

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

ANN MILLAN, CHAIRPERSON
Amerisuites Orlando Airport
Orlando, Florida
July 17th, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ann Millan, Chairperson
Patty Houghland, Vice Chairperson
Frank Carroll, Past Chairperson
Joy Frazier, D1 Chair
Rhonda Sloan, Suncoast Region 5 Chair
Rob Mochrie, Suncoast Region 6 Co-Chair
Donna Rauber, D7 Representative
Judy O'Halloran, D8 Representative
Maryellen Jones, D9 Chair
Pete Dubroff, D13 Representative
Brandy Hewett, D14 Representative
Diane Ciccarelli, D15 Chair

STAFF & GUESTS

Wilma Lefler, DD Dept. Liaison
Eileen O'Brien, DD Dept. Guest
Lorraine Novak, DD Dept. Guest
Beverley DeStories, Suncoast Guest
David Vaughn, Suncoast Guest
Dean & Louise Parker, D4 Guests
Donna Ellis, D7 Guest
Amelia Rauber, D7 Guest
Shani Stoutt, Support Coordinator

The mission of the Family Care Council Florida is to advocate, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Department, to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ann Millan called the Family Care Council Florida meeting to order. She welcomed some new district chairs and representatives. She welcomed Lorraine Novak, Legal Counsel from the Dept. of Children and Families. Ann announced the "Walk on the Moon" award goes to Lorraine for her bravery to attend the meeting. Chair Millan reminded everyone to fill out the evaluation survey before leaving the meeting. Also, she asked for completed district FCC accomplishment forms. This will help the dept. to justify funding our district FCC's as they are currently working on the 2005-2006 budget. Chair Millan asks for introductions and district updates and that each person share "why they active FCC members."

Donna Rauber, District 7 shared their council approved the re-organization process mentioned at the last FCCF meeting. The new format will begin in August. The July meeting will be devoted to the lack of specialized medical doctors for our developmentally disabled population. Representatives from Medicaid regional office and other organizations have been invited. She shared the resource directory update has been printed and will be distributed to consumers. Her reason for attending the meetings is to obtain information to pass along to district council members. Also, the statewide chairs group provides a base for all councils to work together as a united front on major issues important to all individuals with disabilities. She also introduced her sister Amelia.

Frank Carroll, District 3 shared about six weeks ago their council started reviewing by-laws, policy and procedures, and structure to look at starting over again. They are having twice a month brainstorming meetings. They believe short term it will be beneficial to current members and long term beneficial to future members.

Rhonda Sloan, Suncoast Region shared they didn't have a July meeting. The respite program initiated by the Hillsborough county commissioners is complete. They will provide 16 hours of in-home respite for 200 families per month. They are working very hard on the Pathways and Partnerships conference being held in September which includes seven counties. Their FCC is

the conference material coordinator. Her reason for getting involved in the FCC was the need to find programs and activities for her daughter to participate in. By attending FCCF meetings it allows her to obtain all sorts of valuable information that she can share with other families and empower them to be able to find services and resources that their family member needs.

Judy O'Halloran, District 8 shared they did not schedule a July meeting but decided to take that time for current officers and interested members to meet to establish priorities and goals for the upcoming year. She shared Sheryl, her replacement as chair is currently attending Partners in Policymaking meetings in Tallahassee. She became involved in the FCC because of Jadene Ransdell's recommendation. She shared it was one of the best decisions she has made.

Pete Dubroff, District 13 shared he has been an FCC member since December. He is currently co-chair. Shani Stoutt from the "Together We Can" project gave a presentation at their last meeting. Unfortunately those in attendance were more interested in hearing about the new dept. He shared he moved to district 13 from Las Vegas. His sister has downs syndrome which has progressed to Alzheimer's disease. She was on the waiting list for services and through much effort on his part was finally able to get her services through crisis.

Diane Ciccarelli, District 15 shared they are on summer break because of vacations. They are still working on the supported employment project. They have different people going to other county offices within the district promoting hiring of persons with developmental disabilities.

Rob Mochrie, Suncoast Region shared he is fairly new to the council and is co-chair with Ann. He became a member a few months ago in hopes of trying to solve his son's problems. He has Autism and currently on the waiting list for services.

Brandy Hewitt, District 14 shared she is so new her 45 days isn't up yet. The group applauded and welcomed Brandy as she is the first representative the council has seen from District 14 in many years. She shared she is the mother of a child with developmental disabilities who is no longer with us. She was almost three at the time of her death. She works with children who have developmental disabilities and their families. She is with the FCC to provide support to those families who can't.

