

FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA
BETTY KAY CLEMENTS, CHAIRPERSON
Holiday Inn Select Orlando Airport
Orlando, Florida
September 20th, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betty Kay Clements, FCCF Chairperson
Patty Houghland, Past FCCF Chairperson
Lynn Carper, A1 Chair
Susan Creek, A3 Representative
Frank Carroll, A3 Representative
Sherri Vardas, A4 Co-Chair
Beverley DeStories, Suncoast West Region Rep.
Pauline Lipps, Suncoast East Region Chair
Donna Rauber, A7 Chair
Sharon Berry, A8 Interim Chair
Joan Hinden, A10 Representative
Phil Pearson, A12 Chair
Isabel S de Martinez, A13 Chair
Manny Champavannarath, A14 Representative
Nancy Moody, A15 Chair

STAFF & GUESTS

Sonja Bielecki, Area 15 Guest
Diane Ciccarelli, Area 15 Guest
Lynn James, Area 8 Guest
Maria Eash, Area 8 Guest
Rosalind Murvin-King, Area 7 Guest

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 Clements called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She began by reviewing the FCCF information packet contents. Items include the following:

- A sheet of Motivational Quotes
- 2008 Florida Statute 393.0661 titled Home and Community-Based Services Delivery System – Comprehensive Redesign – This is the updated version and language has changed from previous statute. It does include Tier information.
- Guardian Advocacy Law Changes for Individuals with Development Disabilities
- Procedure for appointing a Client Advocate
- Trends and Milestones – Twenty-five Years of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS): Significant Milestones Reached in 2007.
- Alderbrook 2007 – “There’s something happening here. What it is isn’t exactly clear... A document pertaining to Employment and People with Developmental Disabilities
- The State of 21st Century Financial Incentives for American with Disabilities
- Work Incentive Medicaid Coverage Initiative – Background Information
- Copy of APD Powerpoint Presentation titled – Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Task Force
- Florida’s People, Florida’s Promise – An advocacy initiative founded by AARP, CBC of Seminole, Children’s Homes Society of Florida, Florida Coalition for Children and Florida Tax Watch.
- Family Care Council Florida Action Plan Worksheet for 2008-2009
- FCCF July 19th, 2008 Minutes

Chair Clements asked for introductions and asked that everyone share the area council they represent and a little about their loved one who is responsible for their involvement in developmental disabilities.

II. FCCF BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Phil Pearson provided everyone with a spreadsheet titled "Florida Family Care Council Quarterly Budget Report". He reviewed the document, which shows projected expenses for this fiscal year totaling \$13,199.71. He reminded everyone the total received at the beginning of the year from the councils is \$7,500.00. Therefore there is a substantial difference that must be made up. This is the reason for asking each council to consider sending additional monies to FCCF. He asked each area council how much they have budgeted to send to FCCF. Phil and Chair Clements emphasized the need for the councils to contact their area liaisons and confirm that the transfer has been made.

Review of Minutes:

Chair Clements asked everyone to review the minutes that can be found in the information packet. She asked if there were any corrections. Phil mentioned how detailed the minutes are and wondered if it wouldn't be better to have a more abbreviated summary. Donna shared it was mentioned many years ago that it is more beneficial to have a detailed version for people who are unable to attend the meetings. Patty shared another reason is because of the environment the council is in right now, the council does not want to be misquoted, misunderstood, etc. In the past it has been kind of critical to keep the council on track, thus detailed minutes. Discussion followed and it was decided to let Donna continue to transcribe minutes the way she has in the past. Chair Clements asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Phil makes a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Sherry Vargas seconds the motion. No further discussion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

III. CONFERENCE CALL – Jim DeBeaugrine, APD Director

Chair Clements introduced Mr. DeBeaugrine and asked participants to introduce themselves by giving name and area council only. Also on the call: **Denise Arnold, Terri McGarrity and Stephanie Khan** from Central Office.

Chair Clements turned the call over to Jim. He began by sharing that he was able to visit with Family Care Council people in Area 3. He enjoyed meeting with them and received some follow-up questions but wanted to share that he has been on the road all week long and will also be on the road all next week. He also was able to meet with Betty Kay and the Area 13 APD staff which went very well. He offered his thanks to all in attendance for being a resource to families and consumers during what has been a very "rocky" time. There has been a lot of anxiety and frustration associated with the transition to the tiers. He advised that thousands of people are exercising their right to request a due process hearing.

