

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

PATTY HOUGHLAND, CHAIRPERSON

Holiday Inn Select Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

January 19th, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patty Houghland, FCCF Chairperson
Joy Frazier, FCCF Secretary
Ann Millan, Past FCCF Chairperson
Lynn Carper, A1 Chair
Lynn Daw, A2 Representative
Frank Carroll, A3 Representative
Maria Quinones, Area 4 Representative
Pauline Lipps, Suncoast East Region Chair
Beverley DeStories, Suncoast West Region Chair
Donna Rauber, A7 Co-Chair
Maria Eash, A8 Representative
Jean Sherman, A10 Chair
Phil Pearson, A12 Chair
Betty Kay Clements, A13 Chair, FCCF Vice Chair
Manny Champavannarath, A14 Representative
Nancy Moody, A15 Representative

STAFF & GUESTS

Stephanie Khan, APD Central Office
Terri McGarrity, APD Central Office
Lynn James, Area 8 Guest
Jacqui Hawkins, Area 8 Guest
Sonja Bielecki, Area 15 Guest
Amelia Rauber, Area 7 Guest
Art Barndt, Area 7 Supported Empl. Liaison

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 welcomed everyone to the FCCFlorida meeting and asked for introductions. Chair Houghland shared she visited every area APD website. Suncoast Region has the best and most recent newsletter on it. There are 8 of the 15 areas that have some form of a newsletter on their website. This is a good resource for information and learning what is taking place in other areas. She visited every area FCC webpage on the FCCFlorida website. Phil Pearson from area 12 has the best website. Betty Kay was awarded a prize for being the best presenter. Maria received an award for all the work she has done on behalf of FCCFlorida and Area 8 FCC council.

Chair Houghland reviewed the FCCF information packet contents. Items include the following:

- FCCF Agenda
- Supports Intensity Scale – Interview and Profile form
- Guardianship Legislative Bill SB 688
- Family Care Council Florida Comments at APD Unity Summit

II. WORKGROUP MEETING UPDATE

Chair Houghland advised that most of the time was spent on discussing the FCCF legislative platform for 2008. It was a difficult discussion because of all the various arenas the council has interest in. Chair Houghland asked Phil if he had met with Senator Evelyn Lynn yet. He advised yes. He shared that Senator Lynn is not supportive of APD and has introduced a bill that would disband APD. She wants to put it under AHCA. Betty Kay shared she is compassionate and does care about the DD population. However, when she met with Senator Lynn it was right after the support coordinator issue. The fact that APD wanted to hire state employees as Support

Coordinators really irritated Senator Lynn. Phil added that her perception is that APD doesn't know how to spend its money. Phil also shared that she was incensed that the wait list is as long as it is. She believes APD doesn't know how to handle it. Discussion followed about the lack of complexity and knowledge that has been proven over this past year within the legislature. Jean mentioned to say that Senator Lynn is disgusted with the situation with the wait list without recognizing why it is there and how it came to be when monies have been cut is like nothing in touch with reality. How can you blame an agency for not serving the wait list when you've cut their budget? Ann asked Terri to explain who the people are that are being served with General Revenue dollars. Terri explained that some of the individuals who receive GR services and who are on the wait list will never be eligible for the waiver. The legislature changed the IQ level back in 1979 and anyone receiving services prior to 1979, regardless of any change in law, continue to receive services but they won't qualify for the waiver because their IQ is too high. They also use GR dollars to alleviate a crisis situation when the person is on the wait list. She shared they need more funding to preserve that. There are individuals with trust funds who will not be financially eligible for the waiver. Also, there are others who just won't meet the qualifications for the waiver. Chair Houghland advised the three main topics the workgroup discussed were:

- FCCF does not want an HMO because of the reduction in funds APD would be receiving due to the % of dollars taken by the HMO.
- FCCF wants APD to continue on as a viable agency.
- A Legislative Order mandating that Medicaid Waiver funding is the payer of last resort.