Maryellen Jones, District 9 shared she is chairperson as she is the only one able to attend the meetings. Also, she has a daughter with Autism. She shared that Shani gave the "Together we Can" presentation and they are trying to get people to do the training. Their FCC is scheduled to be a part of the county transition conference. She shared most of the families she knows in the district are on the wait list. It has been very difficult getting people involved in FCC. She is currently working on putting together a grant application from the FDDC for micro enterprise. Her daughter has a micro enterprise. She wants her to be as independent as possible.

Joy Frazier, District 1 shared she has a son who has Autism. Their July meeting is scheduled for next week and someone from the district will be giving a presentation on supported living, res hab and other topics. They helped out with the FCCF booth at Family CAFÉ. They have participated in the CDC+ conference calls and "yellow notebook" trainings. They had an outreach session in an area of the district that doesn't get much attention and it was well attended. She has started attending other support group meetings. She shared the reason she got involved in the Family Care Council was to help other families. She gave an example of how she was able to help a family with a child who has spina bifida.

Ann Millan, Suncoast Region shared that Beverley DeStories was the one who got her involved in the Family Care Council. She also has a daughter with Autism. She knew upon attending her first FCC meeting that much improvement was needed. She saw it as a place where a person could make a difference in a positive way. You could work with the department instead of against them. She shared her daughter has made incredible strides in the past five years because of the waiver. She is involved in the FCC to help families so they won't have to go through what she went through especially with the school system. She is amazed that parent's encounter all the same problems she did when her daughter was in school many years ago. She thinks it's

very important for those who have services to make sure they're available to those who do not. She added to Rob's report on Suncoast region that a lot of their individuals participated in the FCCF Celebrate Employment project. She shared some newspaper articles from their district. Chair Millan asked the guests to introduce themselves.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Millan advised the council of the executive board meeting the previous evening. The council has made incredible strides in the past year with Frank's leadership. An example is improvement in E-mail procedures which has eliminated a lot of confusion. She asked for any updated contact information. She has selected three committees which are Communication, By-Laws and Policy & Procedures, and FICD (Jadene's non-profit organization). We have to determine how to use this non-profit organization. She asked chair's to decide what committee they want to participate on before she finalizes her listing. Chair Millan also advised the council is considering going to a 1-1/2 day meeting. She asked the chair's to consider and advise if a possibility. Patty asked the council members if staying at the hotel overnight to please make their reservations early to be assured of having a room at the reduced rate. The following meeting dates have been booked: September 25, November 20, January 22, 2005, March 19, May 21, and July 16.

Chair Millan shared that she and Patty have attended many conferences and meetings the past several months. It was suggested if you attend a conference prepare a brief summary, send to Ann and she can forward on to everyone. Upcoming conferences of importance: Supported Employment in St. Augustine on August 26 – 27, 2004 and a Supported Employment conference sponsored by the Dept. of Education on Sept. 1 – 3, 2004 in Tampa. Check the website for conference information.

III. BUSINESS

Review of May 22nd minutes:

Joy asked if there were any changes or recommendations to the minutes. **Frank makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented.** Rhonda seconds the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

Rhonda shared a copy of the report included in the packet of information. She reminded the chair's of the motion made and approved at last meeting to ask each district FCC to approve \$1,000 to be designated to the FCCF for fiscal year 2004/2005. **Rhonda makes a motion that FCCF accepts a proposed tentative budget of \$15,000 for fiscal year 2004/2005, to be managed by the executive committee in 3 cost centers, which are:**

TRAVEL - All travel expenses representing and relating to FCCF business

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES – Includes telephone, broadband, web hosting service, copying, printing, postage, supplies, display board for conferences, location for board meetings, computer programs, etc.

CONSULTING – This will include minutes, web site upkeep, correspondence, and necessary communication with FCCF Board Members.

Patty seconds the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by consensus. It was suggested that any district who has not received approval from their council members yet to please advise Ann when approval has been determined. Ann will follow through with an E-mail reminder.