Jim took a few moments to remind those in attendance that each local FCC is created by Florida Statute 393.502 and read from the statute the purpose of the Family Care Councils. He believes the councils are doing a very good job of fulfilling its purpose and wanted to stress the councils are a part of the oversight function for APD. The statute gives the councils a role in that respect. It also gives the councils a role in bringing ideas to the agency in particularly as the agency is in the process of developing their legislative proposals and things they will be asking for in the upcoming session.

Prior to the meeting, Jim was given a list of questions to answer. They are:

- What is APD's priority for the upcoming legislative session? He answered that APD will be dealing with a very difficult budget situation. They will be trying to work with the Legislature to make sure they understand the priorities of APD and the people the agency

serves. In that respect he believes the efforts of FCC's will be invaluable. It is vitally important that consumers and families meet with their local representatives. The councils need to network with one another and make sure they present a unified, clear, strong case for why APD needs to maintain developmental disabilities funding. They need to understand the "human" side of what the agency does and how it personally affects consumers and families. Jim mentioned how much he wants to work with the legislature. He reminded everyone of recent articles in the newspapers indicating the budget situation and how it has gotten a little bit worse since the last session. He is being told there is almost a 3-1/2 billion revenue shortfall. He anticipates some of that will be handled during a special session that could take place after the elections. At that time he expects they will formally adopt a 4% budget holdback and pass that into law. Also, each of the agencies has been asked to come up as part of its legislative budget request (LBR) for the next fiscal year (that begins in July) a list of program reductions to equal 10%. The APD total budget is just over 1 billion dollars. He explained you don't get to 10% reduction in their agency without looking at the waiver. He asked for any input from stakeholders who have suggestions on options the agency could consider. They are not going to be supporting any options that would make further reductions to the waiver. It is his intent this time around that APD Central Office administration will not be exempt from this reduction exercise.

- Can APD add Adult Dental to Tier 4? Jim advised the statute requires APD make services available in all four tiers. The reason they cannot add adult dental right now is because there is a specific provision in the general appropriations act (in pro-viso) that states APD cannot expand service options under tier 4 prior to July 1, 2009. That pro-viso language has appeared in each of the last 2 general appropriation acts. If the legislature doesn't pick up that language for the new general appropriation act then they will have the ability to add adult dental to tier 4. He stated it won't be seen in any of their legislative proposals but that is only because they don't need the authority to do this type of thing that is already in statute.
- Where do the Family Care Council funding dollars come from and if funds could be disbursed from the FCC instead of through APD? Jim advised the FCC funding dollars, in the amount of \$150,000, comes from General Revenue dollars and is allocated equally between the area councils. He also advised that FCC's have the ability to apply for grants and gift donations. He stated there are certain state guidelines, which must be followed when using state funding dollars.
- What is the role of the IQC's now that there is no funding? Jim suggested that it would be more beneficial for someone from IQC to share how they see their role.
- How are the funds in the Individual Family Support Category used? Are any of the funds allocated to people on the wait list? Jim stated they do currently use those funds for people on the wait list. The funding is very, very limited. One idea Jim would like to pursue in their LBR is that APD has some funds in a trust fund. He wants to ask the legislature to give APD the authority to spend those dollars for additional types of emergency, one time ad-hoc funds that might help people on the wait list.
- Jim asked to address the issue of the Tier letters. He wanted to clarify that if you don't receive a tier letter because the address was incorrect or for some other unknown reason, the ten day clock does not start ticking until you actually receive the letter. The date of September 18th was a date where they presumed that anything that came in by the 18th, they would not ask any questions. That would be the presumption that you had responded within 10 days. If you didn't receive a letter, they will have a chance to ask for an appeal

with 10 days of the date they can prove they received the letter. APD will work on a case by case basis.

- What is the latest on raising the tier cap from \$35,000 to \$38,000? Jim advised that last session the agency did ask to increase the cap on Tier 2 and 3 by \$5,000. There will be a fiscal impact associated with this so good explanations of need to increase will be needed. He advised APD would certainly like to see each tier increased.
- What can APD Central Office do to help get the local Area Administrators involved, engaged, connected to their area Family Care Council? Can a committee from the FCC meet with Central Office to discuss the issue? Jim advised yes. He stated what he needs to do is stress to the Area Administrators how much he values the role of the Family Care Councils. He indicated that he would tell them that he expects them to work and communicate with their FCC. He does think it would be a good idea to meet with a committee of FCC members or hold a conference call to identify the problems so that he can work on those.
- Is there a job description or duties for FCC Liaisons? If at all possible we need to present a plan for working on those issues for FCC support from APD area offices. It needs to be a partnership. Jim feels this is very much related to the previous question. He needs to get an idea of where the problems are and then APD and FCC's need to jointly develop some protocols in a way to address those problems.

