

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

PATTY HOUGHLAND, CHAIRPERSON

Holiday Inn Select Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

January 20th, 2007

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
Maryellen Jones, A9 Chair
Belkis Almeida, A10 Co-Chair
Philip Pearson, A12 Representative
Betty Kay Clements, A13 Chair, FCCF vice Chair
Connie Carter, A14 Co-Chair
Todd Decker, A15 Chair

STAFF & GUESTS

Stephanie Khan, APD Central Office
Tammy Smith, APD Central Office
Sherry Jackson, APD Central Office
Lynn James, Area 8 Guest
Mary Beth Pringle, Area 8 Guest
Sharon Berry, Area 8 Guest
Adrienne Dresis, Area 15 Guest
Diane Ciccarelli, Area 15 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 began the meeting by reviewing what is included in the FCCF information packet. Items include the following:

- Today's agenda
- Documents created by Robert "Bobby" Silverstein, Director of the Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy (CSADP) titled:
 1. Developing Organized Coalitions and Strategic Plans
 2. General Guidelines for Disability Policy Change Agents
 3. Effective Strategies for Interacting with Policymakers
- Summary of bill paying process between DCF, APD & ACS (Medicaid Fiscal Agent)
- Flyer pertaining to Reinventing Quality Conference titled "From Good Services to Good Lives" to be held March 6 – 8 in Charleston S.C. Chair Houghland advises it's an excellent conference. If individual councils would be interested in sending a member the website is listed on the flyer.
- Notice of Public Meetings being held in Tallahassee, Tampa & Miami regarding Medicaid disposable incontinence supplies issue.
- Flyer announcing a teleconference workshop on IDEA sponsored by Family Network on Disabilities (FND).

Chair Houghland asked everyone to be sure a fill out the APD survey and return to Stephanie before leaving today.

Chair Houghland asked for introductions to include name, area and a brief statement about your main concerns pertaining to the reported APD deficit. Concerns include foremost that the solution will not be affecting the individuals supports/services; what does it mean for persons on the wait list; how can people not know they're \$115 million over budget; the concern about what the reported document is not saying (a threat for Medicaid reform, a threat for discontinuation of the

very things families are striving for such as choice and self-determination for all individuals); the new administration and its ability to appoint new secretaries/directors in different agencies that understand the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and see that the whole program needs a total revamp if able to carry forward in the future; the money that will be spent in litigation, will they really be saving anything?; until the agency starts working closely with the legislators who control the money nothing will change, families need openness, reality and consequences directed to those who make the decisions not the consumers; how will this impact APD as an agency?; the fix will not occur overnight so how will this affect our individuals throughout the change process. It was suggested we request a line-item budget for the past 2 years showing exactly where APD funds have been spent. Also a major concern is administration costs and the high cost of contractors such as Maximus who still have not met the responsibilities of their contract. Maximus, APS & Delmarva contracts remove direct care services. The last thing to be affected should be direct care services.

Chair Houghland advised that as the FCCFlorida chairperson she participated in a teleconference call with Florida ARC, FARF (Florida Association of Rehabilitative Facilities), FASC (Florida Association of Support Coordinators) and the advocacy center. They discussed the referenced deficit document for 2 hours. They all came to consensus not to react to the suggested cuts until they see the actual numbers. Several people made reference that they really think they can get the funds to cover the deficit (if there is a deficit) for a year but not the second year.

Chair Houghland mentioned she received a phone call yesterday advising the 2 names being considered for APD director are John Hall with Florida ARC and Dave Robinson, the program administrator in Area One. A phone number to a representative at the Governor's office was given for individuals to make comments. Ann Millan will get the number and post later.

Discussion followed. Chair Houghland will keep us posted on any new developments.

