

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

PATTY HOUGHLAND, CHAIRPERSON

Holiday Inn Select Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

March 17th, 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
Jean Sherman, A10 Co-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
Steve Coleman, APD Central Office
Lynn Carper, A1 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 and any area updates that you want shared with the council. She began by introducing herself as FCCFlorida chairperson from Area 1, Pensacola. She shared that she has had the honor of participating in the APD workgroup sessions in Tallahassee.

Donna Rauber, Area 7 representative shared that 5 FCC members including 2 self-advocates attended DD Day in Tallahassee. The self-advocates were very excited to get their pictures taken with Governor Crist.

Stephanie Kahn, FCCF Liaison with APD

Frank Carroll, Area 3 Representative – No update

Ann Millan, FCCF past chairperson – She shared she attended one of the APD workgroup meetings in place of Patty who couldn't attend. She expressed, on behalf of the council, how fortunate the council is to have Patty attending these meetings. Patty and Ann both mentioned the meetings are very intense especially with provider participation.

Bob Wessels, FCCFlorida Treasurer and is employed by APD in Broward County which includes being the FCC Area 10 liaison. He is the parent of a young man with developmental disabilities.

Lynn Carper, Area 1 Guest

Maria Eash, Area 8 Chair shared they have some exciting news. They had 7 or 8 people attend DD Day in Tallahassee. They created little “leave behinds” with the slogan GLAD (Get Legislators Advocating for Developmental Disabilities). They took Glad bags filled with contact and other information of importance to share with them. They visited many of the legislator's offices and made some good contacts. Their council is moving forward by establishing and outreach committee and has developed an action plan for the next year and they are looking

forward to being more aggressive with their legislators. They have three members participating in the next Partners in Policymaking class.

Margarita Montalvo, Area 11 Chair shared they are trying to reorganize their Family Care Council. They have developed a newsletter which is in the process of being approved by the area program office. She mentioned APD have printed the labels and are willing to attach to the newsletters for mailing. Margarita shared their council is willing to pay the cost of having the FCC Bulletin translated in Spanish. Also, Dade County finally got the APD flyer translated in Spanish.

Betty Kay Clements, Area 13 Chair shared they just finished a forum which was relatively successful. Matt Clapps attended from APD Central Office. He was very well accepted by the group. The following Monday they invited providers to their FCC meeting. They had 35 attend, all of the major ones. It was a very good meeting. She is very excited to report they have 4 self-advocates applying for FCC membership. They have a total of six applicants waiting for appointments.

Joy Frazier, Area 1 Chair shared that Lynn Carper will be taking over as chairperson in July. She will participate in the FCCF meetings as much as possible so transition will be smooth. Their last meeting included a presentation on Social Security which was well attended. The March meeting will focus on Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts. They have changed the focus of their meetings to promote outreach and information which is resulting in better attendance than previously when they would conduct business meetings. She is working on finding a different topic of interest to share each month in hopes of bringing in more people who are willing to get involved and become members. They participated with the school district on Exceptional Saturday with their FCC exhibit table. Joy shared they will be participating in several other events in the near future. They are partnering with APD on their workshop training on customized employment.

Beverly DeStories, Suncoast Region chair shared they are still working on getting an improved relationship with their APD FCC Liaison. Some positives have occurred within the last 30 days. She shared that today there is a Country in the Park presentation in Pinellas Park and Virginia Ruff is participating with FCC materials for distribution which includes the FCC Bulletin. She is organizing a future provider fair. She has invited Governor Crist to attend as he is local. She is really excited that people are stepping forward and getting involved.

Jean Sherman, Area 10 Co-Chair shared their council is looking at accepting member applications for 2 new members, one being Joan Hinden, a former chairperson. They have 3 consumers attending on a regular basis who want to submit applications. They are in the process of updating their policy pertaining to associate members. They have a number of providers who are interested in being associate members. They are working on getting their website up and running. They did have several members attend DD Day. They did have a vibrant discussion at their last meeting regarding the APD deficit. Many have ideas they want to share and Belkis has agreed to submit on behalf of the council.