Ann asked Joy to make sure that district chairs not in attendance at the meeting be sent the information packets for their use. Districts not in attendance are District 2, 4, 10, 11 & 12.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Celebrated Employment: In reviewing the employment booklet it was noticeable that many of the subject employees have been in the same job for many years. The opportunity for advancement is missing. Also an obvious problem is subject employees working less than 20 hours a week. It shows how stagnant the employment is in our state. She advised the need for the councils to become creative in ways to help support the employment of persons with disabilities. The councils need to support the 5% a year initiative. She plans on taking a supply of the booklets to the supported employment conference where she hopes to have a booth.

Consumer Directed Care:

Ann shared the need for all chairs to get involved in learning about the CDC program. The long term goal is for all consumers to have a choice to participate in the CDC program. Rhonda shared she is very involved in CDC. Florida began the CDC+ program on January 1st. The experimental group transitioned to the new program which will also include the consumers who were in the control group. The good news is monthly statements will be mailed soon. She shared other issues of concern and answers received by Marie Olson of the Dept. of Elder Affairs. On-going problems include:

- Poor accounting procedures with previous fiscal intermediary PAASS.
- Consultants not doing their job
- Lack of good consultant training

The dept. is working diligently to improve the above problems by:

- Much improved accounting through Acumen
- Consultants will be required to participate in a training video teleconference. It will begin August 24th, twice weekly in all district locations.
- It's the consultant's job to train the consumers and/or representative
- The dept. wants to form a group of mentors from previous successful CDC participants to work with consumers and families to teach them how to negotiate rates, hire and fire employees, etc.

Rhonda shared the CDC website is not operational and is being re-designed.

Marie Olsen from DOEA advised if we need any further information or if consumers and representatives in individual districts continue to have problems she will be glad to discuss on an individual basis. Rhonda will be sending via E-mail to Ann a sample account statement titled Consumer Budget Report with instructions, a complete copy of her summary and a copy of the 3 questions she asked. Chair Millan reminded everyone that a CDC chat room is not sponsored by the Family Care Council. Its better we direct our attention to current chair's participation in dept. teleconference calls and the proposed mentoring program being established by the dept. Also, Rhonda's participation with the CDC teleconference calls and dept. personnel has been as a parent, not on behalf of the FCC.

Chair Millan reminded everyone we all have the right to participate in issues as a parent, not necessarily representing the FCC. In signing your name to a letter be sure to sign as parent of if it's not official, approved FCC business.

V. GUEST PRESENTATION – LORRAINE NOVAK, LEGAL COUNSEL - APD

Lorraine was invited to give the council a legal overview of the Family Care Council Orientation Manual. She began by saying she is not our lawyer and cannot give us legal advice but she can share her opinions and could help with directing the council to those who can obtain answers to our questions. She is very honored and thanks the council for inviting her to attend. She shared some background information about herself. Her purpose for attending is to talk about the statute and her understanding of it as it relates to the FCC.

She began with discussion of items that relate to the Family Care Council in the 234 page legislative document which establishes the creation of the new Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

Question 1: New APD Legislation

- Amending s. 393.502, F.S., removing references to districts; deleting a provision permitting appointment of family care council members if the Governor does not act. *The automatic approval after 45 days is no longer the case as of July 1st. She shared if an appointment has not been granted and is way overdue to call Wilma or her who will inquire with the Governor's office or chairs can call as well.*
- Chapter 393.502, Item (7) – Purpose - To develop a plan for the delivery of ~~developmental services~~ family support services within the local area, and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and support provided under the plan. *Lorraine interprets this strikethrough to allow the Family Care Councils to focus on more than just developmental services. It would allow us to focus on other things in the community, other agencies, dept. of education as some examples. What FCC's are about is family support services.*

Ann shared she saw this as meaning in time the agency will include other entities and the role of the Family Care Council would then be expanded to include families of these other entities. Lorraine agreed stating the agency has begun with developmental disabilities but if all goes well the legislators look at this as an agency to include all parts of agencies that relate to disabilities, all housed under one roof.