Discussion followed stressing the need for APD leadership accountability. Why should consumers have a reduction in services when APD has not been held accountable? The Governor needs to be made aware of this. Bob shared the key to holding leadership accountable is it has to start from the top, our new governor. So far it seems some of his policies suggest he's starting on the right foot. Both collectively as a state organization and individually as area organizations have to stay on top of our legislators. Legislators must be advised of our concerns and tell them what we expect. People control the legislature. Chair Houghland mentioned many of the legislators still have no concept of developmental disabilities and APD program and they're really not that interested in learning unless their constituents educate them.

II. Workgroup Report:

Orientation Manual – Copies of the manuals were distributed to area chairs/representatives. Ann advised she took Jadene's orientation manual from several years ago and re-did/updated it. She took on the project as in conversations with APD staff it was determined they would not be doing it anytime soon. Since it's mandated in statute that FCC have a book and new members are to be trained she took on the responsibility. She changed some of the format and made additions which included HIPPA regulations, Calling Abuse Hotline, copies of all financial forms required, Glossary of Terms, and a Code of Ethics. She asked all chairs/representatives to read the manual and report to her by February 20th any comments or changes. At that time she will write APD asking them to approve the manual. The draft is also on the website. Ann spent a lot of time on the manual and Chair Houghland did all the editing.

Nomination Committee - Chair Houghland advised a slate of officers will be determined at the March meeting and voted on at the May meeting. She has appointed Joy Frazier to be chairperson of the nominating committee. Joy agreed to do this. Contact Joy if you can participate on the committee.

CMS Grant – Chair Houghland announced the state of Florida did not get the CMS grant that would keep people out of nursing homes. FCCFlorida did write a letter of support. 17 states

did get the grant. She will E-mail the letter she received with the necessary information.

Support Plan Update – Chair Houghland shared that Janet Phillips Support Coordination Agency is the pilot for the online totally computerized support plan that the state will be using once finalized. APS, the prior service authorization company has been doing the computer programming. They have been working on this for 8 or 9 months. The purpose for putting the support plan on the computer would provide “pull-down” check boxes that every support plan would have the same options of getting approved because it would eliminate the individual writing and justification. Chair Houghland held up a stack of papers with all the changes that must be made to the program which was supposed to be up at running this month. She provided examples of some of the problems. She mentioned the concept is good. The problem is that we have such unique, diverse individuals whose needs don’t fit into a “box” on a computer generated “pull-down” screen. In summary the document is still on hold and not ready for use.

Case Closure & Crisis Enrollment Policies – Chair Houghland mentioned she sent these documents out via E-mail in December. She is asking for a volunteer to be chairperson of a committee to review these documents, specifically at this time the one dedicated to Case Closure. She summarized some of the issues mentioned in the document. Belkis volunteered to be the chairperson. She asked if committee members could also include area FCC members. Chair Houghland advised yes. Ann asked that a recommendation be made to APD to provide statistics that show how many people are removed from the list each year, how many people die, how many moved out of state, etc. Connie Carter and Lynn James volunteered to be on the committee.

III. APD UPDATE - Terri McGarrity, APD Community Development

Chair Houghland presented Terri with questions prior to the meeting.

800 Phone Number - Terri advised the status for the request for FCCF to have an 800 number has been approved for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Proposed Changes to Chapter 393 – Terri advised she spoke with Lucy Mohs, APD legislative affairs director and she is more than willing to have a conference call with FCCF. Currently there is nothing proposed except some clean-up items from last year that didn’t get picked up. Terri recommends talking to Lucy directly. Chair Houghland asked if we should refer to Chapter 393 documentation that is currently on-line. Terri advised yes. Chair Houghland and Ann emphasized the need for FCCF to have whatever draft copy that is being worked on currently prior to a conference call with Lucy. Terri advised she would pass that along to Lucy. Chair Houghland asked if she should work with Stephanie to arrange for the call. Terri advised yes to E-mail her and Stephanie.

Conference call with Barney Ray - Terri did ask Darlene to set up a conference call with Barney Ray. They are looking at the week of January 29th although Barney advised that is tentative depending on what happens in the next week.