Sara Howerton, Area 14 Representative & APD FCC Liaison shared they have been working very hard the past few weeks preparing for the Autism and Law Enforcement forum taking place on Monday, March 19th. She presented everyone with a brochure. She shared Dennis Debbaudt will be presenting 3 sessions, 1 for teachers and professionals, 1 for law enforcement and first responders, and 1 for parents. They have received a lot of support from the school district, FDLRS and the Sheriff's department. Chair Houghland shared that now is a good time to approach FDLRS as they have training money for parents. If you have an idea that will benefit parents and teachers, they'll do the work as its part of their grant.

Todd Decker, Area 15 Chair shared they have 2 new FCC applicants. They are working on developing a "wish list" of all consumers needs and a committee has been formed to work on getting the items on the "wish list" donated.

Jean Sherman added that outside of FCC co-chair she is the Director of the Center on Aging and Disabilities at the University of Miami, School of Medicine. They have been involved in a couple of projects, one being the Guardianship training for Attorneys and Parents. It was a very successful project and it appears they will be getting a second year. They are just waiting to find out about additional funding. They expect to be doing at least 3 additional sites. She shared they had turned away people from every area of the state. Donna asked to consider Orlando as one of the sites. The other project is the LINKS project which is part of a national demonstration with UCLA and the University of Hawaii. It will be done at 3 sites in Florida; Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Pensacola. It's a project working with hands-on volunteer centers to increase volunteer opportunities and community service for individuals with all kinds of disabilities. A number of consumers and FCC council members are attending in both Broward and Miami. They are trying to reach into both the school systems and community colleges/universities as many of them have disability services and volunteer centers that don't talk to one another. The students with disabilities get what they need academically but lack how they might participate in campus life or in the community. They have over 100 participants in each of the three areas.

FCCF Information Packet Review:

- Today's Agenda
- Area 1 – HCBW Pilot Project – It's been included because there are Senate and House companion bills sponsoring it.
- ARC Florida 2007 Legislative Priorities
- A document entitled: Most Important Words
- APD Update on Actions Taken to Manage utilization – Barney Ray's presentation
- APD Legislative Digest Weekly Update, March 5 – 9, 2007
- FCC Bulletin - Stephanie shared that each area office will be receiving 700 bulletins which will be included in the packet of information that is sent to an individual when he/she calls requesting application for services.

II. BUSINESS

Review of Minutes - Chair Houghland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

There were none. Chair Houghland asked for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Joy makes a motion. Beverley seconds the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report – Bob advised the 3rd quarter expenditures total \$9,023.08. Total revenue is approximately \$13,000. He thinks it appears with current projections, without any major changes, FCCF should break even for the year. He reminded everyone if any area council has additional funds they aren't using they could transfer to FCCF where it would be put to good use.

Committee Reports - Chair Houghland asked Donna to share what she learned from her council members about the Family Resource Coalition, FACT (Family Action Community Training) conference. She shared several of the Area Seven FCC members "manned" the FCCF exhibit table at the event. The comments she received were the break out sessions were very good but unfortunately it wasn't very well attended. Maria attended the event and added the conference was so organized and well done but thinks they just didn't get the word out to enough families. The conference was basically for the children. Representatives from APD and CMS were there. The Keynote Speaker on Autism was incredible and Motivational Speaker was very good. For its first conference, it was very well done.

Chair Houghland, Ann & everyone in attendance thanked Stephanie for getting the FCCF display board to the Capitol for DD Day. They all expressed their appreciation to her for all she does for the council.

Old Business – Chair Houghland mentioned she received a phone call from Lucy Mohs, APD’s legislative person. It was in reference to House Bill 127 and Senate Bill 402 relating to the developmental disabilities institutions. She advised that FCCFlorida did give input and wanted to share it with the council. She read the document sent to Lucy which included the following concerns:

- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities should retain the authority over the developmental disability institutions.
- The bill states the provisions of the act are retroactive – Concerns are fiscal impact and legal impact with regards to Brown vs. Bush settlement.
- The Family Care Council is already created in Chapter 393 and should be the vehicle to advise the APD on issues affecting the residential services for people with developmental disabilities. The institutions may have an advisory council but does not need to be a governor appointee.