Question 2: The Family Care Council Role

The Statute states the primary functions of the family care councils shall be to:

- Assist in providing information and outreach to families
- Review the effectiveness of service program and make recommendations with respect to program implementation
- Advise the agency with respect to policy issues relevant to the community and Family support system in the local area
- Meet and share information with other local family care councils

Lorraine referred to Appendix A-5 in the orientation manual titled “Family Support”. As stated, family support means different things to different families. Family support services are not specifically defined in the statute. Diane was under the impression that Family Support Services would be the total inclusive budget for developmental services. Lorraine agreed. Diane related to one of our functions being to advise the agency with regard to family support services in each district. Lorraine’s interpretation is the council through surveys, community forums, etc. asks families what do you need, what would help you the most realizing we live in a world of limited resources. Let the dept. know of supported family services needed as dollars may become available from other resources as happened this past year with IFS dollars. Discussion followed expressing much concern in the lack of communication between the dept. and FCC’s regarding the decision to use IFS dollars for services to persons on the wait list. Lorraine suggested if a situation similar to this occurred again possibly if the Family Care Councils had something in place with the dept. documenting a last minute, emergency spending plan they would certainly consider it. She advised that all the money was spent. Diane would like to see the FCCF develop a statewide plan with guidelines that could be modified for each one of the districts. Wilma said that Janet Graham, District 2, represented the FCC’s with IFS input. Chair Millan advised if someone is representing the FCC statewide it needs to come through the executive committee. The dept. should not be calling in one district and getting feedback from that district instead of

all 15 districts. Lorraine shared that everyone from Shelly down the list within the dept. are fully committed to the FCC's having a meaningful voice and place in these types of discussions. Chair Millan advised that she and Patty are participating in the weekly program administrators teleconference calls. She questioned the proper way of sharing information learned in these calls to the other chairs. Lorraine noted parts of the Sunshine Law to take into consideration.

- E-mails are of public record - Anyone can get a public records request.
- Open meetings – If you send everyone an information E-mail, the trouble under the sunshine law is if you're soliciting comments. When asking for people's opinions it relates more to have a meeting via E-mail. That creates a problem.

Frank added his concern is for those unable to participate in conference calls. He just wants a general summary of items discussed and any formal action taken to keep informed. It was decided that a summary list of items discussed with action to be taken can be sent to Ann for distribution. Chair Millan asked about getting information from the dept. to take back to our FCC members and how best to get answers to questions we are asking of the dept. It appears that questions we are asking are ignored as possibly information the dept. would prefer we not have. An example, she requested a copy of the different districts statewide 5% year initiative plans for each district chair for their review. She was told she couldn't have it as it still had to be "tweaked". The concern was that FCC members should have been an integral part of developing the plan in each district. Chair Millan's concern is that issues she should be learning from the dept. she is finding out about from "sidebars". Lorraine advised Central office needs to know when districts are not communicating with FCC's. They rely on the districts to be in communication with FCC's. In planning family support plans in your area you need to work with your district office. As a statutory mandate, appointed by the Governor, the dept. is obligated to provide the FCC's with support and the information requested. Regarding the 5% year plan, public records does not exempt drafts. We are entitled to see draft copies. Rhonda asked, what is the proper way of requesting a copy of a finalized, signed contract? It's best to contact the legal dept. of the agency, advise that you're a FCC member and in your capacity as an FCC member and as a public citizen under the Sunshine Law, you're requesting a copy of a signed contract. Lorraine shared the FCCF could ask her "what are the on-going contracts in place right now and what are they about"? Then the council could decide which if any they are interested in reviewing. Chair Millan asked if an item regarding signed contracts could be added to the depts. bi-monthly report. Judy wanted to know if Family Care Councils are charged with monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of developmental disabilities program services. Lorraine advised it's the supports and services provided under each district FCC plan. The plan to the dept. states these are the things that are going to support our families. If you have money this is how it should be prioritized. She continued to advise do not think of this in terms of getting more money, think of it in terms if there is no money, how can FCC's sit down with the dept. and talk about what other resources are out there. They are very interested in developing partnerships with other depts. and agencies. She indicated the plan should be developed by working with the district to determine the family support services for each area, what steps need to be taken to try and implement the plan. Eileen shared the orientation trainings will provide in more detail information on creating a Family Care Council Plan. Chair Millan shared on page A-33 of the manual is a sample plan. What we monitor and evaluate is the FCC plan. Diane asked if Wilma could ask the districts to send quarterly copies of their complaint logs and CHAMPS documentation. Lorraine advised much of that information is confidential. It was shared we don't want names just numbers. Brandy asked if in our capacity as FCC members, to monitor say support services, if several families come to them stating of problems with a service provider, what should be done. Lorraine replied, let Central Office know.

Question 3: Sunshine Law

Florida has the most open government laws of any state. Family Care Councils are a part of that by being appointed by the Governor and under statute. Government Sunshine law concerns 2 things, meetings and records.