Supported Living - Terri advised there is information in the APD information packet on supported living which includes: Supported Living Update, Chart titled Supported Living Data by Area, Chart showing contact information for area supported living liaisons, a document titled Supported Living Strategic Planning Work Group. Terri is excited with the progress being made at this time. There has been a real effort to explore some exciting options. She mentioned there are over 4,000 people living in a supported living situation now. Deb Blizzard is the staff person over the supported living program. She has held a series of task force meetings where issues related to supported living are discussed. There is a lot of good information on the website now. A supported living training is scheduled for March in Orlando. There is a project currently going on in conjunction with ARC that helps individuals advertise for roommates, not by name. Everything is strictly confidential. The supported living program continues to work with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on home ownership programs. Terri believes that the program will continue to grow since they now have a person solely dedicated to supported living issues. Terri advised when discussing options in reference to the deficit, they have maintained they will keep supported

living held harmless from any cuts. Once they set people up in a supported living situation and they have a stipend, it's not a good idea to cut the stipend. Chair Houghland asked Terri if the chart on supported living by area could include a column that would show the % of individuals in supported living per area compared to the total number of people on the waivers in that area. Ann asked if the numbers include the people who are 3 roommates living together with round the clock care (a mini-group home). Terri advised yes. Ann asked for clarification if this includes people living in a condo situation say with a roommate. Terri calls that "pure" supported living and is not sure if this data includes them. She will clarify with Deb Blizzard. Chair Houghland asked Terri if she would ask Deb to add the FCCF to her E-list. Terri advised she would.

RFI Update – Terri advised at this time the agency will not be able to release that money. That is subject to change but with the current budget situation using money for a conference cannot be a consideration. Ann explained the FCCF through FICD wrote an excellent RFI proposing each FCC have additional monies for provider fairs in each area of the state. Ann asked Terri not to lose the RFI in case monies become available in the future.

FCCF Bulletin – Terri advised the bulletin has been approved to print. Terri mentioned she thought they were just waiting for approval of 800 number to be included in the bulletin. Chair Houghland advised there is a conference on March 1, 2 & 3. Can we have bulletins by then? Terri asked Stephanie who advised yes. Ann asked for number of bulletins approved. Stephanie advised the number is based on Ann's quote.

Budget Deficit - Terri provided some examples of why the agency has an ongoing deficit problem. She mentioned it's very difficult to allocate utilization dollars as consumers age and require additional medical needs not covered by state plan, consumers move out of family home into group home or supported living and cost plans for new waiver enrollments can begin in the middle of one year but then costs increase to cover a full annualized year. Another factor they were not counting on was the change in Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP)/State General Revenue (GR) match. Terri advised the match used to be Feds paid 57% and state paid 43%. Modification of the match rate has increased state General Revenue cost. Terri advised she would send Chair Houghland the data. Ann asked for additional clarification of match. Terri advised for every dollar spent on services on the Home and Community based waiver the state pays a percentage from General Revenue and then that is matched with a percentage from the Federal government. Every year the Federal government resets the percentage. This year the federal portion went down meaning the state portion went up. Discussion followed with suggestions from the group of options that could be considered that weren't on the list. An example: Supported Employment Coaching being billed for individuals who don't have jobs. Chair Houghland suggested, with Terri's approval, if anyone has ideas that they would like to be entertained on how to assist in this issue to E-mail Terri at Terri_McGarrity@apd.state.fl.us and write "Deficit Options" in the Subject line. Also cc: Stephanie at Stephanie_Khan@apd.state.fl.us.

Crisis Rule – Terri mentioned she put a copy of the proposed rule development for the Crisis rule in the information packet. She advised this has been planned for sometime. It will be published in the Florida Administrative Weekly next week. Chair Houghland asked if when this rule gets accepted, will the Crisis waitlist policy that came out the end of December interact with this rule. Terri advised that procedure allows the APD to offer the FSL or HCBS waiver to individuals determined to be in crisis. Previously, it was just the HCBS waiver.

