

# FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

Patty Houghland, Chairperson

March 16, 2019 Minutes

Embassy Suites, Orlando Airport

## Members:

Patty Houghland, FCCF Chair, FCC 1  
Patricia Oglesby, FCCF Vice Chair, FCC 8  
Ruth Wingate, FCCF Secretary  
Paula James, FCCF Treasurer, Suncoast West (5)  
Mary Smith, FCCF Past Chair, FCC 4  
Dina Justice, FCC 1  
Margie Garlin, FCC 3  
Denise Torres, FCC 4  
Pauline Lipps, Suncoast East (6)  
Dan Bayley, FCC 7  
Luz Mery Montes, FCC 9  
Gilda Pacheco, FCC 10  
Ernie Martinez, FCC 11  
Rosemary Revoir, FCC 12  
Karen Huscher, FCC 13  
Melody Hearn, FCC 15

## Guests:

Cristina Pacheco  
Krystal Sims  
Mollie Brown-Ferrier  
Gina Ingrassia  
Jeannette Estes  
Jorge Gonzalez  
Lesli Clark  
Reshawna Johnson

## Speakers:

Melanie Mowry Etters, Agency for  
Persons with Disabilities (APD)  
Communications Director  
Paul Coley, Founder/CEO  
Scent Evidence K9

## FCCF Liaison:

Stephanie Rogers

Meeting called to order at 8:40 a.m.

## Council Action and Committee/Member/Liaison Activity

- Moved by Dina Justice, seconded by Paula James to approve the January 18, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion passed.
- Moved by Paula James, seconded by Dina Justice to approve the January 19, 2019 minutes as amended. Motion passed.
- Received the Treasurer's report from Paula James. Unexpended Council funds are \$4,909.60.
- Received data from Stephanie Rogers on Home & Community-Based Services Waiver participation categories and waiting list.
- Received the proposed slate of Florida Family Care Council officers for 2019-2020 from the Nominations Committee. Patricia Oglesby/Chairperson, Dina Justice/Vice Chairperson, Ruth Wingate/Secretary and Paula James/Treasurer were nominated.

## Speaker Melanie Mowry Etters, Communications Director, APD

- Governor DeSantis' budget recommendation includes \$40.4 million for 1,600 in crisis on the waiting list and \$1 million for 500 waiting list individuals to receive supported employment services or internships.
- Senator Wright sponsored a bill updating F.S. 393 related to Developmental Disabilities, but it died without a House sponsor. Send questions to Stephanie Rogers for a future 393 update bill.
- Jeff Ivey, APD Legislative Director is following many bills, including HB 349 and SB62 "Students with Disabilities in Public Schools". Legislative session ends May 3. Governor DeSantis' first resolution declared March, 2019 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month.

- iConnect rollout on case management for Waiver Support Coordinators and APD staff was completed on December 4. The second rollout involves financial management, authorizations and Significant Additional Needs (SANS) later this year. Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and Florida Medicaid Management Information System (FMMS) interfaces are being tested. Providers will incrementally go live in 2019/2020. After successful testing for about 2 years, the current system will be retired, using iConnect exclusively. The Help Desk established specifically for iConnect issues is operated by staff with visual disabilities from Lighthouse of Orlando. A chat line was recommended to assist individuals with verbal communication issues. Screen readers to provide information to participants/parents at different comprehension levels was also recommended for accessibility. WellSky is working on a single standardized interface for providers currently using another health records system to enable electronic transfer to iConnect. The iConnect stakeholder group established in January, 2018 helped prepare for the rollout and will participate in the user acceptance training for the second rollout. Frequently Asked Questions are located through apdcares.org, under the waiver tab. Specific questions can be addressed using iConnect@apdcares.org.
- Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) program reopened on March 1 for enrollment. Stephanie Rogers will investigate changes to CDC+ program policies or procedures.
- Next Generation Questions on Situational Information (NG/QSI) assessment tool was updated. 888 individuals are involved in field testing. 100 will participate in test retest, and 100 in inter-rater reliability test, for a total of 1,088 assessments. Individuals were selected by random sampling of region, residential placement, lifestyle, primary disability, functional/behavioral/physical status, overall level of support and gender. It was suggested that age become a sampling criteria category, due to additional needs traditionally found in all aging populations. The seven domains in the NG/QSI are (1) general information, (2) supports and services, (3) wellness and health maintenance, (4) daily living skills, (5) lifestyle/value roles/social integration, (6) behavioral concerns and (7) levels of support. The tool will monitor levels of service need for long range planning. Responses during the assessment can trigger additional questions depending on answers received. Training of assessors has been completed. Waiver Support Coordinators are encouraged to participate in the assessment process. Florida State University is conducting the reliability and validity studies of the tool based on the field test data, and will be shared with Family Care Council and other stakeholders. Stephanie Rogers will send NG/QSI information to members.
- APD is operating over budget due to increased need by existing iBudget participants. The Governor is recommending a budget adjustment to assist with that amount.