- Meetings must be open to everyone including the media. Meetings can be recorded. Minutes must be taken, compiled and made available to anyone. There must be reasonable published notice of meetings prior to it taking place. For legal purposes the best place is Administrative Weekly. Other suggestions are advertising in the local papers, community news sections of papers, E-mails. The more notice and the more different ways of advertising your meetings the better, not only to FCC members but to the public, so no one can say you're in violation of the Sunshine Law. Posting on FCC website and individuals web pages is OK but not everyone has access to computers. Reasonable notice is at least a week. Also included should be if special accommodations are needed to please advise. Public notice of meeting must include either an agenda or general topics of discussion. Wilma shared the procedure for advertising in the Administrative Weekly. She thinks this would be a good use for our FCC funding dollars. She will find out the cost. Meetings must allow time for comments from the audience.
- Lorraine advised conversations between 2 or more people, outside of a planned meeting, must not include topics that might come up as business or matters to be discussed in a meeting. Why? Because any conversations, even on the phone or social occasion, pertaining to Family Care Council business is considered a public meeting. If you violate that, it's not just a civil matter it's a crime, a misdemeanor of second degree. Chair Millan asked what about conference calls and sending out a notice of what was discussed during the call or attending a quality assurance meeting and sending out a summary of what took place during the meeting. Lorraine doesn't have a problem with preparing a list as discussed previously, sending out information like that for everybody to see and making available to anyone asking for it. The problem is with soliciting input that is part of the decision making process. It's the debate and deliberating that is the part that must be open to the public. Chair Millan asked about executive committee conference calls. Do they have to include all board members? If decisions are made that are binding, all members must be included. Committees should be fact finding, listening to testimony, gathering of information and possibly making recommendations. Emergency meetings can be held but it must be a real emergency and requires 24 hours notice to as many places as possible. If action is taken, it must be included as part of your next public meeting. If a vote needs to be taken you can have an emergency conference call with a quorum. Chair Millan asked how to handle requests from the department to act upon something immediately. An example, she received certified documents asking for letters of support for a grant application. She had to over night them for delivery to the dept. the next day. There wasn't time to contact all members so she wrote the letters and signed on behalf of FCCF. Lorraine advised that Chair Millan has to have a certain amount of authority to act on things immediately. The council needs to have some kind of motion to outline what kind of immediate authority the chairperson has to make decisions on behalf of the council. Then whatever decision was made should become an agenda item at the next meeting. Also, say the decision made was decided by the group not to support. Then you would need a motion to decide you would send a letter withdrawing your support.
- Lorraine wanted to touch base on the subject of confidentiality. They receive numerous questions about Family Care Councils wanting access to mailing labels for sending

newsletters, etc. to families. She advised it is confidential information and cannot be done. You can if you have a signed release from the family. That is why it's so important to get the word out to families about the FCC's so they can contact you. In order to get newsletters sent to families some districts have allowed FCC members to come to the program office to affix mailing labels. Lorraine advised that should not be done. Chair Millan shared she is a volunteer and HIPPA certified. Lorraine advised the problem is not so much with HIPPA as with the Social Security Law. The Social Security Act states that a Medicaid recipient or applicant's identifying information is confidential. It's even confidential after they die. Any mailings must be handled by the district program office personnel. Examples were shared on how newsletters, etc. are given to the dept. in plenty of time for mailing but it sits in the office until staff can get to it. In many cases that information is outdated by the time the families receive it. This is our only means of communicating with all the families in our districts. Frank shared they had planned a family conference with scheduled speakers. They had an agenda, location and everything planned. Frank was asked by dept. personnel the day before the conference if there was still time to send out the notice. As a result, the conference had to be cancelled. Chair Millan advised the council has asked Shelly and others over and over again how to solve this problem. The answer is no better today than before. Lorraine advised if the mailing is received in the dept. in plenty of time for personnel to prepare for mailing, contact the week before and ask if done yet. If not, contact Central Office. She was asked about LAC having access to confidential records. It is in their statute to have access but only when investigating a report of abuse or neglect.

Question 4: FCC relationship to LAC and others

Lorraine advised how the dept. wants to work more closely with the FCC's. The dept. is a resource to us and if dept. or agency employees are not cooperating then contact Central Office and they can get things done. As far as a relationship with LAC and SAC just remember their purpose is to investigate and prevent abuses of human rights. If you have concerns of abuse of people's human rights then report to the abuse hotline.

