

# FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

Mary Smith, Chairperson

November 18, 2017

Embassy Suites, Orlando Airport

## Members:

Mary Smith, FCCF Chair, FCC4  
Patty Houghland, FCCF Vice Chair, FCC1  
Pauline Lipps, FCCF Past Chair, Suncoast East  
Paula James, FCCF Interim Treasure, Suncoast West  
Betsy Hill, FCC3  
Denise Torres, FCC4  
Susan Andersen Moore FCC7  
Dan Bayley, FCC7  
Patricia Oglesby, FCC8  
Patty Bell Kennealy, FCC9  
Marty Norris, FCC10  
Sandra Ames, FCC11  
Christopher Spears, FCC12  
Karen Huscher, FCC13  
Lisa Lupi, FCC15  
FCCF APD Liaison: Stephanie Rogers

## Guests:

Karen Hagan, APD Chief of Staff  
Barbara Palmer, APD Director  
Tom Rankin, APD Deputy Director of Operations  
Melanie Etters, APD Communications Director  
Katie Strickland, APD Deputy Communication Director  
Caleb Hawkes, APD Legislative Director  
Jeff Smith, APD Suncoast ROM  
David Brown, Guest – Family Initiative Incorporated  
Anjali VanDrie, Guest – Family Initiative Incorporated  
Amanda Heystek, DRF  
Christina Spears, Guest  
Diane Ciccarelli, Guest  
Howard Fete,s Guest  
JP McGlone, Guest  
Yolanda Herrera, Guest  
Martha Stuart, FCC11  
Maryann Sarra, FCC7  
Karen Prewitt, FCC4  
Manyvone Champavannarath, APD-Area 14 FCC Liaison

Meeting called to order at 8:10 a.m.

## COUNCIL ACTION/COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Moved by Pauline Lipps, seconded by Karen Huscher to send a FCCF representative to the Florida Developmental Disability Council's Consortium to be held in Tallahassee on December12,2017. Motion passed.

Moved by Pauline Lipps, seconded by Patricia Oglesby to approve July 14, 2017 Waiver Support Coordinator brochure workgroup meeting. Motion Passed.

Moved by Susan Moore, seconded by Paula James to approve the July 15, 2017 minutes of the regular FCCF meeting. Motion Passed.

Moved by Karen Huscher seconded by Patricia Oglesby to approve the October 11, 2017 Phone conference meeting. Motion Passed.

Moved by Patty Houghland, seconded by Elisabeth Hill 3 legislative priorities as were revised today. Motion Passed

Chair Mary Smith appointed Pauline Lipps as the FCCF Communication Liaison to assist getting information out to members in a timely manner.

Chair Mary Smith appointed Pauline Lipps chair of the committee to gather talking points for our legislative platform. Karen Huscher and Marty Norris volunteered to be members of the committee.

Paula James, Interim Treasurer reported that FCCF started the fiscal year with \$15,000 and expenditures were \$7,484.30 and there is a balance of \$7,561.70.

Paula James reported on the Regional Workshop "Florida Faith Symposium" she attended. Some of the workshop were Holistic Self Care for Caregivers, Enhancing Cross-Generational Communication and Understanding and Supporting Adoptive and Foster Families Through Your Faith.

**Tom Rankin, Deputy Director for Operations, APD – [Tom.Rankin@apdcares.org](mailto:Tom.Rankin@apdcares.org)**

- Gave updated information on the process of the residents at Carlton Palms/Bellwether Behavior Health moving to community
- APD facilitated with Carlton Palms a family meeting on Nov. 3, 2017 where the families could speak directly to APD
- Carlton Palms is an institution and does not meet the CMS requirements.
- APD and Carlton Palms are working collaboratively to move residents to community and to date 32 residents have transitioned into smaller community homes.
- Director Palmer shared that not all the families were supportive of having their family member move to a community home. Director Palmer made it very clear that the CTEP would be closed March 2019.
- Director Palmer stated that the families do have choices which consist of taking the individual home with supports, moving to Tacachale in Gainesville, community base group homes with CP or other providers of IB or even an ICF/DD if eligible.
- APD is working to secure placement in the community.
- The ROMs are charged by the Director to have an aggressive strategy for opening more IB homes in their regions.
- This past year to year and a half the IB bed increased by 200.
- 33 new homes are targeted to open by the end of the fiscal year.
- The new service is Enhanced Intensive Behavior (EIB). It is to meet the needs of the residents with severe behavior challenges.
- Nov. 13, 2017 the waiver amendment was accepted by CMS. Presently it is in process of rulemaking.
- The new EIB homes are slated to open by the end of the fiscal year.
- Barbara wants a higher level of credentialing for both the house and the front line staff. That concept is still being developed.
- Mr. Rankin gave the update on the TATE Center in Port St. Lucie.
- The Tate Center consists of 4 homes.
- MacTown will take over the operations of those 4 IB group homes.
- There are 2 IB children group homes and 2 IB adult group homes.
- The residents work with their WSC and decide if they desire to stay or move elsewhere.
- MacTown will take over December 1, 2017.
- A question and answer session followed Mr. Rankin's presentation

**Karen Hagen, Chief of Staff, APD – [Karen.Hagen@APDCares.org](mailto:Karen.Hagen@APDCares.org)**

- Discussed the APD response to hurricane Irma and lessons learned
- Yesterday there was the annual WSC meeting with 300+ WSC in attendance. There was a specific session on the hurricane.
- Disasters are not controlled but in that chaos there is an organized methodology that we can take to protect ourselves and others.
- For 23 straight days there were phone calls 2 times a day with APD, the Regions and other associations. They problem solved and held other calls whenever there was a need.
- Disasters are very personal and so responses are unique.
- Personal preparedness disaster plan will be available and Mary will get it and share. It is a work in progress.
- WSC are going to be trained to do disaster plans reviews annually.
- It is critical that the individual knows what is available in their community because resources are different across the state.