Jean asked Terri if it was possible for APD to create a good PR video or CD that provides examples of what take place within the agency. An example would be showing parts of a monthly crisis meeting. Terri shared they get about 100 crisis cases a month. She advised they did outline some of the situations in dire straits that they did approve and disapprove. They tried putting a face to those situations. Jean shared it's only the dollars the legislature looks at and they don't understand what drives the use of those dollars and increased need of those dollars. Manny shared her concerns that the people in Tallahassee have no idea what people with disabilities go through on a daily basis. She thinks that is the whole problem. Bev added that the DD population is too individualized. Nobody fits into a particular model. They don't fit into a medical, HMO model. In order to move forward, get a job, progress if that's what they're capable of because there is a percentage of the population that can get employment and eventually sustain themselves to some degree. But there are many, many situations where flexibility is required and the medical model does not allow for flexibility. They allow for creating a crisis until you fit their criteria. Until that time, you float with no help, no assistance and no support. Families need to organize and speak to the issue that we want a human services model not a medical model. Chair Houghland shared the legislature does look at it strictly as a money thing because of the economics and turndowns. We have to realize that's their perception and have to deal with it because they will get APD in budget one way or another. What she hopes we can make happen is they get APD in budget with the human services model and not a medical model. It was emphasized the need to educate the legislators that the medical model isn't set up to maintain life long-term needs whereas the human services model is. This needs to be addressed in the FCCF legislative platform. Chair Houghland was pleased that the group was in unity, that we want to maintain a human service model. APD produces a human services model; Medicaid produces a medical model and describes the points of each.

The third topic discussed at the workgroup meeting was Maria's suggestion that a Legislative Order be created stating that APD Medicaid Waiver funding will be the payer of last resort. APD is still sub-planting, very frequently, other programs because they aren't doing their job. Examples include the school systems IDEA program, and other organizations that are mandated to do some of the services that APD has picked up and done for folks because they can get it from APD but shouldn't. The language considered for the legislative order is "that avenues of support must be

exhausted before using Medicaid Waiver funds”. Discussion followed suggesting the language should be stronger.

Chair Houghland asked for a core group to develop a draft legislative platform. Ann and Betty Kay will work with her.

Conference Calls - Chair Houghland asked Stephanie to share an advantage that has been created by APD for Family Care Councils. Stephanie advised that several councils have asked about the option of having the conference call line available for their meetings. The purpose would be for individuals who are unable to attend meetings due to hard times, finding respite or living too far from the meeting location. APD was able to designate a line strictly for Family Care Councils. She passed out plastic ID cards with telephone access information. The cost will be 3-1/2 cents per minute per caller and be charged to the council. Central Office would handle the charge through journal entry rather than invoicing the council. The council will reserve the line through Stephanie.

Legislative Committee Meeting - Chair Houghland advised the Senate Appropriations Committee is meeting to discuss APD issues on Thursday, January 24th. Terri E-mailed Lucy Mohs for the time and she replied it's imperative that the council have as many people as possible in the audience. Ann mentioned she could attend. The committee working on the legislative platform will have a draft ready in time for the meeting. Terri mentioned the other issue the appropriations committee has is about the wait list. They do not understand the wait list; they don't understand that people get on the wait list in hopes of someday getting something. Terri explained the agency is looking at a different way of structuring the wait list. They are looking at Pennsylvania's PUNS tool as a way of determining what the need is. She shared it's very difficult to determine if one person's need is greater than another person's.

Guardianship Bill (Senate Bill 688) - Chair Houghland asked for someone to volunteer to be the “point person” to keep track of this bill. She felt the need for the council to fully understand the implications of it. Maria volunteered to take the language of the bill to an attorney friend of hers who specializes in elder law. Chair Houghland asked everyone to be on alert for any E-mails coming through on this issue and please forward on to her.

III. APD UPDATE - Terri McGarrity, Sr. Management Analyst Supervisor

Chair Houghland introduced Terri and mentioned that everyone has an APD information folder.

Florida Discount Drug Cards - Stephanie passed out a copy of a news release from the Governor's office announcing the Florida Discount Drug Card. It provides discounts to individuals, families and seniors without prescription drug coverage. Terri advised it was issued on December 20th. Eligibility is for individuals age 60 and older who do not have prescription drug coverage or if they are in the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage gap. Individuals, families and seniors under age 60 may be eligible if they have an annual income of less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level and do not have prescription drug coverage.