Other Questions:

Question 5: Rhonda advised their district no longer has an FCC liaison. How soon do they have to replace that liaison? Lorraine wasn't sure but thought they would replace with an interim liaison.

Question 6: Do FCC's have to follow state rules on what vendors they contract with? The answer is yes. Rhonda shared when she contacted the regional office asking to use the same printing company (a state vendor) Ann used for her newsletter she was told they couldn't use that vendor as the state has contracted with Kinkos and all printing must go through them. Lorraine advised if the state has a contract with Kinkos then yes you must use them.

Question 7: Brandy asked why it is necessary for the district program office personnel to do the FCC orientation training. Lorraine referred to the Florida Statute 393.502 section 5 titled Training which states the training is the responsibility of the district program offices.

Question 8: Brandy asked for confirmation if someone from the district program office was not present at an FCC meeting then it could not be considered a sanctioned meeting even if the majority of voting members were present. Does this mean we cannot conduct business? Lorraine advised that may be right. She added since the statute requires a council to have 6 meetings per year, a liaison from the dept. should definitely be present for at least 6 meetings. District personnel need to understand if the FCC liaison is unable to attend then a replacement should be sent. It was also noted that FCC's do not have to hold meetings between 8:00 – 5:00.

Question 9: Joy asked about rental car for \$29.00, does that include FCC members? Lorraine advised yes if its Family Care Council business. She assumed we had state ID cards. The answer is no, district personnel stated FCC members were not allowed because they are not paid employees.

Question 10: Rhonda asked why it takes so long for the dept. to reimburse FCC members for items such as travel. Wilma shared that members could request an advance which covers 80% of the total dollars.

Chair Millan shared she is very excited about what the council has learned from Lorraine today. The other members agreed. Lorraine shared if we have a need for her to attend a future meeting she would be willing to do so. The council gave Lorraine a round of applause.

VI. AGENCY UPDATE

Wilma shared what was in our information packet which includes a hard copy of the legislative bill, the Governor's press release announcing new agency, expansion of guardianship services and celebrate employment awards which took place at Family CAFÉ, the DD transition update, and a hard copy of a powerpoint presentation on the New Family and Supported Living Waiver. Eileen shared they are just getting started with the new supported living waiver. The best part about the waiver is people do not lose their place on the wait list. The Family to Family initiative RFP has gone to contracts for approval. Eileen continues in her efforts to open up communication coordination between the FCC's, the program administrators and her unit. She has arranged for a teleconference call the second Wednesday of every month from 1:30 – 3:00. She asked if we aren't able to participate in the call to delegate someone to be present. She has asked for district representation on each call. The next teleconference call is scheduled for 8/11. Chair Millan shared how this is a good opportunity to get the dept. liaisons on the same page with the FCC's. Some examples of future issues: Assistance in helping a chairperson get their district FCC up and running which includes help with developing a relationship with their program office; district FCC funding for a consultant to help with secretarial duties and the purchase of broadband for a designated council member per district. Based on information just received per the Sunshine Law, a question was raised to the legality of these conference calls. Eileen will discuss with Lorraine. She also advised that fiscal issues will always be on the agenda. Chair Millan asked if more than 1 board member could participate in the monthly teleconference calls. Eileen advised yes, it is the councils call. Wilma reminded her that the calls have been set up for 30 lines. That would work out to 15 liaisons and 15 FCC representatives. Eileen will check on this.

Eileen would like monthly minutes and meeting schedules so that she can make arrangements to attend a monthly meeting per district.

Chair Millan requested a copy of the final financial statement on how the IFS dollars was spent to include the five categories and how much per district. Eileen asked if we wanted to see the memo being drafted to use next year in the event IFS dollars become available. Chair Millan said yes. Chair Millan advised Eileen that the FCCF is still being missed in the communication line. An example was the first transition update which she received from an outside source. Supported Living Waiver – How is the state progressing in getting supported living coaches enrolled in the supported living waiver? Chair Millan advised letters have been sent to SLC's, they must sign and return to the dept. There is also a letter that has been sent to consumers on the wait list advising them of the new waiver.

Mailing Labels – Chair Millan asked Eileen to find out how Family CAFÉ and the Emerging Workforce conference were able to obtain mailing labels for conference information sent to consumers throughout the state of Florida.