Jim asked if there were any other questions.

- Chair Clements asked with regards to the Legislative Budget Request (LBR), how is the agency addressing the wait list. Jim advised they are still working on the LBR process. They are just going to have to figure out what they think is realistic that they could actually implement in a year's time. He expects they will put in some kind of budget request. That is one alternative. Another option is somehow setting up a program structure that is realistic and sustainable over the long term. It doesn't need to be in the form of a bill. He is thinking more of asking the legislature to establish some kind of working group with stakeholders, the agency and other state agency partners that they can work together to come up with some ideas for a system that is sustainable over the long haul where they can get the finances of the waiver system under control to where the deficits stop recurring every year. At some point he would really like to meet with FCCF to show the projections of how the system will continue to grow over the next 10 years. He believes policymakers are going to be looking at APD to come up with some ideas on how to create a system with a balanced budget each year. Jim would like to see possibly moving more towards individual budgets. He would love to see the expansion of the CDC+ program because that comes in with an 8% savings right off the top. Phil asked Jim how he plans on getting parents/family members ideas regarding the wait list. Jim shared he wants to hear from families on the wait list. At the time the FCC committee meets in Tallahassee he would encourage families representing people on the wait list be in attendance. Chair Clements asked Jim for a copy of the latest spreadsheets on the wait list by County, Area, etc. Jim asked Phil or Chair Clements to send him an E-mail with the specific data elements needed and how the council wants it organized.

IV. APD UPDATE - Denise Arnold and Terri McGarrity, APD Central Office

Denise began by giving an update on the following:

Status of QSI Assessments - They have completed about 12,000 assessments. That is over 1/3 of the total number of people on the waiver. Their goal is to complete everyone on the waiver by March, 2009. The Legislature gave them the authority to hire additional staff (only for this year) to help with completing the project. Once they have completed everyone on the waiver, they

will begin assessing the people on the wait list. They are currently working on a report that is actually not due until October, 2009 regarding the validation of the QSI but because Jim is of the opinion they need to keep the legislature well informed on their progress they are planning on submitting a report by October 1, 2008. They have 3 initial measures going on to validate the QSI. Denise explained the 3 measures in detail. Denise asked if anyone had any questions regarding the QSI. Chair Clements mentioned they did have a question regarding the fact that QSI assessors are documenting ADT's as employment. Denise advised if someone is in an ADT and not integrated employment, they should not be counted as a competitive job. If that is occurring, she & Terri need to be notified of who the assessor is and what area. Chair Clements shared it is happening in Area 15. Chair Clements mentioned they heard talk of a condensed version of the QSI. Denise advised there is not a condensed version. Terri confirmed they did clarify with that area where the issue arose but there never has been a condensed version of the QSI.

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (aka MIG Grant) - Denise shared they have had this grant for 3 years and its focus is employment. It's a grant from the Federal Government. Being an infrastructure grant means that APD is supposed to be building infrastructure within the state to employ people more readily, insure their benefits are secure, etc. Part of this grant is the establishment of the FBIRN training with APD reps. in each area. People interested in obtaining employment should contact their FBIRN rep. as they are a great resource. Denise advised APD is applying for a fourth year. Once they receive approval their focus will be working more closely with Family Care Councils on individual & family meetings, benefits training and working directly with WSC's to improve their knowledge of employment and benefits. They also want to do some pilots within some Adult Day Training programs for individuals who want to obtain employment. They will be looking for ADT programs that are interested in pursuing this and individuals wanting to work. Phil asked if this includes folks on the waiting list. Denise advised yes. APD has pulled Voc-Rehab and DCF in and have done some training with them. The benefits planning training is not just APD specific, because the MIG is not just for APD, it's for people with disabilities. Phil asked that the same information that is given to WSC's be sent to families on the wait list. Denise agreed. Beverley shared her concerns that Voc-Rehab is out of money and developing wait lists. The programs are there but they have no money. Denise advised she has heard the same but cannot speak for them. They do have a budget deficit and going through an order of selection. Denise suggested contacting Voc-Rehab to possibly participate at the next FCCFlorida meeting. She volunteered to help with the process.