APD Leadership Meeting - Terri advised the agency is beginning a series of reviews of residential services around the state in conjunction with their area offices. Director Johnson is very concerned about some of the residential programs around the state. APD teams will be making unannounced visits from Central Office & Area Offices to review residential services to determine where their might be some problems. Problems could be related to monitoring or issues the area offices may not have picked up on. The reviews will begin the week of January 21st and will cover every area office in the state. They will be issuing reports on their findings. Discussion followed about monthly area monitoring of group homes being announced visits rather than unannounced. Lynn from Area 2 program office mentioned a reason for announced visits is because they want the home manager to be there to discuss issues with them. She shared what they look for in a visit. It was shared area offices have different methods of monitoring. Visits in some areas are unannounced.

Notice of Development of Rulemaking - Terri mentioned in the information packet is the notice of Rulemaking for the Service Delivery (Waiver Tiers) and comprehensive assessment process. She

shared they don't know the future of the tiers. There was discussion at the unity summit about the tiers. It's a decision the legislature will have to make.

Family CAFÉ - Terri advised APD will welcome FCCF to join their table. Terri asked for clarification regarding discussion of a joint presentation with Director Johnson. Chair Houghland shared that Jane had mentioned to her several months ago that she would like to see a joint presentation with FCCF. Lori Fahey's committee has heard nothing from APD regarding a presentation or a vendor table. They are currently doing presentation selections. Terri asked if the purpose of the presentation would be sharing FCC & APD's future, what FCC's role is, etc. Chair Houghland felt the same time slot together in one room would get a larger population of people in that setting as compared to if APD did one and FCC did a separate one.

Cost Saving Workgroup - Terri mentioned that each agency is being asked to really tighten its budget to determine where they can do some cost savings without impacting upon services. Terri shared the names of those internal to APD on the group. They are looking at ways to improve efficiency. One possibility may be to look at some of the special member project contracts that really don't use service dollars. Additional considerations include administrative such as travel, dollars to Family CAFÉ, General Revenue and contracts. She shared APD staff is about as lean as it can be. Currently, they have statewide (Central office & Area office) 100 vacant positions.

QSI Assessment Brochure - Terri thanked the council for reviewing the QSI brochure and providing comments. They will pay for an interpreter to translate into Spanish. She is asking for the council's assistance in determining methods for distribution. She doesn't believe posting on the website is enough as many people don't have internet access. It was suggested a tri-fold mailing without envelopes would be the most cost efficient method. Phil mentioned the need for families to know and be included in this assessment process. He was told at their area QSI training that guardians will know what is going on. That led Phil to believe if they aren't guardians, families will not be notified to participate in the process. Terri advised families should be part of the process. Chair Houghland suggested that each Family Care Council be given a quantity of the brochures to distribute as ABC system doesn't always have correct addresses. Phil mentioned that you can't just give information such as this to support coordinators and expect them to distribute because it's been proven on numerous occasions in the past that it's just not going to happen. Ann shared it should be included in support coordinator contracts that they must keep families informed on a regular basis. Terri advised it is in their provider agreement. Terri was asked about parent involvement in the assessment process. She shared it is mandatory for guardians to be present during the process. If the individual is a competent adult, they recommend that families be involved, if the individual chooses. She feels that is a very important piece, they don't want to alienate families. Families are a very important source of information. The assessor would want to sit down with the individual, family, support coordinator and anybody who is important in the life of the individual. Terri advised they have set a target of 4 assessments per week per assessor. She shared that too date they have hired about 53 assessors. Donna asked Terri if when she mentioned Guardians if that also includes Guardian Advocates. Terri advised yes. Donna shared she knows of a guardian advocate for several consumers who seldom receives a call to be included in anything. Terri made note of this because the question on guardian advocates has come up before. Chair Houghland added there is no difference in the legality of a person who is a guardian advocate as opposed to Chapter 744 (full guardianship). They have the same responsibilities. Terri shared in the information packet is the most recent copy of their proposed QSI operating procedures. She would appreciate any comments, anything that needs clarification or anything that has not been included. They hope to finalize within the next couple of weeks.

