



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

APD PROVIDERS / SUPPORT COORDINATORS JOINT MEETING

Thursday, June 18, 2009 9:30 A.M.

401 NW 2ND AVENUE, SUITE N-1011, MIAMI, FL 33128

AGENDA ITEM	ISSUE / DISCUSSION	ACTION / FOLLOW UP
I. CALL TO ORDER	Meeting began at 9:40 a.m. Ms. Evelyn Alvarez welcomed everyone in attendance.	
II. STATE / DISTRICT AND APD UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APD staff introduced themselves. Ms. Carolyn Eleby introduced new staff, Mr. Michael Cardello, Employment Coordinator, who could not be in attendance. He will be working with APD and in the community with enhancing Supported Employment capabilities. This position is funded through the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and Mr. Cardello will be working with Broward and West Palm Beach in providing some of the same supports to those areas.• Ms. Sheena Bernadin gave a presentation on the “Gallery of Dreams”, an initiative of the APD art exhibition to take place during the entire month of July. In the absence of having a community sponsorship, donations were requested to assist in the production of the exhibition. An invitation and participation was extended to everyone so that they may have an hand-on experience in seeing the type of work that we do and the difference that our agency is making in the lives of the individuals that we serve. 5% of all donations will go to United Way Charitable Campaign.• Ms. Evelyn Alvarez announced that the legislative sessions were very successful for the agency, due to the fact we did not receive any cuts in our funding and received additional funds to keep the Medwaiver program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ For more information about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, please contact Evelyn Alvarez at (305) 349-1478.

**CONTINUED STATE /
DISTRICT AND APD
UPDATE**

operational. We received \$1.85 billion in funding for the agency and an increase of \$800,000 for the developmental disabilities public facilities. The legislature mandated that we move to an individualized budget for the waiver recipients.

- An intermediate step towards CDC+ is in place which authorizes the consumers to have flexible benefits which allows them to take a portion of their allocated funding and put it into self-directed services. There will also be an expansion of the CDC+ program by 2,500 individuals for the next fiscal year. Please be encouraged to become CDC+ certified because if your consumer elects to become a CDC+ recipient and WSC's who are not CDC+ consultants will not be able to serve the consumer.
- Another priority initiative of APD is how to serve individuals on the waitlist for the waiver. The legislature has instructed that a study group be developed and have identified 7 categories of what those priorities should be. There is no anticipation for new enrollments, however, emphasis is being placed on serving the waitlist consumers. Maria Springer has been charged with developing a strategic plan outlining outreach efforts targeted toward this population. Towards the end of this fiscal year, we were able to have some general revenue funds become available and we have used those funds to serve some foster care waitlist consumers. Most of the funds were used for specialized equipment.
- The Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles was able to have legislation passed creating an Autism license plate.
- Several workgroups are being developed to be able to start establishing a process of policy development as it relates to the mandates and initiatives that have been set forth for the 2009-2010 year:
 - Flexible benefits initiation
 - Supported Living/Supported Employment program is under a redesign, primarily geared toward developing a new tool that creates more flexibility and is simpler. It talks about doing more as it relates to transitioning to affordable housing initiatives, and the rule and participation of the coach and the support services to the program. Carolyn Eleby and Maria Roqueta are involved in this workgroup.
 - Individualized budget plan is based primarily on a profile of the

characteristics of the consumer who will be given a cost plan amount to work with.