Family to Family Update – Terri advised the contract company terminated their contract with APD.

Waiting List - With reference to the wait list charts included in the information packet, Phil asked Terri if it was possible to get a breakdown of waiting list number vs. how long on the waiting list. Terri advised they can't do a chart of that but she shared that most people at the top of the waiting list right now have been on the list since March, 2003. Phil asked if there wasn't some way of charting this as the information must be available. Terri mentioned since there is only one wait list and some people are receiving FSL waiver but still on HCBS waiver it's somewhat deceptive.

She will see if they can do a chart of the individuals who are receiving no services at all. Then another chart of the individuals on the FSL waiver but waiting for the HCBS waiver. Phil advised he would like to see that.

Phil also mentioned he looked at the proposed APD budget on the website and it appears the proposed budget just covers crisis situations. Why doesn't APD request a budget to cover everyone? Terri advised they will be. She said they always ask for continuation, annualization of current people and budget to serve new people on the wait list. Phil advised that's not the way it reads on the website. Terri felt the current request might not be on the website yet. Phil advised it appeared to be the current request. Terri said she would check it out. Terri emphasized they always submit a budget based on all needs including the wait list and crisis but they have to abide by what the Governor's office approves. Discussion followed asking what total budget would be if all persons on the wait list were included. Terri advised probably about \$2.5 billion. She said the reality is if they asked to serve the total wait list she is not sure they would get any support from the Governor's office or the legislature. Phil mentioned though if you asked and get turned down then he goes back to his legislators. If you don't ask, you don't get. Terri reiterated they are currently working with the Governor's office to determine what the budget will be and will know nothing conclusively until next week after what happens at the committee meetings. It's up to them. Terri emphasized now is the time to be meeting with your legislators. She shared they get about 300 new people each month added to the wait list.

Chair Houghland thanked Terri for taking the time to call in today. The council really appreciates her time and efforts.

IV. CDC+ UPDATE - Tammy Smith and Sherry Jackson, both with APD Central Office Chair Houghland introduced Tammy & Sherry. Tammy shared she is the CDC+ program administrator at Central Office. She mentioned there is a lot going on within CDC+ and FFI (Florida Freedom Initiative). The majority of time will be spent on CDC+ transition taking place right now and Sherry will share what's going on with FFI and how they are working to merge the two programs. She provided everyone with a copy of her powerpoint presentation and a summary of the FFI program. Tammy provided a brief background of the CDC+ program. The purpose of the program was to provide a better means of cost effectiveness. The theory was if people had the opportunity to control their own budgets, take out much of the agency middleman and let them select their providers and negotiate the pay rate, then that should result in a reduction of cost. It was determined to be effective so the agency renewed the waiver and initiated the Consumer Directed Care Plus program in 2004. Tammy gave some examples of how families can select their own service providers which could include family members, neighbors, etc. and pay a more cost effective rate. Each family selects a representative for the consumer. The representative cannot be paid for services.

Tammy explained the program is currently going through transition. She mentioned when she came to APD in August, 2005, she reminded everyone of the fiscal intermediary crisis that was taking place at that time. She briefly explained the role of the fiscal intermediary agent. The state has 2 responsibilities; (1) to have fiscal employer agent to manage the budgets and disbursements (2) Provide CDC consultants who provide technical assistance to consumers and families. She shared information and problems pertaining to the structure of the CDC program as it operated under the guidelines of the Dept. of Elder Affairs. Because of this APD had no access to the database or no control over the fiscal employer agent even though the majority of enrollees in the program were APD consumers. APD asked the Governor and received the OK to split from DOEA and take over the operational responsibilities for all the APD consumers which would include having its own database and fiscal employer agent. That officially took place January 1, 2007. Tammy provided a summary of all the elements that took place within the transition (Phase I) process. This is included in the copy of the powerpoint presentation. She shared there is a summary of the entire systems review on the CDC+ website: <http://apd.myflorida.com/cdcplus> .