Wait List - Chair Houghland asked about the wait list people. Terri advised they plan on doing a cross-section of the wait list, a statistical sample of people on the wait list. They are going to use a version of the PUNS (tool from PA.). They plan on looking at between 800 and 1500 people. The DD council has offered to let APD use some staff from the University of Florida. They will start

negotiations with them in the next two weeks. Once they finish the PUNS on the random sample, they would like to do a QSI on those same people. It is very clear to the agency they need to have a way to capture the needs of the people on the wait list. Terri advised when she returns to the office she'll send Chair Houghland a copy of what the APD proposed priority is for the wait list. The priority continues to be capturing the critical needs of people that will be similar to their crisis process. Perhaps the next group will be children who will be aging out of state plan services or out of the school system who will have nothing to do. They can do some wait list needs based on a 2 – 5 year projection. They will also take into account the age and physical condition of the caregiver, therapeutic needs of the individual, etc. The current method is the most fair as it allows the person who has been on the wait list the longest an opportunity to get enrolled on the waiver more quickly. She is not sure how it can be done based on a needs assessment. Discussion followed regarding who becomes the priority. It has to be the caregiver getting ready to die. Terri advised absolutely but that's a crisis criteria. Chair Houghland emphasized it can't wait until the person dies to meet the crisis criteria. There needs to be a planning process before the person dies. There are families with caregivers above the age of 80. They need to be prioritized. Terri shared it's very difficult to determine what is the most fair thing to do for everybody. The priority needs to be what is fair to the people that need the service. Phil shared APD has to figure out a way to do the prioritization because if they don't, the legislature will do it for them. Terri agreed. Chair Houghland thanked Terri for attending the meeting and providing the council with excellent information. Terri thanked the council for all their support.

IV. UPDATE ON SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT – Art Barndt, Area Seven Supported Employment Liaison

Chair Houghland introduced Art. Art began by sharing that he and his wife are good friends with Bob Wessels and his wife. They have traveled together around the state addressing the employment initiative. He shared he used to work with Bob under the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and an employment coordinator. An opportunity became available for him to take a career service position with APD in Area Seven. Between Art and Stephanie the following resources have been provided to everyone in attendance:

- A copy of Art's powerpoint presentation titled Supported Employment
- Guide to Quality Support Employment in Florida developed by Dale DiLeo
- Supported Employment and Natural Supports
- Day to Day User's Guide: Successful Employment for People with Disabilities
- Supported Employment Training Manual

His presentation will provide an update to the 5 year Employment Initiative which began in 2004, the future of that initiative, the complex issues outside of initial employment which include Medicaid issues, Social Security Benefit issues and issues with the business community. He mentioned the Guide to Supported Employment by Dale DiLeo is given to all support coordinators. He shared the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant has been renewed for up to 3 years. He reviewed the statutory language (Florida Statue 393.13(2)(b)4 and 393.066(6)) related to the employment initiative. Art shared the agency is doing very well with the 5 year initiative. The number of people that have a job as of 7/1/04 was 2,428. The number of people maintaining employment as of 8/1/06 is 4,662. The five year target by 6/30/09 is 5,842. Discussion followed regarding the difference between APD's supported employment initiative and Voc-Rehab. Manny shared her experience with Voc-Rehab. They were of no help to her. Thanks to the help of her supported living coach whose husband has his own company, he created a position for her. Art shared the goal for reducing the number of ADT recipients will be more difficult. Currently the number of recipients that have a job as of 7/2/07 is 880. He has seen in the last 6 months ADT programs growing as many children are graduating from school and their IEP's and educational plans don't have many

options for them, especially if they are on the wait list. The good news with the wait list is new monies are becoming available out of GR dollars. JB Black announced every area in the state will receive a “pot of money” (IFS dollars) that could be used to address supported employment for folks on the wait list. Art shared what is happening in his area.