- Rebasing will happen again. More information regarding the process to follow.
- Central Office is advocating for community participation and to the provider community in taking part in building and moving the agency forward. We should all take advantage of the opportunity and collaborate in any way that we can. We hear your comments and feedback regarding your frustrations, challenges, difficulties, and broken systems, mostly in the Medwaiver operations area. Please know that you can come forward with some recommendations with how to make the system more efficient and effective and be assured that all of that information is being given to Central Office repeatedly. Ms. Jackson has been charged with this effort to the point that there has been open communication with regularly scheduled waiver coordinator area office calls.
- Improvement of data quality and paperwork reduction will be initiated very soon.
- There will be more improvement with increased employment opportunity to our SE consumers with Michael Cardello onboard making a diligent effort in this area.
- There are tons of resources in our community that we do not capitalize on. There has been discussion with Director DeBeaugrine to have a community resource development staff person to assist with concentrating on and consolidating community resources and making it available to the provider community and the individuals that we serve. Maria Springer is the lead in this area.
- Improving services to the children, particularly in foster care where we can assist in having these children reach the goal of adoption and reunification, or permanency. We have a team approach with Julia Niarchos, lead person over the CBC (Community Based Care) agencies, to move those cases forward. The Dept. of Children and Families along with The Children's Trust have put together a national level exposition at the Freedom Museum Tower that features a display of photographed children that have the goal of adoption.
- APD is in the process of creating an office for an Ombudsman.

There are approximately 20 ongoing workgroups to include the handbook rewrite, flexible services, provider enrollment, waitlist consumers, standardizing forms, CDC+ expansion, SL/SE, paperwork reduction, cross-agency data, group home supervision, prioritizing legal issues, and the MRDP program, forensic placements, specialized beds (focus is to make the resources available in our individual areas).

- There is a new initiative called a “call tree” where the lines of communication will be opened via flash informational bulletins that will be regularly sent out via phone. It will be started as it relates to emergency preparedness.
- The Children Youth and Cabinet group has been set forth by the Governor where all the heads of all state agencies come together, develop and facilitate access to individual records for each of the agencies and establish a state-wide, shared web-based system that gives access to every critical information.
- We have also engaged on a 6-month pilot project called the Variable Work Week Option for APD staff. It entails four 10-hour workdays or four 9-hour workdays w/ half-day on Fridays.
- There will be an Area Regional Waiver Support Coordinator and staff meetings tentatively to be held in Area 10 during the last week of July and the month of August. The meetings will be held to discuss the priorities for this fiscal year and to solicit your feedback and input on ongoing and upcoming projects. We have asked that due to the size of our Area that we be able to hold our own meeting in our own Area.
- On May 22, 2009, there was a class action lawsuit filed by the Advocacy Center against APD and AHCA for denying administrative hearings for waiver recipients regarding tier placement. More information will be shared with you upon receipt.
- On July 16, there will be a public hearing held here for a rule development workshop on Tier Waiver rule 65G-4. The purpose is to clarify and review the existing language, determine whether to amend the rule, and review its operational details. The hearing will be held in the N-1011 conference room between the hours of 1:00pm and 4:00pm. There is also a provider meeting on the same day. We realize that parking has become a challenge and there are considerations about having the

provider meetings in another location. Please be encouraged to take public transportation to eliminate the hassle of limited parking.

- The Transportation for the Disadvantaged will be implementing a new system called the “Easy Card”. This system replaces the use of tokens. The card functions as a debit card where you put money onto it to be used with all public transportation. Currently, it does not include use at the Tri-Rail system. More information can be found on the Miami-Dade public transportation website and you can send your comments or concerns to HarryRackard@miamidade.gov.
 - Please feel free to email your thoughts and contributions to Ms. Alvarez and your representation is appreciated in these workgroups here at the area level.
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- Ms. Carolyn Eleby reminded that provider agreements are still being issued to those providers who are up for renewal. Please check to see if your provider agreements will or will not be expiring as of June 30, 2009. For those who have received renewal agreements, please return the entire document, every page, and complete all the required information indicated in the agreement. Agreements will be returned after final signature is obtained from the Area Administrator.
 - Letters went out to some providers concerning performance and reviews from their quality assurance monitoring. If you have received a letter, there will be a meeting on June 24-25, 2009 for a quality review prior to signing your renewal agreement.
 - July is the exhibition month for APD and we look forward to showing our talents for that month. Staff will be in contact with you in search of various talents and participation in the provider fair and bazaar that are scheduled for the last week in July.
 - Mrs. Marcie Brittain announced that the Reactive Strategies Training which is to be held on June 26, 2009, has been rescheduled to June 30, 2009, due to a conflict. The training will be held at the same time and place. You may still register for the training online and the rescheduled date will be reflected.