Chair Houghland advised the bills were poled and they went into negotiation with APD, Advocacy Center and the sponsors of the bills. The Advocacy Center representative advised Chair Houghland there had been some mis-understanding and the language is not clear what they had agreed to so there were additional meetings scheduled. She will update the council when she learns more. Discussion followed including more information about the bill, its purpose and the impact of institutional closings past, present and future. Bob reminded everyone there was a need for these institutions years ago. Now there are communities such as Bishop Grady Villas and Noah’s Ark. Some people refer to these as institutions but there is no comparison. With Bishop Grady Villas you have community inclusion within a community which may be the wave of the future. Donna shared with the council an article titled “Changing the face of residential care – New center planned in Monfort Heights” that was in the Cincinnati Enquirer dated December 16, 2005. A large provider of residential services is planning the nation’s first life-care center for aging individuals with developmental disabilities. The plan is for several living options, including independent-living units such as one and two bedroom apartments and condominiums; assisted-living units; and a nursing-level care facility offering around-the-clock medical and custodial care. In addition it would provide support services such as meals, housekeeping, transportation and personal assistance, as well as recreation and education activities for the residents. Since there has been much talk about Bishop Grady Villas and Chapter 419.001 (1000 ft. rule) Donna decided to call the provider to find out the latest on their plans. The Executive Director did call her. He shared they hired Proctor and Gamble to do a market study to determine if there truly was an interest for this type of residential housing. They created surveys, questionnaires and interviewed people. P&G was amazed when they received a 100% response to their inquiries. This had never happened before. As a result they are moving forward with developing a business plan and researching costs, funding, etc. He shared they have talked with the Ohio Agency on Aging and the Ohio MR/DD Agency and they are both very interested in learning more about their plans. They are creating a summary of the 170 page P&G report. Donna asked if he would send her a copy and he advised yes. The article also included a couple of interesting statistics:

- The number of adults ages 60 and older with developmental disabilities is expected to double by 2030 to 1.2 million from 626,000 in 2000.
- An estimated 2.8 million Americans with developmental disabilities are living with their families. In an estimated 25 percent of those families, the primary caregiver is age 60 or older.
- There is a waiting list of 55,000 to 87,000 families nationally in need of residential care services. This number is expected to become more critical with the aging of the baby boomer generation and the aging of those with developmental disabilities.

Chair Houghland suggested that Betty Kay and Donna make an appointment with whomever Terri suggests would be a good person to talk to within APD Central Office regarding the 1,000 ft. rule. She knows that the subject has been discussed with several legislators but it would be good to share information with APD as there is currently a crunch on group homes.

III. WORKGROUP REPORT

Chair Houghland advised the workgroup met yesterday. She shared that Barney Ray gave his presentation to the legislative committee. FARC, FARF, FASC and APD people were in attendance. Linda Mable advised it went as well as could be expected. Janice Phillips advised the legislature was not happy. Chair Houghland shared a copy of the presentation is in the information packet. It provides ways to cut \$16 million. Total deficit is \$114 million. The legislature is looking for hard facts and numbers. There will be another APD workgroup meeting on Tuesday. They will be looking at Residential Habilitation which is 38% of the waiver. She emphasized the legislature is not unhappy with the APD overall budget, they are unhappy with the HCBW budget only. Chair Houghland mentioned the FCCF workgroup suggested a solution could be for everyone, across the board, for the total APD budget to take a 10% cut. It can't be done for the entire budget, just appropriation for HCBW. If every consumer, with the right to choose what they lose, took a 10% cut, it would amount to approximately \$78 million. This would be just HCBW and CDC+ folks, not FSL folks. She shared the worst of the worst options considered by APD is they would cap the waiver at \$100,000 and anyone over \$100,000, who can't come under that, won't have services and will have the option of an ICF/DD. This would affect 1,000 people. Chair Houghland shared that FCCF wants to give APD ideas for consideration. She opened the floor for discussion. Ann mentioned as families we all need to be concerned with people on the wait list as well. Jean shared that we're in an atmosphere where our state is losing income this year, beyond the waiver. The legislature will have less money to work with as a whole this year. Also, consider what President Bush has done to Medicaid. Medicaid funds are being cut and we haven't begun to get the impact of that. It was done in law that didn't require congressional approval. As a reminder, HCBW services for people with developmental disabilities are not mandatory services. These are optional services that will be affected within the next 12 to 18 months. Also, the state no longer has the tobacco funds which are around \$22 million. Chair Houghland really wants FCCFlorida to submit ideas and suggestions to the workgroup on Tuesday. Bob asked for clarification that the only focus is on the short term \$114 million deficit which is affecting the HCBS Waiver. Chair Houghland advised yes. Ideas are as follows:

- APD to remain an independent Agency
- Limit Support Coordination as a choice
- Eliminate NRSS for children under the age of 22
- Move all children under age 18 from HCBS waiver to FSL waiver
- Individuals/families will choose a one time only 10% service reduction in their cost plan.

Chair Houghland suggested that due to time, it would be necessary to table the subject until later on in the afternoon.

IV. PRESENTATION - Steve Coleman, PhD – Senior Behavior Analyst – APD

Chair Houghland introduced Steve and advised he is relatively new to the position. He replaced Terri Rodgers. Steve began by sharing with the council his extensive background in the Behavioral Analysis. He passed around to everyone a column he wrote for the Florida

Association of Behavior Analysis (FABA) newsletter. He shared the article includes his platform, his priorities for the office, whether done by him or someone else within the agency does them. He shared Florida is the 3rd largest state in the country and developmental disabilities are 47th in the nation in terms of funding. When you have no tax base, you get what you pay for so funding is always limited and somebody suffers for it. He shared the task within the office is pretty onerous. He has identified 12 areas that he thinks are particularly important which include:

- The need to develop or draft a rule that came from a directive in the revision to Chapter 393 that guides services for the developmental disability population. He shared they have recently drafted a good first draft of seclusion and restraint policy for at least people in the varied community arrangements (Intensive Behavior and Behavior Focus group homes) and Developmental Service Institutions. Chair Houghland asked if he anticipates the rule for 393 happening this year. He advised, he hopes so.
- The need to work on adherence to behavioral service policy and rule, including the monitoring of Reactive Strategies as set forth in Chapter 393.
- A process for the management and tracking of Intensive Behavior and Behavior Focused clients, providers and their related service rates. He stressed the need, and Chair Houghland agreed, for IB individuals living in a group home to be allowed to stay in that home setting even when the behaviors improve to behavior focus rather than being moved into a behavior focus home setting.
- The development of a systems approach to statewide Behavioral Services to ensure that there is consistency in setting expectation for programmatic materials, how programs are reviewed by the LRC (local review committee), how provider agencies are monitored and professional development promoted locally. Bob mentioned a major problem within IB and BF individuals living in group homes and attending ADT programs that there isn't a requirement for the behavior plan at the home to coincide with the behavior plan at the ADT program which results in a lack of continuity and consistency of the behavior plan. He asked if something can be done to get these people working together. Steve advised yes he thinks so and some of it is providers working together but also the local behavior analyst working with the providers to make sure it happens. Steve emphasized there is even more of a problem of continuity between the home and the school.
- Steve mentioned he sees a problem within the gatekeeper issue. He wants to get more authority or point of accountability at the local level with the area behavior analyst. While the goal is to continue to review, promote and assure progress is made there are some individuals who will "plateau" out but the level of service needs to continue. He wants more local authority to reduce the amount of paperwork to the gatekeeper to keep services in motion. There are some groups of individuals who will always be more difficult and challenging and the only person who can determine that are people working locally not people working 500 miles away. The bottom line is they want to minimize disruption of service, minimize paperwork, minimize complaints, and minimize the need for fair hearings because the paper submitted wasn't right.
- Steve mentioned they are trying to establish better means of marketing opportunities for individuals within the field of behavior analysis. He asked if council members know of any friends in the legislature or in the university system, encourage them to do something to increase the training and instruction for people in behavior analysis. They need a certain level of instruction that includes Masters and Doctoral level programs. He also suggested partnering with the FABA (Florida Assn. of Behavior Analysts) lobbyists to try to establish a licensing act for the practice of behavior analysis. Several mentioned there is a real gap between a persons behavioral plan and how the plan is and more