It's important to note that the focus groups that participated in the transition and analysis of data included parents of consumers less than 18 years of age, Adult consumers & consumer representatives and CDC+ consultants & Area Liaisons. The transition looked at everything to improve the way services are delivered. Phase II was to look at all the things internally within the program that needed improvement. That resulted in the strategic plan which should be available on the website by the end of January. They hope to begin on July 1, 2007 Phase III which is taking the new database that will be made into a web based system but this was not included in the original funding received. This would allow consumers and representatives to access the database from their home computer or go to the area APD office. Tammy mentioned Family Care Council could be of major assistance by advocating for funding Phase III. It's currently been pulled off the LBR (Legislative Budget Request). The current CDC+ waiver ends March, 2008. As they get the program ready to go they want to ask to open the program. It's very important to have the web-based system up and running by then. Without that system they won't be able to open up the program again because APD won't have the capacity to do the work. Tammy was asked about the survey. At the time the survey went out there were 989 consumers on the CDC+ program. They received 334 completed surveys which was a huge % of return. They had such a good response that beginning next year they plan on sending out a survey every year.

In May, 2006, APD posted a request for proposals for a new fiscal/employer agent to serve APD consumers on the CDC+ Program. Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL) was awarded the contract in September 2006 and a contract between PPL and APD was executed in November, 2006. Tammy shared that PPL is working with 11 other states as a fiscal/employer agent. She and the committee were very impressed with PPL's knowledge of developmental disabilities. Every person on their staff is trained in self-determination. They have worked with individuals with developmental disabilities in this capacity for many, many years. They are currently involved in a 10 month development phase with FDGS (current fiscal/employer agent) during which PPL will build and test their system. This will ensure a smooth transition between fiscal intermediary services for CDC+ participants. Also involved in the transition is a communication plan to inform CDC+ participants and stakeholders of the CDC+ program transition which includes providing contact information for questions and comments. In March, 2007 APD will team with PPL to provide statewide information and training sessions for all CDC+ consumers and stakeholders.

Florida Freedom Initiative – APD recognized there has been a major problem with individuals wanting to work and the lack of hours they could work due to possible loss of benefits. Two things needed to be explored; (1) the need to look at what needs to happen to the system to open doors for people to go to work and (2) what has to happen to break poverty cycles so that people can have assets. If they have a disability they have difficulty going to work because when employed they lose their long term care services because their benefits get cut and then they can't work. If they have assets they lose their benefits. The whole scenario results in a disincentive to work. The Florida Freedom Initiative is an asset development and self-determination demonstration project administered by APD. The eligible consumers are CDC+ participants who are eligible for SSI and earn income or would like to earn income. FFI would allow the following:

- Reduce penalty to SSI check for working (the first \$300 of earned income is not counted against the benefit amount: without FFI only \$85 is overlooked)
- Savings for specific goals is permitted through use of special Freedom Accounts. Up to \$10,000 or more may be saved annually for up to five years without being counted as an asset for SSI eligibility purposes.
- Earned income deposited into Freedom Accounts does not affect the SSI check amount.

This would allow a person who receives SSI and is a CDC+ participant, and currently earns income, enrolling in the FFI will put more money in their pocket almost immediately, and will open powerful new possibilities for asset development. Sherry provided additional information pertaining to the program and how it relates to social security administration guidelines. Tammy

mentioned FFI is such an important program as is CDC+. She feels it's the next step in focusing on the quality of people's lives, self determination and the ability for people to have the same freedom as individuals without disabilities. She and Sherry explained the problems that existed within the project and what has taken place to improve the program by identifying the barriers and solutions in order to move forward with the vision. They are also building an infrastructure so the program can continue after the grant is over. Part of the infrastructure includes APD employment coordinators who together cover the entire state and have extensive FFI-specific training. They have been trained by the top national experts on benefits planning. They assist by providing a circle of support which helps the individuals navigate the system. Sherry added they are really trying to draw attention within their evaluation to where the most critical gaps and information are so hopefully long term it will benefit everyone. Tammy mentioned they asked and received a one-year extension on the FFI project. Also, with an additional six months they have requested from CMS it will coincide with the ending of the CDC+ waiver. What they have proposed is merging the two initiatives, taking the asset development and work incentives that they have facilitated through the FFI initiative and add them to the CDC+ benefits.