- When registering for training classes, it has to be done online. Fax requests are no longer being accepted. In order to properly register for online training classes, you must complete the registration form and then **you must select a class** before you click the submit button. Most people are forgetting to select a class and their registrations are incomplete.
- When receiving letters of due process/final notice, **you must respond with an answer, either by acceptance or request for a hearing.** Letters are expiring without a response. Please provide a response to these letters.
- We are still recruiting for the Family Care Council. Please contact Mrs. Marcie Brittain with any interested families. We now have five members (2 consumers and 3 parents) and many more applications currently pending with the Governor's office for review.
- We will be having a bazaar on July 31. Anyone interested in selling their items such as paintings, artwork, jewelry, baked goods, please contact Marcie Brittain. **Reminder: 5% of proceeds from anything that is sold will go to the Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign.**

- Mrs. Migdalia Diaz-Prado would like to thank those who assisted in adding new individuals to the Supported Living program. However, there are still some cases that are still pending documentation and the consumers have lost the opportunity to become SL consumers for lack of compliance by the provider. For those who did not comply, please forward a consumer status letter so that a proper notice can be generated indicating why the consumer was not able to receive the SL services.
- Ms. Sharon Powell reminded us that this is hurricane season and our plans should be in place. A hurricane supply kit should consist of water, non-perishable foods, blankets, batteries, clothing, charged cell phone, flashlights, prescription medications, radios, and non-cordless telephones. In the event of an evacuation, going to the shelter should be a last resort. Consider staying with family who live in non-evacuation zones. If you must go to a shelter, please register ahead of time. Special medical shelters are available for those who have medical necessities such as the use of a ventilator or oxygen. This information can also be found on

various websites in different languages, i.e. floridadisaster.org

- Ms. Alvarez announced the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) allows for state agency representatives to be a part of the activation team. The APD office will be sharing a seat with DCF in order to have representation so that we may collaborate any disaster information to share with our population. Ms. Alvarez has been certified and will be the designee. Ms. Jackson is also undergoing certification.
- Mr. Kirk Ryon announced Delmarva achievers and high scorers: Congratulations to The Leaning Place Group Home, Sheryl Humose, and Sunrise Community Center.
 - “The Gallery of Dreams” postcards were distributed, announcing our month long exhibition in July, to be held at the ROHDE Building . The gallery hours are 9am – 5pm, Monday-Friday. This event is free and open to the public. We have received an overwhelming response, but we are still looking for artists. Please identify any undiscovered artist and forward any suggestions to Mr. Kirk Ryon’s attention. Special events during that month include The Goodwill Band, Emily Moises musical presentation, the Bloodmobile, and many other artistic talents. Please invite the consumers, your family and friends to this event.
- Ms. Hillary Jackson gave a brief update with regards to the QSI progress. We are almost complete with the general revenue waitlist consumers. Thanks to the QSI staff and the unit workers for working hard to meet the goals as set forth statewide.
 - CDC+ will be expanding to 2,500 consumers statewide. We still do not know what the criteria will be for those consumers who may be selected. The consultant training went very well. We are still awaiting additional applications. The longer you wait to submit the enrollment packets, the longer it will take to receive the CDC+ number. We are not aware of the actual start date for any consumer on a caseload, so please submit applications as soon as possible.
 - We have approximately 479 consumers that had a Tier hearing request denial. These are the consumers that have received a Final Orders and instructions were sent out to the WSC’s detailing what