specifically is not implemented or followed. There needs to be accountability to see that the services are delivered by qualified individuals including behavioral assistants as required by the behavioral plan. Steve mentioned another problem is the lack of providers performing the services. With only a few exclusive providers you have no standard for comparison, you take what you get. There needs to be more providers offering the services. This creates competition which can result in improved services. Steve mentioned he does feel like they are making progress. The main goal for him is to get things organized. They did get the draft of the rule done. They have a new process for approving and routing the medical/intensive behavioral clients that go to Carlton Palms. He provided additional information about Carlton Palms. He provided all in attendance with his business card. Chair Houghland thanked Steve for taking the time to attend our meeting and for his excellent presentation.

V. TELECONFERENCE CALL – Terri McGarrity, APD Central Office

Terri mentioned she'll answer any questions the council has. She made reference to Stephanie providing everyone with a copy of Barney's APD presentation to the legislature. She shared he wasn't able to get through it all as there were many questions. Barney has met with the Governor's office and they're ready for APD to move forward with the plan. There were conflicting comments to this statement. Terri mentioned they are working on some rate restructuring including res-hab. She mentioned the items presented to the legislature were things that they can move on fairly quickly without federal approval. She share they had a meeting with AHCA this week and they are on board and supporting APD. Ann shared with Terri the council is suggesting as a solution that all families on the HCBS waiver take a 10% cut in their cost plan of expenses being used. The family would have a choice of what that 10% would be. Terri mentioned her only concern would be that she thinks there would have to be due process which means if people wanted to appeal that they're would be a built in cost for legal fee. She does agree with the council that the only fair way to do this is across the board with every service. Ann mentioned if it would be promoted as this being a way of getting people off the wait list families might be willing to accept it. Ann wondered if Terri thinks this would be a problem with CMS. Terri advised no she doesn't because it's being done across the board. Beverley mentioned a caveat should be included that it would set a precedent and be a one time only personal sacrifice. Terri agreed it should be sold that way. It's an equitable way of doing it. She will be happy to share the idea with Barney. She believes there has to be a caveat that allows for exceptions for services that would cause a person to be at great risk. Ann agreed, health and safety must be considered. Chair Houghland advised the council will have a written document to present. Terri mentioned how appreciative everyone has been in having Family Care Council Florida's presence at the APD workgroup meetings, specifically Chair Houghland and Ann.

Chair Houghland asked if Terri had anything else to share. Terri advised that APD has ceased all waiver enrollments except for those offers that were made prior to the end of December. They do still have the crisis process but what they are doing is making the determinations the same way as always but offering General Revenue funds because they can't do waiver enrollment right now. Chair Houghland asked how many individuals under the crisis with GR money right now. Terri advised about 153. Terri shared they clearly need to do something with individuals who are homeless and there have been a fair number of those the past few months. They are not offering anymore CBC enrollments. She doesn't know what the status of the CBC kids will be next year.

Terri mentioned the Governor's office continues to want to do the plain language initiative. She would like any comments the council has on the youthfulness, read ability and the navigation

ability of the APD website. They want it to be easy for consumers and families to use. Please E-mail any suggestions to her.

Frank asked Terri for a quick update on CDC+ changes on the fiscal agent. Terri advised they are moving along with that. She indicated they are working closely with the contractor to get the computer system up and running so the transition will go smoothly. Frank offered a suggestion to ask Rhonda to write one of her clear, understanding messages to parents advising them of what's currently going on. It would include an update, what's in the future and how-to instructions. Terri thought that a great idea. Bob mentioned she spoke with Rhonda this week and she, Tammy and a fiscal agent representative are in the process of scheduling 28 family meetings around the state. That should be starting the end of March and continue through the end of May. Terri mentioned a notice of these meetings should probably be sent directly to the families.

