

# FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

## FRANK CARROLL, CHAIRPERSON

Amerisuites Orlando Airport

Orlando, Florida

March 20th, 2004

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Carroll, D3 Chairperson  
Patty Houghland, Past Chairperson  
Joy Frazier, D1 Chair  
Janet Graham, D2 Chair  
Cathy Mitchell, D4 Chair  
Ann Millan, Suncoast Region 5 Chair  
Rhonda Sloan, Suncoast Region 6 Chair  
Donna Rauber, D7 Chair  
Judy O'Halloran, D8 Chair  
Joan Hinden, D10 Chair  
Yolanda Herrera, D11-A Substitute Chair  
Ka Samar, D12 Chair  
Diane Ciccarelli, D15 Chair

### STAFF & GUESTS

Wilma Lefler, DD Dept. - Guest  
Eileen O'Brien, DD Dept. - Guest  
Susan Kaempher, DD Dept. - Guest  
Jadene Ransdell, Suncoast Guest  
Beverley DeStories - Suncoast Guest  
David Vaughn - Suncoast Guest  
Charm Thometz - Suncoast Guest  
Rob Mochrie - Suncoast Guest  
Roger O'Halloran - District 8 - Guest

*To unite the Family Care Councils in the State of Florida to represent/advocate for all persons with disabilities and their families.*

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Frank Carroll called the Family Care Council Florida meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Carroll asked for introductions. No district updates.

Susan Kaempher introduced Eileen O'Brien the new Program Administrator for the Family and Partners unit. Eileen shared some background information about herself. Susan thanked Wilma for all her assistance during the timeframe between program administrators. Chair Carroll emphasized the chair's understanding that Wilma would continue on as our dept. liaison.

## II. BUSINESS SESSION

"Walking on the Moon" award goes to Diane Ciccarelli for her efforts in finding jobs for individuals with disabilities in District 15.

### Review of January 10<sup>th</sup> minutes:

Chair Carroll asked if there were any changes or recommendations to the minutes. **Ann makes a motion to approve the minutes.** Judy seconds the motion. The motion was approved by consensus. Chair Carroll advised the **September minutes** were never approved as we were waiting on corrections from Shelly Brantley. Those corrections were not received so he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as is. **Ann makes a motion to approve the September minutes.** Diane seconds the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

## III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Susan shared the following:

1. Inspector General's Report, \$27 million and Rate Reimbursement to providers and Lawsuit are all in mediation.
2. District Chairpersons information to Governor's Office - New one page form to be filled out by all district FCC members. Wilma was told this is the final form from Governor's office.
3. Jadene's now Eileen's job description - Susan will send to Ann.
4. FCC orientation training dates - Will be scheduled soon after Eileen begins her employment.

5. Choice Counseling - Annual choice counseling for ICF/DD residents will be in a community location. Melinda is requesting FCC participation in future choice counseling project (yellow book) to address all consumers.
6. New proposed waivers, Supported Employment, Supported Living & Freedom Initiative - Supported Employment is not a waiver. It's the 1.5 million dollars allocated in the Governor's budget. Susan will send fact sheets of each to Ann.
7. Wait List – Continuing on with the 30 per month crisis cases. If within a month the committee doesn't find 30 meeting the crisis criteria, the difference can come from the wait list. In one month 8 came off the wait list.
8. Zero Tolerance – Districts are doing training on zero tolerance. Need clarification on how the training is to proceed.
9. Zones – Susan shared there are 66 positions proposed to be cut within the DD program as a result of moving to zones. The decision has not been made yet if the DD program will go to zones.
10. Limited Support Coordination – Brochures have been mailed to consumers.
11. CHAMPS – There is a teleconference call with FCC districts on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The contract will be ending 6/30/04. It was requested again that FCC's receive documented reports which analyze the data obtained from phone calls to CHAMPS phone number.
12. IQC - Next quarterly meeting scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in Tampa. They are working on Delmarva tools to be more outcome focused.
13. ICG, Rates & Redesign – They are still reviewing the ICG data and evaluation reports. Everyone has been entered into the system. They are not ready to release any budgets yet.
14. CDC+ - The dept. is continuing weekly teleconference calls with district personnel. They will be training approximately 500 consultants in April. It was requested that previous weekly minutes and question/answer documents be forwarded at least a day in advance of the current call. Susan will see that Ann receives the consultants training schedule. Families and self-advocates are invited to attend if room is available.
15. Personal Outcome Measures Training – Ann shared the training in her district was incredible. She was very impressed and urges everyone to attend the sessions in their district.
16. Delmarva contract – Delmarva is currently making significant changes in the tools currently used.
17. Maximus contract – Susan gave a copy of the Maximus contract to the council. Susan shared there is some preliminary discussion, nothing final, that Maximus will take over the review of all cost plans. It was asked if an FCC representative could participate in the committee meetings. It was shared that a high-ranking legislator was told that \$6 million can be reduced from the current waiver if Maximus takes over the review of all cost plans. Should FCCF take a position on this issue and write a letter to the legislators? Discussion followed pertaining to the term "Medically Necessary".