	<p>needed to be done for these consumers' cost plan to ensure that services continue. Those cost plans in TBD status will need to be corrected to end 06/30/09. A new cost plan will begin 07/01/09 and ending 08/31/09, then another new cost plan will begin on 09/01/09 through 06/30/10. Staff has been working hard to make the adjustments. Please adhere to the deadline of getting the items in to your specialist so that the corrections and changes can be made quickly and service authorizations may be issued to the providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2009-2010 cost plans are being continued/extended in accordance to the email that was sent to WSC's earlier this month. Staff is working diligently to update more than 2,500 consumer's cost plans. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Evelyn Alvarez announced that the proposed legislation for salary reduction for all state employees who earn \$45,000+, had been vetoed by the Governor, however it did not come off as a line item budget. Therefore, the reduction has impacted our salary dollars and as a result the vacant position for the Unit 603 Supervisor will not be filled. Carolyn Hunter has agreed to supervise that unit. The 2% reduction also impacted salary cuts in other areas in the amount of \$140,000. In lieu of terminating staff, we have had to make changes in our provider on-call services. Our licensing monitors will no longer have that responsibility. The management team will take on that responsibility on a weekly rotation, effective July 1, 2009. There will be one-week assignments to begin on Friday and end on Thursday of the following week, answering the same on-call number, with the same level of support as needed. There will not be any interruption in the service. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Alvarez commended Jean Claude Fan Fan and Douglas Perez for holding the on-call post and their understanding of the current budget cuts impact. ➤ Thank you to the management team and to all providers for all of the hard work that is being done, your assistance, cooperation and patience. • Debbie Terenzio announced that there will not be a CCDH meeting on today, but will resume on next month. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Southern Legal has filled a lawsuit against the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on behalf of Medicaid State plan recipients who do not have incontinent supplies and diapers covered under their in their Medicaid plan. They are looking for participants between the ages of 5 and 21, who are incontinent due to their disability, to join the class action lawsuit. They are also looking for persons in the same situation, but are waiting to be placed on the Medicaid Waiver program, as well as those consumers who are already on the Medicaid Waiver but the supplies are being paid for by their Tier dollars. Please contact Miriam @ 305-573-0092 for English speakers and Monica @ 305-438-2417 for Spanish speakers. • Ms. Evelyn Alvarez extended a Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers in the room. <p style="text-align: center;">IMPORTANT:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OUR ON-CALL PHONE NUMBER IS 305-299-3366.</p>	
III. ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.	

ATTENDANCE: Diana Perez, Martha Gonzalez, Maria Diaz, Manuel Achong, William Appleton, Martaluz Morales, Mario Osegueda, Carmen Suarez, Fred Jaime, Andres Pacheco, Diane Gelpi, Kenneth Moman, Roberto Cuadro, Cheri O'Geen, Veronica Oliver, Cynthia Saulan, Roberto Sotolongo, Margaret Vallhonrat, Matdolis Vazquez, Roberto Pire, Mario Valdes, Emma Silimon, Maureen Winter, John Mazzarella, Debbie Terenzio, Roberto Rivero, Bolatito Idowu, Enrique Molina, Nancy Zamor, Jean McCurdie, Gabriel Lefran, Isabel Guidi, Elizabeth Apiau, Robert Burnell, Kevin Edwards, Patricia Garcia-Montes, Nan Velasquez, Kristine Fonseca, Lissette Pena, Xiomara Benavides, Luz Ortiz, Maria Diaz, Sharon Bain, Martha Khan, Estrella Fresnillo, Argeo Rodriguez, Brenda Lowe, Gladys Minino, Penny Schueneman, Tiara Reese-Morgan, Chris Perez, Theresa Evans, Aileen Phelan, Iredia Idukpaye, Martina Osaghae, Osasumwen Osaghae, Mercedes Franco, Jacques Thompson, Jeanine Pierre, Yolande Florestant, Emmanuel Orizu, Isis Espino, Carmen Calderon-Roberts, Luis Rodriguez, Ella Mayo, Margarita Colorado, Rusty Townsend, Sonya Reese, Ubaldo Alvarez, Jackie Butler-Wilson, Livia Febles, Alana Grant, Elsbeth Arce, Louis Perez, Carlos Rocha, Mayda Wiltz, Willie Jones, Marianela Wata-Wara, Derrick Harley, Isis Rivera, Wilma Johnson, Julia Niarchos, Stacey Rodriguez, Judith Rodriguez, Haydee Milian, Jose Merida, Ivette Sotomayor, Monica Gomez, German Luna, Diane Oprandi, Alberto Dorta, Muriel Cuadro, Kerem Arredondo, Viveen Henry, and Dora Guzman.