



**AREA 3 STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES –WEDNESDAY, November 9, 2005**

Jeb Bush,  
Governor

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Shelly Brantley,  
Director

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District 3 Office

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**Attendance**

**Steering Committee Member Present:** ; Jim Smith (APD-Area 3); Corie Chae (Waiver Support Coordinator) ; Denise Voelker (FCC Member); Fred Pratt (Consumer/Self-Advocate); Sherry Ruskowski for John Conneely (Bradford ARC); Cynthia Tyson (APD-Area 3)

**Advisory Members:** Alice Reshard (AHCA); Richard Bradley (ARC of Alachua); Lucy Degenhardt (APD-Area 3); Jane McFarland (APD-Area 3); Larry Smail (Waiver Support Coordinator); Patrick Mulvihill (Transition Center at UF)

**Absent Members:** Angela Jones (School Board of Alachua County); Mike Hutley (Disabilities Resource Center-SFCC); Linda Butler (Center for Independent Living-North Central Florida); Mary Habig (MV Transportation); Brenda Sweat (Services Option Unlimited); John Conneely (Bradford ARC); Jim Whittaker (Putnam ARC); Bobbie Lake (CCS); Peter Johnson (Consumer/Self Advocate); Loretta Clark; Meribeth Larsen (CDC/Self Advocate); Terry Smith; Melinda Morrison (FCC Member); Diane Clark (Family Member); Mick Royal; Jimi & Joyce Daniels; Jim Whittaker (Putnam ARC)

**Others Present:** Sandra Cooper (APD-Area 3); Ed Cowles (APD-Area 3); Vernita Hughes (AQL Leader); Darral White (APD-Area 3); Delores Robinson (APD-Area 3); Beatrice Mitchell (Family Member); Ronald Warren (Consumer); Mark Brown (Brown Supports & Services)

This was the fourth meeting of this committee.

**Introduction:** Ms. Sherry Ruskowski designated as chair in the absence of Mr. Conneely. Ms. Ruskowski asked the members to review the minutes of the last meeting for changes and/or corrections. Minutes reviewed and approved with no corrections/changes.

Ms. Hughes asked the group to welcome Ms. Mitchell and her son who were present for the meeting today. The group welcomed them.

**New member application** – Ms. Ruskowski gave a brief description of the new member application received from Mr. Jeffrey Frazier. Any objections to Mr. Frazier being appointed as an Advisory Group member. No objections. A letter will be sent to Mr. Frazier on his appointment.



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**Blue Ribbon Task Force** – Jim gave an overview of the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The task force area of focus is Transition and Supported Living. A recommendation was submitted from the task force to improve services for employment for people with developmental disabilities. The task force has also submitted a draft action plan that breaks down activities based on ages. There was also a recommendation for more collaboration between Vocation Rehabilitation and APD.

**New APD Web Site** - Ms. Hughes explained to the group about the creation of a new web page under APD that will list information about AQL. Must obtain members permission to publish their names on the web site. No member present objected to their names being published on the web site.

**Project Selection** – Ms. Ruszkowski asked the group to provide update on their project selection.

Mr. Bradley provided an update on his area of selection “**Person not supported to vote**”. Currently looking at the target population. Some people can and some can’t make an informed consent. A list of things his agency incorporated to assist consumers with their rights to vote::

- Contacted the Elections Office to provide voter education training
- Identify the main issues for the campaign and present both sides of those issues.
- Invited representatives to speak with consumers during the campaign.
- Consumers who wanted to register to vote were taken to the Elections Office and registered.

Mr. Bradley informed the group that he was looking into building a core in the system already in existence.

Mr. Smith requested that Mr. Bradley get an outline of the voting procedures in Election offices in other counties.

Mr. Pratt talked about the voting process currently in place at the Center for Independence for which he has been involved for 11 years. Mr. Pratt and Mr. Mulvihill expressed interest in working on the “voting rights” group with Mr. Bradley.

Ms. Voelker provided and update on “**Person does not understand all rights available**”. Has done some curriculum research and found that the school board is providing a Train-the-Trainer training. Melinda Morrison is planning to attend. More information about the training is available on Transition Center website (transitioncenter.org). You can also register on-line. One training is



scheduled for December 9, 2005 and another for March 27, 2006 at the Embassy Suite.

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Ms. Voelker reports that she will look into the possibility of working with the Department of Education to expand their curriculum. She would like to also pull together information already available and began the work from there.

Members also noted concerns with the type of training that will meet all consumers needs.

Ms. Voelker would like to get all participants and people involved in the consumers lives to understand the process in order to outline targets that are exercisable.

**Fishbone Diagram** – Ms. Hughes and Mr. Smith developed a fishbone diagram to get some root causes with rights. Discussion by the group outlined some root causes for which these will be a starting point for the subcommittees to begin their work.

**Training Announcement** – Council on Quality and Leadership Training will be held on January 11-13, 2006 at ARC of Bradford County. Flyers distributed to the group.

**Other** – Mr. Smith provided the group with feedback from Vernita's presentation at the Leadership meeting in Tallahassee. She gave an excellent presentation. The President of AAMR complimented Vernita on her presentation. Mr. Smith also informed the group that Florida is leading the state for Quality Management.

**Agenda for Next Meeting/Future Meeting Date**

The next scheduled Steering Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 from 3:00PM until 5:00PM in the District Administrator Conference Room.