Ann asked about the new computerized support coordination plan (The Care Connection). When will the trainings start for the support coordinators and when will families be able to utilize this. Terri advised she'll find out and let Patty know.

Chair Houghland asked about Family CAFÉ. Terri advised APD is not financially supporting the Family CAFÉ this year. Chair Houghland asked if APD would be sending people from their office. Terri advised there are some people making presentations. They can only send a few due to lack of money for travel. She is still hoping that in the future APD can establish small regional meetings. Chair Houghland asked that if it is determined that APD has the availability of having a table at CAFÉ the FCCF is asking to share (no cost) the table with APD. Terri advised OK.

Terri mentioned how great the FCC bulletin looks. She commends Ann, Patty and Stephanie on a job very well done. Ann mentioned the council really appreciates the support received from APD on this project. Terri mentioned it would be great to send or deliver the bulletin to your legislators. Ann mentioned the need for all support coordinators to develop a cost plan summary as mentioned in the article on page 13 of the bulletin. This should be mandatory of all SC's. Also Jean pointed out that families should be receiving a monthly statement showing what providers have spent on a regular basis. Terri advised a part of the Prado-Steiman settlement was that families would receive a monthly statement. Jean advised not everyone gets it. She is her son's legal guardian but doesn't receive a statement. He lives in a group home so the statement probably goes to the group home provider. That is not right. It should be going to Jean. Terri advised Jean is correct it should be sent to her. Bob advised he is legal guardian and has never received one. Betty Kay questioned her support coordinator who in turn made arrangements for her to get the statement. Chair Houghland mentioned she would discuss this with Janice Phillips at Florida Assn. for Support Coordinators (FASC). Chair Houghland thanked Terri for taking the time to call in. Everyone agreed.

VI. Colors: How to work together and appreciate each others abilities and talents

Chair Houghland presented the council with a self-analysis project that was very interesting and entertaining. Everyone enjoyed the break from the prior meeting agenda.

VII. WORK GROUP REPORT CONTINUED – From morning session

Chair Houghland reviewed the ideas mentioned during the morning session. She asked for additional thoughts and ideas to include in the document that she hopes to present to the APD working group on Tuesday. Ann suggested the need to include either as an idea or position to cease CBC foster care waiver enrollment as a priority on the HCBS waiver. She also suggested capping services at \$130,000 and offer individuals who qualify the CDC+ waiver. Chair Houghland advised Linda Mabile mentioned at the last meeting the worst case scenario if they can't get something to please this legislature they would cap the big waiver. She did not indicate

at what amount. If FCCF suggests a dollar amount of \$130,000, that could affect 500 or 600 people with cost plans over that amount. By giving these people an option to go on the CDC+ they might be able to find the services within the \$130,000 as a way of keeping them from the ICF's or large institutions. Ann believes families should have a choice rather than forcing them into ICF/DD's. Donna mentioned the number one priority should be to provide the necessary supports and services to the individuals with the most significant disabilities. She thinks consideration should be given to the elimination of Companion services. They are neither medically necessary or fall under the guidelines of a meaningful day activity. She sees a lot of abuse of the service by companions. There is no accountability or training components for this service. Many consumers who use companions are high functioning individuals who don't need assistance but need supervision and transportation. Organizations such as Best Buddies, YMCA, faith-based organizations could be used instead of spending APD dollars. When looking at a deficit and the possibility of elimination of services, it seems companion service is one that should be considered. Discussion followed with examples of how the elimination of the service could affect consumers, especially individuals with significant disabilities.

Discussion followed regarding the role of the support coordinator and their job description. If they are going to be required to even assist in the 10% cut, they are just at the mercy of everybody because they have no recourse whatsoever. They become the "fall guy". Support coordination needs to be reviewed as they have a lot of responsibilities. It was decided to leave this off the list. Discussion followed regarding Res-hab services and eliminating ADT services for some individuals that could be moved to the NRSS program. Chair Houghland mentioned a reason that ADT's has not been included in the APD plan is because utilization has not gone up, it's straight line. It's not the problem cause.