Care Connection – Denise mentioned that APS, the company that does the APD prior service authorizations is trying to get an electronic support plan up and running. They are hoping to have it ready by January, 2009. This should make the WSC's ability to transmit information and attachments electronically. This should make the process for communication faster and more reliable. Terri added it certainly will expedite PSA's submissions for WSC's. She shared the process has been piloted in area 2 and they are very pleased with the results.

CDC+ Update - Denise agreed with Jim expressing their interest in expanding CDC+. They are working hard to accomplish this. She advised they are still working on preparing statements and anticipate being able to start sending the monthly statements. They still have some close-out to do with the previous fiscal employer. The information on the statements they are preparing will consist of only the information since APD began the fiscal agent duties March 1. In order to expand they need to be sure they have a quality assurance system that is more specific than what they have had previously. Denise asked for input from those in attendance and any other family members on what they believe needs to be done to improve the current program. Chair Clements asked if they intended to contact the people currently on CDC+ for their feedback. Denise mentioned that was a good idea, they could incorporate it into a customer service survey. Denise emphasized how important it is for families on CDC+ to keep track of their balances.

Terri asked to follow up on the wait list data they usually send. What has been previously sent is the last available. She advised she would contact the data folks to see if they can compile the information and send to Chair Clements for distribution.

Chair Clements asked is a person entitled to a Meaningful Day Activity? Is there anyplace where this can be researched? Denise advised she would ask if someone could research that but shared the wavier is not an entitlement. She mentioned that a meaningful day activity off site is required for residents living in the ICF's but that is an entirely different funded program.

Tier Assignments – Change in Criteria - Chair Clements explained to Denise and Terri the problem associated with certain language within the tier assignments criteria that changed from the time of the original notification of Tier Assignments to the latest version. What has happened is families prepared appeal documentation based on the first list of criteria but since then some of that language has changed, it no longer relates. Discussion followed with providing actual language of criteria and examples of problems. Denise advised that any concerns such as this should be addressed to their area APD program office staff. Denise suggested that Betty Kay, Linda Mabile, Kathy Bedell, Terri & she hold a conference call to discuss this further. Patty mentioned in Tier 1, the following therapies listed are: Physical, Occupational, and Respiratory but no Speech Therapy. Was this intentional or not? They will research and E-mail Chair Clements.

Chair Clements thanked Denise, Terri and Stephanie for taking the time to call in and provide us with excellent information. Also, the council sent their blessings to Stephanie on her upcoming wedding.

V. AHCA UPDATE – Pam Kyllonen – Medicaid Services Program Analyst

Chair Clements introduced Pam and turned the meeting over to her. Pam shared how much she enjoyed attending the council meetings. She mentioned that Beth Kidder sends her regards. Pam shared that she is the analyst for the Developmental Disabilities Waivers. She also works closely with the CDC+ analysts, the manager of the Delmarva contract and the ICF/DD analyst. Discussion followed requesting information on ICF/DD placement criteria. Pam began by updating the council on the following issues:

- **Status on AHCA Rules** - Rules are the Florida Administrative Code that actually governs how AHCA administers a law that is in statute. They have rules specifically related to the DD program in the form rates, procedure codes and the handbook. AHCA had been under challenge from FARF on the rates and handbook. They have since dropped their challenge to the rates. They are in the last stage of being able to promulgate the rate rules. AHCA has implemented the new rates based on legislative authority. APD changed the rates effective July 1, 2008. Both of the rules are currently with JAPC (Joint Administrative Procedures Committee). That is the committee within the legislature that reviews all rules. Pam advised on Wednesday, Sept. 24th AHCA will be filing the final rate rules. Pam shared the Handbook had also been challenged. They have been working on this for about 1 year. Hopefully, if all goes well, they will have an agreement on the handbook very soon. Then it must be sent to JAPC for review. Because it is such a large and important document, AHCA has been sharing with them throughout the year. They have already seen the rule language and given AHCA feedback several times. The next stage after JAPC's approval would be to file that rule in final form. Then the final version will be added to the EDS website and APD will also post on their website. Beverley asked and Pam agreed to give a summary of the history of the handbook changes. Pam advised they didn't change anything that was either not cleanup or mandated. She has a folder of issues she knows that need to be addressed. She asked if anyone has seen or been dealing with issues in conflict with the handbook, notify Chair Clements who will forward on to Pam. Once the handbook is finished, in

January she will begin the process of initiating changes to the handbook. The language pertaining to the Tiers will need to be added to the handbook. She stressed how much she wants to hear comments from families. Pam believes the handbook will be completed by November.