- APD had a Continuity of Operation Plan which means offices may not be available so workers did work from home or where ever they were. Alternate means of communication had to be used. APD and the regions had to continue to operate
- APD had a robust website and also a great tool kit. Information was added as it was needed or available. They used massive one way call system to keep the residents informed. They established an email just for Irma questions and a team would answer the question and it would be posted on line.
- Group Home and Foster Homes are mandated to have and emergency a plan and update it yearly.
- There are a variety of types of shelters. Every county has to have General Population shelters. They may not be comfortable but they are safe. The shelter building must meet certain code and that is a lot of shelters are schools.
- County Emergency Management and the Health Department are responsible for Special Needs shelters. They may vary as to services etc. across the state because there are 67 counties.
- It is necessary to register for a Special Needs shelter and it must be done yearly.
- Director Palmer discussed the needs for a shelter for the APD population where the caregivers and the caregiver family along with the individual with the developmental disability and their family could go. This is in the thought process and being discussed this year.
- The members of FCCF shared some stories of the various difficulties they encounter.
- Many lessons were learned at every level

**Caleb Hawks, Legislative Director, APD – [Caleb.Hawks@APDCares.org](mailto:Caleb.Hawks@APDCares.org)**

- There are three proposed policy changes to statute.
- Involuntary commitment to APD: This happens when a person with developmental disability is considered not competent to stand trial.
- APD provides 2 year of competence training on the legal process. The individual learns what a judge does and the job of public defender etc.
- APD wants to select the 3 person panel that determines eligibility for APD services.
- The second proposed policy change is about the CTEP.
- There will be no new CTEPs as of the beginning of next fiscal year.
- There will be no renewal of CTEP's license as of December 31, 2020. This date is just in case there are issues in the transition of residents of the CTEP.
- The third policy has to do with medicine administration.
- The train will go from 4 hours to 8 hours. At the training they will receive simulated validation for 3 method of delivery; oral, tropical and drops.
- There was much discussion of other concerns with meds administration. Solutions were requested not just problems. APD will consider those solutions.
- The 3 legislative priorities that are must have were discussed.
- Priority 1 is increase funding for those on the iBudget waiver in order that they have the services to remain safe and independent as possible
- Priority 2 is having the funding received for the waiver that was non-recurring moved to recurring category.
- Priority 3 is funding for the 900 individual through the crisis process.
- Requesting funds for the transition contracted services that is assisting with the transition of residents from Carlton Palms to community group homes. Carlton Palms has paid \$2 million but APD believes they will run out of money.

- Requesting funds for the I Connect Client Data System. Time line at this time is to have APD staff and WSC to trained and test the system in October of 2018. There will be a robust testing of the system prior to rolling it out.
- Director Palmer discussed the Transportation Task Force she chaired. There was discussion from the members about all the issues with transportation. There will be a written report from the workgroup.
- Mr. Hawks brought the group back to legislative issues and encouraged all to tell their own stories to the legislators. FCCF has a phone tree in order to react quickly if necessary during session. Shared the phone tree with Mr. Hawks
- Mr. Hawks is to share the spread sheet of critical members of the legislature.

#### QUESTIONS

- Algorithm—Stopped the roll out because of the work load. They expected to do it in a year but it was not possible if it were to be done correctly.
- Foster Care Project—The different areas are doing very different things. It is still a project in the making.

FAMILY INITIATIVE INC.—David Brown MSW, President and Anjali VanDrie MA, Vice President

They were guest at the meeting and they are from the Fort Myers Area. Their expertise is in CBC and DCF. They came to offer their expertise and assist in any way possible with the Foster Care Project

Contact information:

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**Melanie Etters, APD Communications Director**  
**Katie Strickland, APD Deputy Communication Director**

They presented a power point outlining a possible new look for the FCCF as it is the Silver anniversary in 2018. The new logo was presented and explained. There were samples of how the new logo would appear on the letterhead and also as a brochure. It was explained that these were all suggestions. The power point laid out how the branding would happen over the year. The power point explained how APD could assist the FCCs by developing materials and strategy for recruitment. The membership really liked the 2018 tagline of Advocating, Education and Empowering Florida Families for 25 years. The membership asked questions and gave input. No decision was made as to the logo and the membership requested time to think about it. Chair Mary Smith requested that they send a couple more logo for consideration. This concept will be discussed at the next FCCF meeting in January.

The members reported what was happening in their local councils.

Meeting adjourned 3:27 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**January 19-20, 2018**