VII. DISTRICT CONCERNS

Donna Rauber advised the council of a growing concern in District 7 regarding the lack of specialized medical care for our DD population, especially our most medically fragile. She introduced Donna Ellis who began her presentation by stating she feels this is a generalized concern statewide not just in District 7. She has known for sometime the problem of lack of neurologists, endocrinologists and other specialized medical care for our DD population has existed but it seems recently to become even more noticeable even to becoming life threatening to some of our population. She shared one individual's experience. There are no neurologists and endocrinologists in the Orlando area that accept Medicaid. After some discussion at last month's FCC meeting, it was decided this is a serious problem which will in due time affect all individuals with developmental disabilities. It will be an ever increasing problem because of Medicaid cuts and the fact that fewer and fewer providers are willing to take on these cases. She advised the next district FCC meeting will be devoted to this subject. There needs to be a lot of information sharing, advocacy, etc. to our legislators and the people in a capacity to make change. They need to realize the crisis situation that is coming. This also includes lack of dental care for our DD population. Discussion followed with some suggestions for how to eliminate the paper work physicians on Medicaid must fill out as this, according to them, is a major drawback. Donna ended her presentation by suggesting that with further future discussion maybe this is an issue that the FCC's could have as a common agenda item statewide. She doesn't know of any service that could be more important to every single individual with a developmental disability. Specialized care to them should be a right not a privilege. Chair Millan advised she really thinks this is something each chair should take back to their councils. She will make it an agenda item for next FCCF meeting to discuss further.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Millan and Frank discussed how to create a FCCF support plan. It was decided it should be part of the communications committee. Anyone interested in working on that project please come forward. We really need the expertise to develop a good plan. The council is authorizing the communications committee to begin working on a template for a family support plan.

IV. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA):

Patty shared the information sheet titled "Your Rights as a Florida Voter". All individuals have a right to vote. More information should be coming out soon.

Florida Respite Coalition:

Patty attended the meeting in her region. She suggested we go to their website (www.floridarespite.org) and click on the Locator which with input pulls up providers in your area. She shared there is a Federal Lifespan respite bill, \$90 million dollars. If passed, Florida is one of six states with a good chance of pulling down a pot of money because of the respite coalition. The Coalition has developed a college credit course titled respite care worker's certification. She shared a list of subjects the course will include. The website includes a calendar of events which is always kept current.

Blue Ribbon Task Force:

Chair Millan and Patty have been invited to attend the monthly meetings. The minutes will appear on the DD website. The meeting consisted of a lot of information sharing among the task force and educating them as to their role. She encourages the chairs to visit the website monthly to read the minutes as a way of keeping current on their progress. They want input which can be done via E-mail on the website.

ADA Working Force Group:

Chair Millan and Beverley attended and testified along with others involved with the caring and sharing program sponsored by the Center for Independent Living. They have federal funds they can pull down for housing, transportation and employment. Concern was shared with ADA that they don't think they need to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities because DD needs are already being met. We need to be aware of the ADA and CIL which have funds available.

Interagency Quality Council (IQC):

Chair Millan attended their meeting in Tampa. Beverley is on the council. They work very closely with Delmarva. As of August 2nd, the direction of the support plan will be more person centered. There are several members of SAC on the committee. The question was asked regarding how many claims have been filed against Maximus for reviews of plans. The answer was 102 with 2 wins.

Grassroots Forum:

Patty and Eileen attended the forum. It's sponsored by the Center for Independent Living. She sees a real lack in follow through. They know they have no credibility. They offered a new strand this year titled transition and education. The goal is to develop a plan over the next 2 years and report the progress at the next forum. There is no infrastructure in place to keep it going for 2 years. She found the forum to be very frustrating.

Florida Association of Rehabilitative Facilities (FARF):

Ann attended the 2 day session. Loretta Costin from Vocational Rehabilitation gave a presentation. CARF certification will no longer be required for vocational rehabilitation. This will eliminate phase I & phase 2 for supported employment providers. All supported employment counselors in Voc Rehab must be individually certified. They must have a background check. It also means they are all independent providers working for an agency. Med-Wavier supported employment coaches can qualify for Voc Rehab certification. Ann shared she learned a lot at the conference. The next conference is in September.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rhonda questioned what happens to a council if they have less than 10 members. Ann asked how many chairs had sent their member rosters to the Governor's office. There was some confusion as several chairs indicated they had sent the information more than once. Ann asked Eileen to check with the Governor's office and find out what districts have not submitted their member rosters.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DONNA RAUBER