- **Personal Care Assistance** – Pam advised that personal care assistance for children under the age of 21 is not going away. It is being transferred by the legislature and APD funds would be moved from the waiver budget to the state plan budget. The rate Medicaid state plan was paying PCA's was \$9.70 per hour. Medicaid had asked the legislature for 6 years to allow them to increase the rate, to no avail. The Legislature finally agreed to raise the rate to \$15.00 per hour but took the money from APD. However, the legislature did not understand that under the state plan PCA services had to come from a Certified Home Health Agency, not independents. That carries with it some certification requirements. In order to cover the number of children that would be coming to state plan they would have to have more provider signup. There are not enough Home Health Agencies in the state that provide PCA services at \$15.00 to cover the needs of these children. They were successful in getting permission from CMS to allow independent providers to provide services for PCA for developmental disability children. They have to have a DD diagnosis in order for an independent to serve them. Adults needing PCA services are still covered under the Medicaid Waiver. Pam shared that because the FSL waiver is a separate waiver, providers have had to make application for a new provider number. Because of the volume of providers this process has been very time consuming.
- **Adult Dental Services** – Pam participates in a statewide workgroup with Dentists. They have been working on the Special Needs Workgroup. She shared there is also an APD staff person and a person in AHCA who is the state plan dental expert on the calls. They are discussing issues related to anesthesia and how to see that dental providers get paid if the person is on the waiver and how to they get paid if on the state plan. She advised one of the biggest problems why dentists do not want to become providers is because of paperwork hassles but also because they know a large percentage of the time the individual needs anesthesia even for a checkup. In order to provide anesthesia in a state environment, many of the dentists want to do that in a hospital setting. If they get access to the hospital operating room and the dentists have hospital privileges then the anesthesia and hospital can be billed to the state plan. If they have approved dollars on the waiver cost plan for Adult Dental but the actual procedure happens in the hospital Medicaid will pay only the hospital portion. If the dentist feels comfortable having this happen in his office, and has someone trained to do anesthesia and supervise the process in the office, then the waiver has to pay for that portion of the service. This means that if the dentist is providing the service in the office, more dollars must be allocated to Adult Dental Services to cover the costs. Manny asked how many dentists in the state provide DD dental services. Pam did not know but indicated she would find out. She did say, however, not enough.
- **Delmarva Contract Update** – Pam shared that Kelly Hensley is the contract administrator for Delmarva contract. She advised they have received a lot of good input and feedback from APD, area office administrators and Quality Assurance staff. Kelly is in charge of issuing the ITN (Invitation to Negotiate). Pam explained AHCA states what they want out of the contract, they have this much money, they want this done, they want so many providers reviewed every year, etc. Companies then present a proposal of how they think they can do it for the established amount of money. Then a team from AHCA meets to review the proposals. Pam reminded everyone, this contract is funded by AHCA not APD.

- **IQC** – Pam advised that IQC will remain in existence (as far as she knows) but it will probably look a lot different. Their role is to advise APD and AHCA. How they are to accomplish that is by oversight of the quality assurance program that AHCA authorizes and APD administers for the waiver. It's still the requirement of the single state agency for Medicaid to provide quality assurance, justification and review of providers for the waiver. It is AHCA's responsibility to report to CMS, not Delmarva or APD. The legislature has given AHCA just over 5 million dollars per year currently to provide for this contract. She stated that currently MPI (Medicaid Program Integrity) is focusing on Waiver providers. It's not just DD waiver providers; it's all waiver providers. They have 20 waivers in the state.
- **Money follows the Person** - Pam shared that Money follows the Person is a federal program that is available to states that allows you to move money that is dedicated to individuals for institutional care to follow the person into the community. They would have to file a state plan amendment to enact it and because AHCA has such a strong HCBS rich state and they have so many waivers, AHCA has chosen not to do this.
- **Meaningful Day Activity** – Pam advised in every waiver she writes she has to tell CMS how AHCA is going to support an individual having a meaningful life activity. She reminded everyone that a meaningful day activity is a service on the waiver, but the waiver is not an entitlement. They would like for everyone to have a meaningful day activity, such as employment, or one on one activities, as a backup to ADT's.
- **Family members providing services** – Family members are defined in the handbook under relative. Relatives are defined as parent, child, and siblings. They cannot be licensed to provide waiver services. Diane asked if there was anyway of changing this rule? Providers are becoming more difficult to find, due to rates. Pam advised she would ask.
- **Hospital Services** - Manny wanted to know if she would have to go the hospital would the state not pay for someone to sit with her. Pam advised it could be true or it could not be true. She shared that some hospitals do not provide sitter services as part of their billing. If the hospital does not provide sitter services then Medicaid will provide it if she needs it. It is best to check with the hospital you are thinking of using prior to admittance to see if they do or don't provide the service. Diane asked if the hospital will get those sitter services for the individual. Pam advised, not necessarily. If they don't then Medicaid will provide it. The individual or family will need to find the Home Healthcare Agency.