Chair Houghland summed it up as we have the wait list, we have people with huge cost plans, plus many other circumstances and we have a legislature that won't let us get away with the cost anymore. APD can't afford the big waiver. They can't afford to provide the supports and services needed to accommodate everyone's needs. It was agreed by consensus that what is needed in the state of Florida is a State Income Tax. It can be recommended but the legislature is not going to consider it. It is very difficult to take away something that has already been given to you. That is why a 10% cut across the board is the only logical solution because then it won't be just a few affected, everyone will hurt some. Jean emphasized what Beverley stated earlier, it has to be made very, very clear that it is understood as a one time only offer. We are setting a precedent here. We can't let them come back in the future, when things get tight, and say they gave up 10% last time. The following are ideas, based on current discussion, to be added to the above list:

- Cease CBC clients as priorities for HCBS waiver
- If HCBS waiver is capped (\$?) individuals exceeding cap should be offered option of CDC+.
- If considering elimination of services, look at companion services as they are neither medically necessary or meaningful day activity.

Chair Houghland advised some of the attendees will be staying this evening to work on the actual document to be presented on Tuesday. It was asked if the council wanted to take a vote on each idea. Bob asked if these were going to be actual recommendations or suggestions from the council as ways to, if that is the case then why vote, put them all in there. Chair Houghland liked the terminology of "suggestions", "ways to". Discussion followed questioning how the 10% would be determined, when and how it would affect the consumer. Would it be based on actual bills or cost plans? Would it be taken out this fiscal year or next fiscal? It was decided the 10% would have to be applied to the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – Chair Houghland asked Joy, chair of the nominating committee, to announce the slate of officers for the 2007/2008 fiscal year. They are:

- Patty Houghland, Chairperson
- Betty Kay Clements, Vice Chairperson
- Joy Frazier, Secretary
- Bob Wessels, Treasurer

The vote will take place at the May meeting.

FCCF 1-800 Number – Chair Houghland advised the answering service is set up to monitor the calls. The 800 number will be answered by Signas and all calls will be answered by a live person in English and Spanish. They will in turn create an E-mail which will include name, address, county, telephone number, E-mail address, if calling from out of state, primary language and short statement of the issue inquiring about. The answering service will take the E-mails and between the hours of 3 and 5 daily forward to the core team of Patty, Joy, Bob and Betty Kay. Depending on whose week it is, those E-mails will be forwarded to the appropriate area chairperson. The chairperson will have a log sheet (to be prepared and sent out) that includes logging in the call, date and time of person contact. The core team will check to make sure calls have been made as they want a reliable check that area chairs are responding to the calls being made to the 1-800 number. APD is paying for the answering service so FCCF has to be responsible to them and prove the service is being beneficial. It is up to the area chairperson to have somebody responsible to respond to the people calling within 48 hours.

FCC Bulletin Postcards – Chair Houghland advised there is a postcard inside the FCC bulletin for people to fill out with contact information and send in. They will be sent to a PO Box set up by Donna. Donna will see they are sent to the correct area chairperson.

Chair Houghland advised if we're going to be serious about reaching out to families we have to be responsive. Ann added that councils are going to be tested on this and no one will know which one is the test.

Family CAFÉ committee report - Betty Kay reported the committee is very hopeful that all Family Care Councils will be supporting Family Café by sending people. She would like to hear from attendees how many they plan on sending. Area 3 will be sending between 5 and 10 based on need. Margarita mentioned the hotel chosen is not a state vendor so they don't except state hotel rates. Some area APD offices will not create a purchase order to use FCC funding dollars if the hotel is not a state vendor. Several indicated they have people attending but have applied for the scholarships and if accepted, FCC funding dollars wouldn't be used.

FCC Bulletins and Brochures – Ann advised the areas do not have their bulletins yet as the printer is waiting for a purchase order. The brochures are supposed to be done this coming week for those areas who ordered them. They will be mailed once Stephanie prepares the purchase order.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, Chair Houghland adjourned the meeting at 3:45.

The next meeting will be held on May 19th, 2007 at The Holiday Inn Select.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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