It was suggested that since most chairpersons are unable to participate in the dept. teleconference calls that a list be developed whereby 2 volunteers participate based on their availability per call. After the call, the participants will need to write a report and distribute to all the chairs.

#### **IV. DISTRICT REPORTS - Guardianship**

Janet Graham passed out a report titled: Overview of The People without Guardians Project, Family Care Council District 2. Janet shared how and why the project was developed. She shared how they were able to determine the number of individuals within the district who have no one to make decisions for them. The overview provides information that would be helpful if other FCC's would like to take on the project in their district.

## V. FCCF COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FARF Conference:

Joan Hinden attended the conference which was held in her district February 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>. The conference agenda was broken down into issues forums. Following is a summary of the issues:

1. Employment:
  - a. Federal Government provides a match of 4/1 to VR. This will allow school districts to begin the transition process in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - b. The life expectancy of persons with developmental disabilities has gone from 44 in 1900 to age 77 in 2001.
  - c. Government agencies on all levels are attempting to control rising costs in DD programs. Thus, the following trends: Cuts in provider rates, reduced programs and limiting eligibility.
2. FARF and ARC have filed a joint action against the new rate structure as it was first administered in July, and then amended in November. The rule challenge states the DD dept. didn't follow the 30 day notice required by Medicaid before change of rates.
3. Redesign – A panel of participants consisting of Norm Davis from Mercer, Tom Schram, CEO of Community and Psychology Education Service, Mr. Braddick, an Arizona provider, Jim Freyvogal from the MacDonald Center, and Peter Thomas from Washington.

Chair Carroll recognized Joan for providing an excellent summary of the conference.

### Miscellaneous:

Reminder to check website for the following:

Supported Employment Training in Tampa

4 different programs offering affordable housing for individuals with disabilities

Partners in Policymaking will be in Tallahassee. Applications must be submitted by April 1.

DD Awareness day is April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you attend please take the FCCF legislative platform with you.

Ann introduced the newest FCC member of the Suncoast region, Rob Mochrie.

### Publicity Campaign:

The press release “Family Care Councils Celebrate Employment” was approved yesterday and sent via E-mail to all chairs. There is a press package on the website for the press. It is up to the chairs and their councils to locate the individuals working in the community who would like to be interviewed. Contact and share the press release with the newspapers and media and help with making the arrangements for the interviews. It was suggested to get the newspapers to print in the business section of the paper. The Governor will be recognizing a couple of employers at CAFÉ. The employer nominations need to be done through the website.

## VI. BUSINESS PLAN PROPOSAL – JADENE RANSELL

Jadene established a non-profit organization titled The Florida Institute on Community & Disability (FICD). The primary purpose of this organization could be to provide support and assistance to local Family Care Councils, individuals on the councils as well as the statewide entity. Her definition of support would be to offer technical assistance through telephone support, printed materials and leadership training opportunities. Also proposal writing to expand the FCC's sources of funding and develop a training program for providers and for families in need of inclusion and training that would help improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. She gave each in attendance an Executive Summary of the FICD Business Plan for our review. **Judy makes a motion requesting the FCCF ask Jadene to move forward with the FICD as a vehicle for technical support, materials, and training for Family Care Councils.** Yolanda seconds the motion. Discussion followed with Jadene emphasizing that long term, people associated with the FCC's and statewide chairs will be responsible for this organization. She is looking for this kind of commitment from FCCF. Susan shared the DD program office is in support of the organization. Motion approved by consensus.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Nominating:**