Training – Art made reference to the Supported Employment Training manual developed by Wilson Resources, Inc. He is a certified train the trainer. The outcome of the manual was to teach people on a more practical curriculum from the business and clients side of things. What does supported employment look like? Quality training in Florida has not always been the best. In the last six months he has seen a huge change in the people who are applying to be Supported Job Coaches. He shared last month in Orlando, the majority in the class of over 25 people, were people starting second careers. Many in the class were previous business owners and human resource managers.

Florida Benefits Information Referral Network – The manual received titled “Day to Day User’s Guide: Successful Employment for People with Disabilities” is the training guide. Art shared this is a major part of what has been done with the Medicaid Infrastructure grant. Included is a 10 day training of over 1,000 people statewide over a 2 year period. The goal will be to have this curriculum available to everyone across the state. Art shared the Social Security Benefit issue has been a complex nightmare for everyone. He is among 30 individuals who have participated in the 10 day training program over a three week period. Participants must pass a test to become certified. The knowledge learned from this program has been made into a general presentation which Art used recently and was a big success. Most areas have a staff person that has participated in this training program. Families need to be educated and know these people are available to answer questions, especially if they receive notice from SS about benefits and possible loss of benefits. Art’s presentation also included information on:

- How the Business community benefits from hiring people with disabilities.
- Business Leadership Networks in the State of Florida – Art believes strongly in the BLN’s because its businesses talking to businesses about the issues of hiring people with disabilities.
- Project Search is a statewide project. It’s an outcome of the BLN. It’s a transition from high school to work program. The difference in this transition program is the classrooms are hosted in the business (host sight itself). Rotation of internships go out into that business and the business then can hire at anytime or at the end of the internship program. Therefore, a student will go directly from high school into the workforce. The program is currently set up in Brevard County with five more pilot sites scheduled for Jacksonville, Tampa, West Palm, Miami and Pensacola.
- Art shared a language change within Tallahassee which is: “Everyone with a disability should have the opportunity and be EXPECTED to work”. The change, expected, is being heard out of the Dept. of Education and pretty much across the board. The state legislators embrace it as well.

Medicaid Work Incentive - The Medicaid Infrastructure grant has targeted a Medicaid Work Incentive that gives individuals with disabilities who are working an opportunity to buy their own health coverage. He provided the highlights of the program which include Income Limits/Exclusions, Asset Limits, Premiums and Medicaid and Private Health Insurance. He suggested inviting Melinda Coulter, J.B. Black and Leann Herman to come to the next FCCF meeting to give an hour long presentation on the entire program. Florida is only one of eleven states that don’t have a buy-in program. Art emphasized unless we have a program like this in the state, we will continue to fight over dollars that are shrinking. Joy asked Art how the council can help with bringing the Medicaid Work Incentive to fruition. Art advised there will be public

meetings around the state. He shared the contact person is Melinda Coulter. She would have the information needed to help promote this incentive.

Discovery program – Ann asked Art to explain the Discovery program and if supported employment coaches paid by APD med-waiver funding are doing Discovery on individuals in supported employment. Art answered that SE coaches are not being paid to do Discovery. Discovery is a different way of looking at the abilities of a person. In an assessment type process called “hanging out with intent”. He shared you get a group of folks together called a circle of support. Discovery is not meant to be an employment outcome alone, although it is being used in Florida as an outcome. If a person states they want to work in the community, Discovery kicks in for that goal. The circle of support folks observe the individual in various settings such as in the home instead of the office setting, in the mall, bowling, etc. They observe the person and through this can learn about the person, his abilities, ambulatory skills and social interactions. Through this process, Discovery can find out the dreams and how they can build those dreams into the right job match. Art shared he is aware that some Voc-Rehab counselors are using Discovery.

Chair Houghland thanked Art for attending the meeting and providing a good presentation. The audience agreed with their applause. Art thanked everyone and shared it was a pleasure and asked the group to keep up the good work.

V. AHCA UPDATE – Conference Call - Pam Kyllonen – Medicaid Services Program Analyst
Chair Houghland welcomed Pam and asked everyone to introduce themselves and include the area they represent. Pam shared she appreciates being able to call in but misses being there in person. She shared several very important staff within their unit have left. She is now representing about 4 different positions in the office.