Tammy, CDC+ Program Administrator – E-mail address: Tammy_Smith@apd.state.fl.us .

Sherry is the FFI Coordinator – E-mail address: sherry_jackson@apd.state.fl.us .

Chair Houghland thanked them for attending the meeting and providing excellent information. Everyone shared with their applause. Tammy & Sherry appreciated the opportunity to attend.

During lunch a video was presented on Bishop Grady Villas located in St. Cloud. BGV is a residential community for individuals who are developmentally challenged with a diagnosis of mental retardation. To learn more you can visit their website at www.bishopgradyvillas.org .

V. FDDC Presentation – Ruben Betancourt, Director of Communications, FDDC

Chair Houghland introduced Ruben. Ruben shared that basically the session has already started. His colleague, Margaret Determan who is their public policy person is at the Capitol almost everyday. Issues pertaining to the special insurance session and the reports of the APD deficit are on everyone's mind these days. Everything heard at this point is based solely on rumors. Ruben provided everyone with a copy of his powerpoint presentation. He shared that FDDC has been around for 34 years and is funded entirely by the Federal Government. He shared that FDDC offers grant programs for projects that meet Council goals. A listing of funding opportunities can be found on the FDDC website at www.fddc.org . Currently there is an ITN-2003-IP-100 available in the amount of \$15,000 for training, workshops that qualify under the state plan. Ruben provided a summary of the powerpoint presentation which included the FDDC's Mission. He explained they have changed the definition of what the council stands for by adopting the federal definition of developmental disabilities. Previously they followed the state definition. The difference being the federal definition includes more disabilities. Both definitions are listed on the website. He shared some facts which include the council is a non-profit organization and receives its funding from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Council offers funding opportunities for public and private agencies. The council is comprised of 29 members who are appointed by the Governor to represent consumers, family members, agency staff and interested individuals. The Council has four task forces which include:

- Child Development and Education
- Community Living and Services
- Employment
- Health Care & Prevention

Ruben gave a summary of each task force (refer to powerpoint). He shared the Council has developed some very informative books including the Planning Ahead Workbook which they

printed 60,000 copies a year ago and have about 5,600 left. They are currently working on the Spanish version which will be printed soon and downloadable on the website. Also, the First Steps book has been completely revised and will be available within the next 30 – 60 days. It is a valuable resource for parents with young children. It will be available to download on the website and will also be printed in Spanish. He mentioned they have many manuals available on line that can be found by clicking on the Publications link. Ruben made reference to the successful Guardianship Training for Attorneys and Families which was funded by FDDC. They held three workshops around the state which were all sold out. Because of the success of the program they hope to continue it in other locations around the state. FDDC was responsible for the demonstration project which developed three Business Leadership Networks in the state. APD recently took over the funding of the project and is in the process of expanding to other locations in the state. It's a great program for teaming up people with disabilities who are qualified with employers looking for employees. Discussion followed pertaining to the need for the BLN's to work with employers on customization of jobs based on the individual's abilities. VocRehab continually turns down our individuals with developmental disabilities. Ruben hopes the new VocRehab director will make significant changes to the current procedures so more individuals with developmental disabilities can be employed in the workforce. Ruben mentioned one of the primary successes of the Health Care & Prevention task force has been the Oral Health project. The project has been very successful in recruiting licensed oral health professionals to become Medicaid Waiver providers and to provide them with clinical and sensitivity training. The project has recruited 101 dentists to join the network. Several people asked how to find these dentists. Ruben suggested they call FDDC who will give them the names of dentists in their area. Also, is this just for children? Ruben replied no, it's for all persons with developmental disabilities. Chair Houghland emphasized there is a huge issue about getting dental services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Ruben advised he will put a link on the FDDC website listing the dentists in Florida accepting individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ruben shared two additional programs:

- Public Policy and Advocacy works to facilitate the development of a comprehensive and cohesive public policy and government structure which encourages choice and self-determination in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.
- Partners in Policymaking is a leadership program for persons with developmental disabilities and family members. Self-advocates and parents of young children with developmental disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. He has brought applications with him and the deadline for applying is March 1st.

Ruben urged everyone to attend the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day (DD Day) at the Capitol on March 13th, 2007.

Ann asked for more information regarding the ITN's (Invitation to Negotiate) & RFP's (Request for Proposals). Ruben advised this is federal money, not state money. Every state gets money depending on number of people with developmental disabilities. They must meet the federal definition now. They will look at all projects but they must follow the specific guidelines and goals. Ruben gave an example. Ruben mentioned on the website is a link titled "Funding Opportunities". The first item listed is called "ITN 100". Its purpose is to provide up to \$15,000 to conduct trainings, activities in your area that are beneficial to people with developmental disabilities. He suggested reading the plan to determine a project that will benefit people in your area that will meet the ITN criteria.

Ruben can be reached at 1-800-580-7801 or by E-mail at: rubenb@fddc.org.

Chair Houghland thanked Ruben for taking the time on a Saturday to attend our meeting.

Everyone enjoyed his presentation.

VI. BUSINESS

Review of Minutes – Chair Houghland asked if there are any corrections/changes to the minutes. There were none. Chair Houghland asked for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Frank makes a motion. Beverley seconds the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

FCCF Website – Maryellen makes a motion asking FCCFlorida to reimburse the FICD up to but not over \$600 for maintenance/updates of the FCCF website. Phil seconds the motion. Beverley asked for an explanation. Chair Houghland advised it's for maintaining the website to add new material and remove outdated material. The motion was approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report – Bob advised he only has a partial report as APD is still unable to provide the council with a current expense report. Year to date FCCF has spent \$6,291.00. The annual budget is \$7,500.00. Contributions from area councils have brought the budget up to \$10,250.00. He projects by staying at the current meeting location for the next 2 meetings, the council should be OK through the balance of this fiscal year. There are no excess funds. Bob strongly urges all councils that if they determine they can't spend all their dollars to please approve a transfer to FCCFlorida as soon as possible. With a potential \$115 million APD deficit for services we don't want any money unused. Ann mentioned one purpose could be area council's brochures being printed through the FCCFlorida. Each area council interested would transfer the purchase amount to FCCFlorida. By purchasing in bulk, it's cheaper and easier. The council prepares their own brochure, FCCFlorida just helps to facilitate the printing process. Chair Houghland sent around a sheet of paper and asked those interested to sign. Ann will contact them.

Meeting Location – It was agreed upon by all to continue the meetings at the Holiday Inn Select next fiscal year. Stephanie will negotiate the rates with the hotel based on 6 meetings (bi-monthly). Bob advised it's the most economical hotel in the area and service has been better than other locations.