Judy summarized the process the nominating committee used to determine the slate of officers. It was noted the position of Secretary/Treasurer needs to be separated into two officers. This will result in the need for a change in the by-laws. The slate of officers submitted by the nominating committee is: Ann Millan, Chairperson, Patty Houghland, Vice Chairperson, Joy Frazier, Secretary, and Rhonda Sloan, Treasurer. Next month the members will have the opportunity to submit additional names for consideration. The vote will take place at the May meeting.

### **Policy and Procedures:**

Chair Carroll has the general outline of the policies. The categories are: Legal Authority, Governing Body, Administrative, and Fiscal Management. He has been reviewing all the previous minutes looking for policies established in the past. Think about any sub-categories you might want to add. Also after the legislative session ends, the FCCF may have to create policy with regards to any legislative decisions affecting our group. E-mail any suggestions directly to Chair Carroll.

### **Finance Committee:**

No report yet as the dept. is still unable to give us a balance. Once Wilma receives the information she will forward on to Diane. Also, she will obtain the balance of funding dollars remaining in each district account and forward on to the chairs.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Judy asked where the process was regarding previous talk of hiring an administrative director. It was suggested that a job description be created for such as position. The position would be funded by grant money. Chair Carroll asked the communications committee to take on this assignment. Diane brought up the subject discussed previously regarding a means of identifying persons with developmental disabilities who have been arrested. She has received a report from her county sheriff's department. She went to the Baker Act Training. She shared that Orlando has developed a system for recognizing persons with developmental disabilities. Donna believes it's in Seminole County and will research it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FCCF Position on Wait List Priorities:**

Several chairs expressed concern with comments made by Rep. Fiorentino regarding her desire to prioritize the wait list by moving high school graduates transitioning to employment at the top of the wait list. Ann realized that FCCF had not looked at the wait list and formed any kind of opinion as to how individuals should be moved off the list. Each chair shared their wait list priority. The priorities included the concern for aging parents with no answers for what happens to their loved one when they're no longer able to care for them or pass on, the transition issue, services need to continue on for children transitioning out of the early intervention program, and priority should be considered for the consumers who have never received services who were on the original wait list, files mistakenly closed then re-entered at the bottom of the wait list. Questions were raised if the FCCF should even consider pursuing asking the dept. to change priorities from first come, first serve. It was asked if there wasn't some way to break down the wait list by consumers who currently need services compared to consumers who are on the wait list but don't need services until future years. Example: young children placed on the wait list in hopes that when they reach the age of need, they will have a slot. **Ann makes a motion for the FCCF to write a letter to Shelly asking her for the written criteria in selecting individuals for the 3 funding sources (SE, SL, and Freedom Initiative) should they be approved. In addition on the SL waiver, how she sees that encompassing the population that's not transitioning.** Cathy seconds the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by consensus.

**IX. DISTRICT REPORTS – Employment Opportunities**

Diane Ciccarelli reported that members of her council attended a city council meeting. Diane gave a presentation on the lack of job opportunities within city government for persons with disabilities. Diane along with the ESE transition coordinator and the director of a local supported employment agency met with the city human resource director. City representatives researched all their job descriptions and found 3 positions available. The jobs are in maintenance and parks & recreation. In July they will make available to Diane and her team 6 additional positions. Diane suggested that each district FCC approach their city councils. Ann will re-send the E-mail with Diane's presentation. Judy shared the need to approach county governments also. Ann shared there is a house and senate bill on incentives for hiring individuals with developmental disabilities. She will E-mail the chairs the information.

Ann shared information on the Suncoast provider directory. She passed around a sample of what appears on their website. Discussion followed regarding the depts. lack of updating provider information. This includes the lack of removing providers who are no longer providing a service. Ann asked if volunteers from her council could make phone calls to providers on the list to update their information. Susan will check on this.

Judy shared in District 8 they will be having a conference in May. Any sharing of information on how to prepare for such a conference will be greatly appreciated.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**DONNA RAUBER**