HCBS Handbook - Chair Houghland asked Pam for an update. Pam shared it has been routed through everyone up to the General Counsels office. They had 11 questions which Pam is reviewing at this time and formulating a response to them. She added an update on where they are with the rate rules. They have been challenged by a provider group on the rate rule. They came to a compromise and did another emergency rule so where they are is trying to take some of the language that was in the first rule challenged and incorporating some of that language into the handbook. That language relates to staffing by residential habilitation agencies. She hopes to have this ready to return to the General Counsels office within the next few days. When they sign off, the AHCA Secretary signs it and then they will be ready to do a notice of proposed rulemaking. They will advertise a hearing and that will take place 3 weeks after it’s published in the Florida Administrative Weekly. Pam advised that Chair Houghland is on the list to receive a copy of that notice. Once this version of the handbook gets through the process and is fully adopted then Pam will be opening up the rulemaking process again in order to align the handbook with the 4 tiers. If for some reason it gets challenged again, with regards to the issues in the handbook that were in legislation, APD General Counsel and AHCA General Counsel have done a lot research and believe they’re in good standing to implement issues that were legislatively mandated even if the handbook is still in process.

CDC+ and J Option - Pam mentioned since the CDC+ Program Analyst is no longer there she is getting involved again in CDC after several years. She shared the J Option application is with CMS and is under review. The actual application process is very basic. The detail comes in having had an experimental waiver as history. The demonstration of the CDC experimental waiver gives the basis for the request. She feels the review process will not be that difficult until they get involved in looking at the background of the demonstration CDC. Pam shared she has been asked for proof that AHCA has done a public notice that they have applied for the J Option. They have provided the information that appears on the APD website. APD will be sending letters to current CDC+ participants advising them of the J Option application. They were asked for a cap of enrollment which was capped at the current number of participants. After they receive approval and plans are

developed to expand the enrollment, they will need to ask for a J amendment. Ann shared at the Summit in Tampa, when asked about solutions, several people indicated the immediate solution would be to expand CDC+. Chair Houghland shared with Pam it was mentioned previously that one of the things needed to correct some of the long term problems with the CDC+ was to develop a much better guide/handbook. Her request is that Family Care Council Florida be involved in providing input and suggestions during this process.

Tiers Update – Pam shared Tiers 2 & 3 applications have been submitted to CMS. They had some informal questions that didn't stop the clock which they answered. CMS reviewed the answers and asked additional questions which were answered. Then another set of additional questions was sent which in order to give AHCA time to answer led to stopping the clock. AHCA is in the process of responding to those questions. They had a phone call with CMS on Wednesday to review exactly what they want and AHCA has requested that information from APD. Pam received most of the information Friday and will forward on to CMS. Pam advised because the review clock stopped and re-started the review rules state it starts back with a new 90 days. Since they are at the end of the process, if they send forward an approval package, when it gets to the last sign off, that office can either sign off immediately or let it sit until the 90 day clock is up. AHCA has no control of that. They have requested both verbally and in writing they would like an expedient review and how important it is they get the 2 waivers approved so implementation can begin so AHCA and APD can meet the mandates of the legislature. CMS does understand this. Pam gave a summary of the questions asked. She shared the new application process that began a year ago is extremely detailed. It is more detailed than writing a handbook. Chair Houghland asked if the tiers are approved and consumers get moved into the various tiers, will it remain one big bucket of money or because it's really four separate waivers, is every waiver going to be funded with 4 separate waiting lists. Pam advised currently the DD waiver, tiers 2 and 3 are in the same budget category. The FSL waiver has a separate budget line item. In the future, appropriations could break it out or leave it together. Regarding the wait list, the APD rule states they will maintain one wait list for individuals who wish to be served by the agency. Discussion followed on how the assessment tool and cost plan determines which tier a person goes into. Pam emphasized that nothing will change for the consumer or providers. She stated they had to assure this with CMS. It's being done just to satisfy this requirement by the legislature who wants to see how many thousands of people require this level of services so that's why they're in each particular tier. Pam shared the potential for saving money is that once an individual is in a particular waiver that has a cap, it will be harder for that individual's cost plan to increase. It will be less likely for SC's, providers and families to request unnecessary additional services. Manny asked what happens when an individual needs more PCA care when their medical needs have increased. Pam and Terri advised it will be part of their assessment and a request is made by their SC for additional hours. Manny asked if it would be easier to have a doctor's request. Pam advised that would need to be part of the justification that would go to Maximus for review for prior authorization.

