an organization with focused families working to achieve their goal. They began by looking at the school system. The educators need to be looking at the goal of the special education students for them to be ready for life and employed upon leaving the school system. Currently the linkage between the school system, Voc Rehab and life breaks down. Several within the organization started brainstorming with special education and advisory committee members and the following program became a reality.

Transition Program at Florida Southern College - The program began 6 years ago. It includes a teacher, para educator and no more than 10 students focusing on life skills getting elevated and getting them employed, working on the college campus and integrating them into the college social fabric. The program has a 90% success rate in obtaining employment for these individuals. They have five locations in Polk County. School districts from around the state have come to the college and developed similar programs in their districts. One of the advantages of the program is the education majors at the college can work as mentors with the individuals in class. They get experience going through school working with the SE students resulting in some changing their majors to special education. An information sheet about the program was passed out to everyone.

Residential Projects – Margaret shared one of the reasons the organization was started 9 years ago was families concern about where their children would live once they became adults. The parents that started Noah’s Ark had elementary school children at the time. They didn’t see any residential options in the area. The church Jack attended donated 3 lots behind the church and donated some of the construction costs. Many of the building supplies & labor were donated by businesses in the area. They ended up with no debt service. Currently there is one group home on the property (where Brittany lives with 2 roommates) and 3 homes under construction. One will be a garage apartment suitable for a college student or single person to oversee the complex. All the people who live there or will be living there will be independent enough to live on their own. Noah’s Ark is strictly the landlord. Jack approached the builders association in Polk County who partnered with Future Home Builders Association who are involved in the construction of the homes. The homes are all built to be handicapped accessible. Everyone received a copy of an artist’s drawing of the property. Beverley asked if they have plans to include housing needs for the low, cognitive functioning individuals. Margaret shared that when they began talking to people looking for contributions a friend advised them that before they start to define their population. They were told not to start trying to bring all things to all people, it will never work. The current application age is 18 – 35 with mild to moderate developmental disabilities. It’s not to say that everything is set in stone.

Noah’s Landing – Jack mentioned all the various similarities between their concept and a retirement community. The parallels between retirees and the developmental disability population are very close. He shared the perception is an important issue. They would prefer not to turn down lower functioning people but if the community would include a concentration of these people as well as people with significant behavior issues, the very first thing they’ll here from the beginning is it’s an institution. One of the differences will be its not just people with disabilities living in the community. They plan on offering below market rents to caregivers. By offering an incentive of a decent place to live with decent rent they believe the retention will be greater. Also included will be a sprinkle of family members. Some families have expressed an interest in building homes within the community. That is fine with one stipulation being upon death or move out the home would belong to Noah’s Ark. Jack shared Noah’s Landing will be a pedestrian oriented community because most of the residents won’t drive. He passed out to everyone a copy of an architect’s drawing of the proposed community. The land is located within public transportation. All of the homes will have kitchens. Also, included will be a central eating/cafeteria area where people can eat if they want to. They have 56 acres of land (free and clear) that was donated to Noah’s Ark by the City of Lakeland. He shared there is a lot of interest from people all over the state coming to look at the property and wanting to know how they can get involved. They have incredible city support. They have zoning approval to build in their planned development 101 units. They won’t fit that many as plans call for a mixed kind of housing with number 1 emphasis on providing housing for persons with developmental disabilities. Jack mentioned this type of housing community is not the answer for everyone but it’s a residential CHOICE that many welcome. Margaret mentioned that future plans do include some type of working projects in addition to employment opportunities within the community to keep it maintained.

Donna mentioned she would like to make arrangements with Bishop Grady Villas for anyone attending the Friday, January 19th meeting to travel to St. Cloud to visit the villas. She checked and the villas are just 30 minutes from the hotel. It’s much smaller but the same type residential community in the heart of downtown St. Cloud which allows for much community inclusion. Chair Houghland thanked Jack and Margaret for their presentation and everyone agreed with their applause.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

CBC Foster Care Children added to the waiver - It was discussed during the work group meeting that FCCF should write a letter with concerns but they couldn't determine who the letter should be directed to. Chair Houghland received notification of the rule development meeting in Tallahassee on November 30th. She is unable to attend. It was decided to write a letter explaining FCCF's position and how we feel about the CBC children taking priority on the waitlist. By speaking at the rule development meeting it would go on record that FCCF is not happy about it. Ann shared the main concern is the HCBS waiver programs are the payee of last resort and there are other avenues. These children are already tied into other avenues. Frank indicated he would try to attend the rule development meeting. Chair Houghland will forward the letter to him.

FCCF Equipment – Chair Houghland advised that Bob will be keeping the LCD projector, the spider phone, and the VCR/DVD player. They are signed out to him through Central Office. Betty Kay will be keeping in her office the FCCF display board and screen. Ann advised these items are for use by all FCC's.