IQC Meeting – Chair Houghland mentioned she and Ann attended the IQC (Interagency Quality Council) meeting. She made a motion at that meeting to create a stakeholder committee to look at services under the waiver that have not been looked at before. Chair Houghland asked Ann to speak as she will be the chairperson of that committee through IQC. However, FCCF members have good input and may want to be a part of the committee. Ann shared that she and Betty Kay talked with many families at the FASC conference who were discouraged with not being able to get good quality companions, NRSS, PCA, Chore, In-Home supports and respite services. As she was pursuing this she realized that Central Office priorities have been supported employment and supported living. They have staff devoted just to those services. The other services are all done at the local level. Ann talked to others and it was determined the best way to approach the issue was to create a stakeholders committee within the IQC. That way Delmarva could get involved. Their data can be very helpful in determining the consistency of providers, how they're being trained, and how to keep them as turnover is a real problem. Ann mentioned if anyone is interested in participating to let her know. It will all be done via conference calls. The purpose of the committee is to find out why there aren't adequate supports for the above mentioned services. It was discussed previously with Denise Arnold that the handbook should be re-done to categorize all of these services into one service. They are related and it would eliminate the need to get approval each time one of the services is needed. Chair Houghland mentioned there is no in-service training for these services. Discussion followed regarding the need for consumers to rate their providers and post somewhere so people can see if a provider is good or not. Ann and Chair Houghland shared the Consumer Survey on the FCCFlorida website home page is for this very purpose but no one has used it. It has been advertised and is set up so the results are well documented and can be posted on the website. Chair Houghland mentioned currently it may not meet the needs as this was the first step. It was posted just to see if anyone would use it. She suggested looking at the survey and sharing any ideas for improvement. Phil asked if they could get a legal opinion on the posting of provider names. Ann mentioned right now she is looking for percentages. She thinks they are far from posting names. Chair Houghland mentioned in the state of Florida there are 10,000 providers. Within each agency there can be numerous others working.

Executive Summary on Deficit – Beverley suggests that as a council and its responsibility to make recommendations, FCCFlorida should write a letter to the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker to support the agency in requesting the funds needed to take care of the deficit and put a procedure in place to eliminate potential deficits in the future. Frank added the need to ask that the consumers served be held harmless from any budget cuts. It's not our consumer's fault that this has happened. Can they find a way to fix the problem without it affecting consumers. Also include addressing the wait list. Frank volunteered to draft a letter and send to Chair Houghland.

VII. OTHER ISSUES

Quality Council - Ann mentioned the quality council will be having workshops all over the state. She asked Stephanie if she could send a listing of where and when workshops are taking place so the council members can support them.

Family CAFÉ – Chair Houghland asked Betty Kay to check into FCCFlorida having a display table at Family CAFÉ. Betty Kay asked and the cost will be \$900 and there is no exception. Frank makes a motion that FCCFlorida send a letter to Lori Fahey at Family CAFÉ stating that we can't afford the \$900 fee and if the fee cannot be waived then we can't be there to represent our consumers with a copy to Interim APD director. Beverley seconds the motion.

Question - Phil asked for some guidance. As he talks to people about providing funds for people with developmental disabilities, what is the argument used that they should pay more taxes to support his child. Chair Houghland shared it's a very good question. What compelling argument do we have to give to anybody that they should help support a person with a disability. It's never been discussed. Phil thinks there should be a constitutional amendment to have some general statement about the State of Florida supporting people with developmental disabilities.

Additional Questions: Maria had some questions/comments:

- It was stated in the minutes that someone would be doing a Spanish version of the brochure. Who will be helping councils with this? Margarita Montalvo, Area 11 volunteered.
- It was encouraged at the last meeting to bring people for membership to the FCCF. Nothing was addressed at the meeting today about becoming members and she brought three people. Chair Houghland advised the council votes to have one person representing their council at FCCF. Ann mentioned that if others are interested in participating on committees it should be encouraged because we need more people at the FCCF level.
- She asked if the acronym key could be attached to the minutes so that she doesn't have to look up the acronym's each time as she also shares the minutes with others. Donna shared if people want all acronym definitions in all minutes, she'll do that. It was mentioned the key is on the website.

Frank mentioned Maria has brought up some good points as a new chairperson. FICD needs to get serious about creating a training program for new FCCFlorida members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Houghland asked to return meeting evaluations to her. With no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

The next meeting will be held on March 17th, 2007 at The Holiday Inn Select.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**Donna Rauber,
FICD
Florida Institute on Community and Disability**