Personal Care Assistants for Children - Pam shared that AHCA has prepared a legislative budget request (LBR) asking for the hourly rate paid on the state plan to be increased. The increase will not be as high as the waiver rate but through talking with some provider groups and home health agencies the request will be increased enough that the home health providers will be able to afford to utilize the state plan hours. Terri asked when this would occur. Pam advised because it's a legislative budget request it would occur with the next budget year beginning July, 2008. Pam shared the current rate is \$9.17 per hour and it would increase to \$15.90 per hour.

Chair Houghland, Ann and everyone shared the council's sincere appreciation to Pam for all she does and answering all our questions.

VI. BUSINESS

Summit at Tampa - Ann shared that Eileen O'Brien gave an incredible presentation representing individuals with Developmental Disabilities. She is an APD employee who is now based out of

Suncoast Region program office. Chair Houghland asked if her presentation was on paper. Terri shared she has it and will E-mail it to Patty. However, she didn't really follow it, she spoke from the heart and was very composed. Terri shared they will probably get a tape of the summit and could probably make copies to share.

Review of Minutes - Chair Houghland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Other than Chair Houghland's, which was corrected, there were none. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Phil makes the motion to approve. Joy seconds. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Miscellaneous - Donna asked to clear up a piece of information that was sent via E-mail regarding Bishop Grady Villas. She shared one E-mail sent stated that BGV had received approval of their APD Medicaid Waiver Contract. A few weeks later, she had received word that was incorrect, it hadn't been approved yet. After further clarification from the area administrator, Steve Roth, she learned it had been approved. They are licensed and will continue to be licensed as an ALF.

Treasurer's Report - Since Maria has resigned as the FCCF Treasurer, the position is vacant at this time. Chair Houghland asked Phil if he would fill the position for the remainder of this fiscal year which ends June 30th, 2008. Phil agreed to take on this responsibility. Several asked if their additional dollars approved for FCCF have been received yet. Stephanie advised just Area Seven and Three. Betty Kay shared that she received notice from the Florida Inspector General's office that they would be auditing the Family Care Council financial records. She was advised this is part of the FCC Florida Statute. The inspection was very formal and she was pleased to report it went very well. The audit was done internally at the Area 13 program office where they reviewed all the paid invoices. Area 10 has also been audited.

Nominating Committee - Chair Houghland advised she has appointed Joy as chair of the nominating committee. A slate of officers will be introduced at the next meeting in March. Voting for new officers will take place at the May meeting. Joy asked for committee members.

Old Business - Ann asked if there were any requirements that Family Care Councils have a budget in by a certain date. Each council needs to know as soon as possible what the cut-off dates are for submitting requisitions for purchases. Stephanie will see that the councils receive the budget memo.

New Business - Maria advised there is a non-profit organization called Prosperity Life Planning. They have developed a petition for signatures which will be presented to the Senate and House of Representatives to get legislation passed for a tax credit for families or individuals for the cost of special needs planning, including guardianships and special needs trusts. She will scan it and send to Patty who will forward it on to her E-list. Everyone needs to sign this petition prior to meeting with the legislature so it can get sponsored. Maria mentioned they have another program which is a group of attorneys across the state who has agreed to accept a one-time fee for helping families who don't have the means to pay for guardianship or special needs planning. They received a grant for 13 families this year and have 7 slots still available.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Houghland thanked everyone for attending the meeting. With no further business to come before the council, Chair Houghland adjourned the meeting at 3:15.

The next meeting will be held on March 15th, 2008 at The Holiday Inn Select.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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