VIII. FCC UPDATES

Sara Howerton, Area 14 shared their FCC was very impressed with the Law Enforcement and Autism video. She took it to the Sheriff's office training center. She received a call from the office advising her they have ordered five of the videos. Sara shared they have also shown the video to the resource officer's in Lakeland, support coordinator's meeting and several other groups. She gave a copy to FDLRS and they in turn have purchased a copy. They plan on using it in the school system in training certain staff. Sara mentioned their FCC would like to hire the gentlemen who developed the video to do a workshop and invite people from each law enforcement agency within the three county areas. She has written him a letter and is waiting for his response. Sara shared their area quality leadership group plans on presenting direct care providers awards for excellence. The Family Care Council will be selecting the winners.

Maria Eash, Area 8 shared once she became chair her first goal was to re-establish the trustworthiness within the council. She has revamped the monthly meetings whereby they meet at a local restaurant and do socializing, family building and networking the first hour, and a 30 minute business meeting. They have been going through the DD council's Planning Ahead booklet and have planned next year's meeting schedule. During 2007 they plan on having different breakout mini workshops within their monthly meetings. They will be partnering with their area ESE in January on transitioning. They have 9 voting members, 8 solid additional attendees, and 2 new applicants currently in the Governor's appt. process. She briefly shared the goals they have established for next year. They have established 8 community resource libraries within their area and outreach to 7 additional CMS physician offices in the area. Maria shared the NAVI-MAP created by their council members which provides resources that are available in Lee County. They plan on creating one for each of the additional counties in their area.

Todd Decker, Area 15 shared they are looking to find a centrally located restaurant where they can have monthly meetings. They are looking at alternating monthly meetings between morning and evening. He is actively searching for new members.

Margarita Montalvo, Area 11 shared their council is also actively looking for new members. They lost 6 members who completed their second terms. She has five applications ready to begin new member process. They are working with the Dade County Public schools who are planning an educational festival in January. Their FCC has been allowed to include adult issues at the conference which in the past has been dedicated only to children. Their council is also considering an educational conference for consumers and their families.

Joy Frazier, Area 1 shared they just had their last meeting for the year. She mentioned that each meeting this year was devoted to a specific topic which seemed to improve their attendance.

Joy shared she has been participating in a lot of planning committees with other organizations who are involved in planning legislative forums, the Family to Family pilot project and managed care. She shared that it's good to work closely with other organizations that have the same interests as FCC. It shows unity and is making a difference.

Betty Kay Clements, Area 13 shared they are in the process of updating their brochures and other materials. They are working on a speaker's bureau and a resource project similar to area eight as a way of getting the information out to all of the counties within their area. They have scheduled a career fair for persons with disabilities on January 27th at a career center. ESE will participate with transitioning and APD will also be involved. Their major forum will take place in March and they're working on asking Shelley, Mac or someone from APD Central Office to be the keynote speaker. Their FCC has been invited to participate at the area APD provider meeting. They are working closely with providers and SC's to educate them on Family Care Council in hopes of getting more consumers/families interested in joining FCC. Betty Kay shared a new project they have begun in Citrus County which will offer more community inclusion people with disabilities. They are very pleased with the success of the project in just the first week. They hope to extend it to the other counties. Betty Kay also mentioned their council is working with the AQL group to present awards to direct care providers. Betty Kay will send the information out to everyone regarding this project.

Donna Rauber, Area 7 shared they had five members step down after completing their second term in September. She is happy to report the council has replaced 4 of those slots with new governor appointed members and an additional one is currently in the application process. They are in the process of updating their brochures and other materials and looking for new meeting locations. The priority right now is continued planning for the FCC Galaxy of Resources information fair on February 3rd. They have an awesome committee that has worked all year preparing for the fair. FCC partnered with Café Bistro on the original Galaxy in 2004. Since then FCC has sponsored along with a couple of area organizations the one in 2005 and 2007.

Beverly DeStories, Suncoast Region shared they are in a state of flux. Suncoast region still isn't up. There are 6 applicants for governor approval who have not been appointed yet, including her. They are having business meetings and attendance is still maintained around 20 – 24 people. She is pleased with the meeting today as she wants to invite both Delmarva and Jack Kosik to give presentations at future FCC meetings.

Frank Carroll, Area 3 shared they are working on a few projects for next year. An ongoing issue has resulted in a lot of APD staff attending all of their meetings, including the area administrator, budget director and FCC liaison. They have spent a lot of time working with their budget director in creating a budget which will result in their using all funding dollars. They have had many discussions with their area administrator about implementation of the waiver. They have an educational component in their monthly agendas devoted to the AA who shares a different topic every month. They are learning the individual policies the agency uses to implement each of the wavier services.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Houghland asked to return meeting evaluations to her. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

The next meeting will be held on January 20th, 2007 at The Holiday Inn Select.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

FICD

Florida Institute on Community and Disability