Chair Clements thanked Pam so much for attending the meeting. Pam shared how much she enjoys attending the meetings. She is very fortunate in that AHCA does support FCCF. She is a valuable resource of information to our group and everyone appreciates her conference calls or attendance each meeting. Everyone agreed with their applause.

VI. WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Time is limited so Chair Clements asked those in attendance at the working group meeting to think about preparing a summary of the conference and CAFÉ reports, send to her and she will forward on to the membership.

- **Action Plan** - It was discussed at the work group. Chair Clements advised there was one correction that needs to be made. Essentially they reviewed and it does lay the foundation for what FCCF needs to do for the year. Everything the council does will somehow reflect back to the action plan. At the end of the year they will compare what was accomplished with what appears in the plan. Phil shared the change the group agreed to be make. Under Goals & Objectives it states: Sponsor a bill for basic rights for

individuals with developmental disabilities. The change is: Sponsor the development of a constitutional amendment supporting the rights of folks with developmental disabilities. Chair Clements advised she will send out a corrected action plan. It will also be added to the FCCF website. Chair Clements asked for a motion. Beverley makes a motion to accept the action plan as amended. Joan seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion was approved by consensus.

- **Work Incentive Medicaid Coverage Initiative** – Patty reviewed the documents in everyone’s information package: (1) the brochure; (2) background information; and (3) APD’s powerpoint presentation. This is the Medicaid buy-in project which allows people with disabilities to continue receiving their Medicaid benefits while working. The advocacy effort is coordinated by a statewide partnership for work and healthcare consisting of over 30 organizations. You can find more information at the partnership’s web site, www.partnershipforwork.com . Patty mentioned it has been 3 years trying to get this passed through the legislature. Florida is one of the few states that doesn’t have Medicaid buy-in. Patty asked if the council wants to sign on as a partner in trying to get this passed. She indicated what takes place is FCCF will put a link on the website to link to their website. Chair Clements asked for a motion. Beverley makes a motion that FCCF signs on as a partner to this Medicaid Buy-in initiative. Isabel seconds the motion. No further discussion. The motion was passed by consensus. It’s important that all councils stress to their membership the need to advocate with their legislators so this can get passed.

Florida’s People, Florida’s Promise – This is a newly established initiative whose purpose is to ask for a new mechanism for bringing new money into the revenue coffers for social service issues, not just DD, but all social issues. This broad coalition of respected groups, representing children, elders, taxpayers, and others is demanding fresh, wise, and cost-effective solutions to protect Florida’s quality of life, business climate and most vulnerable citizens. Patty is asking the council to join this initiative. Chair Clements shared the meeting she attended. She advised they are planning sessions throughout the state and it would be very worthwhile to attend the one in your area. The endorsement package that is signed by the organization includes the following pledge:

We pledge to help to promote the Florida’ People – Florida’s Promise initiative by:

- **Distributing electronic communication to our employees, constituents and/or business associates.**
- **Distributing print communication to our employees, constituents and/or business associates.**
- **Including information on our Web Site.**
- **Contacting candidates in our area.**

Chair Clements asked for a motion. Frank makes a motion that the council agree to at least item 3. Beverley seconds the motion. Discussion proceeded to determine if the council wanted to include any of the other pledges. Some had concerns about including all four. Following discussion, an amendment was made to the motion to include all four, Roberts rules were followed with the end result that Frank makes that motion and Joan seconds, no further discussion, and the motion as amended was approved by consensus.

Chair Clements shared that she received a call that Senator Carey Baker had 8 tickets to see Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin at The Villages on Sunday. He wanted parents of people with developmental disabilities to attend and bring their loved one with them if possible. Isabel will be taking her daughter. He is trying to arrange for the 8 families to meet with her. He asked specifically that they not discuss state issues such as the tiers. She really doesn’t know if they will have the opportunity to talk with her but they plan on being in attendance.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, Frank makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil seconds the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by consensus. Meeting adjourned: 3:45

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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