**Speaker Paul Coley, Founder and CEO of Scent Evidence K9**

- Scent Evidence K9, based in Tallahassee, searches for missing persons at the request of the family, and specializes in tracking individuals through scent. The FBI reports that in 2017, 651,226 people were missing, 464,324 of them were children. The American Pediatric Association states that almost 50% of children with autism will go missing at least once before the age of 17, and 6 out of 10 individuals with Alzheimer's or Dementia will become lost. Their system's Scent Preservation Kit includes a specially-treated scent storage jar, sterile scent pad, gloves, ID label, tamper-proof seal, missing person checklist and Child ID kit with fingerprint/DNA collection materials. Law enforcement agencies, schools, residential facilities, hospitals, individual families and others can use these kit materials, in conjunction with a Scent Evidence K9 team of handler and dog to locate missing persons. Bloodhounds are used as the dog team member for their highly discriminate scent capabilities and temperament. The animals are trained to sit when

the target is found, not physically interact, which could cause fear or injury. The kits can be purchased alone, or in a “Rex the Rescue Pup Pak” which includes the above materials, plus a display doghouse, stuffed animal, illustrated book, badge and book character stickers to use for educational purposes. Tracking by Scent Evidence K9 is also possible using a specialty vacuum to acquire scent of the missing person if the kit is not available. Further information at (850) 272-6950 or [scentevidencek9.com](http://scentevidencek9.com).

#### **Family CAFÉ Committee Report – Patricia Oglesby, Committee Chairperson**

- Patricia Oglesby and Dina Justice reviewed the Family CAFÉ Power Point presentation “Things You Wish You Knew” and revised, as suggested.
- Schedule of Family CAFÉ workshop was reviewed, and members assigned to tasks: (1) Chris and Christina Spears will welcome the participants, with Pauline Lipps assisting with scripting, (2) Karen Huscher will present the Power Point, (3) Patricia Oglesby will emcee the panel participants including Melody Hearn, Sandy Coleman and son Aaron Coleman, Karen Huscher and parent on Early Intervention, a Vocational Rehabilitation representative and a Waiver Support Coordinator, (4) Question and Answer time with additional questions compiled by Dina Justice from member suggestions, (5) Patty Houghland will donate incentives to reward guest questions, with Krystal Sims and Luz Montez distributing the incentives, (6) Joanna Rydzewski and Pauline Lipps will distribute FCC Council contact information and Pauline Lipps with the assistance of Karen Huscher will coordinate member participation at the Exhibit Hall table, (7) Timekeeper tasks will be performed by Patricia Oglesby and (8) members asked to wear red to identify themselves as Area FCC information sources.

#### **Qlarant Meeting Report – Dina Justice**

- APD sent a staff stability survey to be completed by June 1 to providers and agencies. 2,016 surveys were transmitted, with 32 agencies completing the survey, 42 answering minimum questions, 135 clicking with no answer and 1,000 not opening the email. 25% participation is their goal.
- The field test on NG/QSI found participant confusion about the rebranding change from Delmarva to Qlarant
- Members discussed data on CDC+ and iBudget. Concerns were raised about changes in staff/providers. Dina Justice will send Qlarant documents to members if requested.

#### **Area Updates**

- Area 1 is hosting a “Sip, Share and Socialize” event to informally discuss employment and volunteer opportunities on Tuesday, April 9 from 5-7 p.m. Their “My Money” event is Thursday, April 18 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- Area 4 is finalizing their “Connecting the Dots” event on April 10, and reviewing their brochure. Area 12 is contributing to the event. Area 4 will attend The Emergency Preparedness Council meeting on June 21, to discuss post-hurricane stories.
- Suncoast West met in February and a speaker discussed the transportation grant in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and Manatee Counties, an uber-type program. The bus to Tallahassee on Tuesday for DD day and the dinner that night has been organized, with many legislative appointments made. On April 26 they are hosting a “Spring Fling” with a provider fair, dance with disc jockey, and have had 200 participate in the past. APD assists with printing mailing labels for the event. Invited are individuals age 22-55 who live in the family home on the waiver or waiting list. A social calendar of monthly activities is compiled by a community volunteer in their Area.

- Suncoast East said Advantage Ride, funded by Florida and administered by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, participated at their February 14 meeting. About a total of 100 participants combining Suncoast East and West attended. Tampa/Hillsborough Counties reflect approximately 20% of APD clients.
- Area 8 attended “Getting Connected”, a school board event. They are making final preparations for Developmental Disabilities Awareness day.
- Area 9 is doing outreach to investigate local services. Their March speaker discussed Social Security benefits, Medicaid and Medicare. They attended the Access Life event. In March. The Boca Bash event for individuals with disabilities provided information, boat rides, food and more. It was attended jointly by Area 9 and 10.
- Area 10 attended Joshua’s Path, and others events, with members reporting back after participating. A second meeting will be held at the APD office in April. They are working on membership recruitment.
- Area 11 has been discussing their budget, brochure purchases, website issues, committees, outreach, communication with legislators/data and APD foster care program. Attendance at meetings is increasing.
- Area 12 has four members. Chris Spears and Joseph Young are reapplying for their second term of membership. Officer elections will be held in June, 2019. They are sponsoring Area 4’s “Connecting the Dots”, assisting the East Volusia self-advocate group with finding a new advisor and are supporting Volusia’s outreach team with a presentation. They are planning mock interviews in the Fall, co-sponsored by Suncoast Down Syndrome Association. Still seeking members.
- Area 13’s Transition meeting was held on Tuesday in the Clermont library, Great turnout with speakers from the school district of Lake County, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), APD, supported employment and Career Resource. Next forum is planned for the end of June. Karen Huscher represents the Family Care Council on State agency calls
- Area 15 discussed Project Stage at Indian River College (Students Transitioning with Academic and Gainful Employment). Melody is assisting parents with clarification on the program. Project Search at Martin Memorial/Cleveland Clinic and Traditions is in its first year. She went to Hartwick Symposium, presented by Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education. Two hundred and fifty-seven higher education programs exist in 49 states. “Navigating the Roads to Transition” fair will be held on March 2 with breakout sessions for self-advocates and parents/providers including representation from Department of Health, VR, self-determination, post-secondary education, guardianship options, Social Security, financial responsibility and more. Kaiser University, one of 5 state multidisciplinary centers, also presented at this event. On April 7-13, a national crime victims training is available and Melody hopes to attend with a local advocate. Transportation remains challenging due to crossing county lines. She suggested hosting a screening of the film “Intelligent Lives” by Dan Habib on individual’s rights for people with disabilities at [www.intelligentlives.org](http://www.intelligentlives.org). Martin County’s ARC is assisting with transportation expenses for DD Day. Members can investigate the Florida Department of Transportation grant-assisted purchase of vehicles by nonprofits at [www.fdot.gov](http://www.fdot.gov).

### **Citizens Time**

- Lesli Clark from Area 13 discussed home health care needs for the developmentally disabled population. Patty Houghland offered to assist with pursuing a solution.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wingate FCCF Secretary