

SUNCOAST REGION QUALITY STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES January 25, 2007

Attendance: Stephanie Egley (Medicaid), Betty Beauchaine (FCC), Carl Littlefield (APD Program Administrator), Marcia DiGrazia (AQL), Debra J. Killion (VR), and David Hawthorne (Provider), Joanna H. Rydzewski (Parent), Patricia Hayston (Family member), Rebecca Vasey (Consumer of Services), Beth Kelzer (WSC),

Guest: Laurie Harlow, Regional Program Supervisor, Annabelle Knowles, support staff for Ms. Vasey, Chiquitta Nash (covering for Patty Rendon), Laurie Mayberry, Manasota ARC (Presenter), Chrysti Reichert (WSC GulfCoast), Debra Wallace (Parent), Terry Gleba (FND, covering for Rich LeBell).

Not in Attendance: Karlton Ballard (Transition), Deborah Davis (Transition), Cliff Capron (Consumer of Service), Ronald Wright (Consumer of Services), Susan VanFossen (Delmarva), Marcus Hall (Provider), Richard LaBell and David Brown (Consumer of Services), Patty Rendon (WSC), Deirdra Walker (Provider), Tom Nurse (Parent).

No longer on the committee: Dawn Schmidt-Browning (Provider/Support staff- moved out of state)

Meeting began @ 9:00 AM

The minutes from the **November 30, 2006** meeting were approved.

Supported Employment:

Laurie Mayberry from Manasota ARC spoke on the Community Employment Capacity Initiative (CECI). This is a grant that over the last year participants have had technical support to assist individuals move from an Adult Day Training environment to obtaining employment in the community. The first phase of technical support included educating the 55 member of the focus group. The assessment resulted in gathering information on service capacity, resource capacity and knowledge capacity. The Second phase was to identify and plan to make system changes. Phase three will be the implementation of system changes. This activity has promoted a collaboration of APD and VR, working towards individuals obtaining employment.

Ms. Mayberry noted that 27 people from Manasota ARE have transitioned to employment. She reviewed the history of the organization as it worked towards serving individuals. Barriers that have and continue to have impact on employment are

transportation, need for cross training within the organizations, education of individuals and family member and Social Security.

Ms. Mayberry also gave an overview of the Association of Persons in Supported Employment. This organization allows provider to keep up to date on issue and topics of employment and to improve the quality of the service.

Updates:

Training: Marcia DiGrazia shared information on a new workshop designed by APD for individuals and family members. The first workshop will occur February 27, 2007. at the DD Center, 1201 102nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg office from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The presentation will be distributed at the next meeting for input from committee members.

Delmarva: There was no one present from Delmarva to give update on changes in Data.

QI/OA data and systems: Laurie Harlow shared that more systems are in place. These updates are providing a more comprehensive look at activity in the residential unit. The next step is to educate the Waiver Support Coordinators on the new residential selection protocol. **Carl asked if Laurie could present a timeline of placement by the next meeting.** Beth Kelzer asked if they would look at the letter that goes out to WSC's. She feels that the wording is confusing.

Ms. Harlow noted that Assistive Living Facilities have their own problems. If an individual is receiving Residential Habilitation Services the ALF would have to comply with the "Handbook" as well as the Agency for Health Care. Often there are conflicts in these standards.

Dave Hawthorne asked if all system changes are occurring in the residential unit. She said since residential placement put individuals in the most vulnerable position that is their top priority. The next activity will involve individuals in supported living situations.

Family Care Council: Betty Beauchaine stated that the East side FCC is reforming. Applications are with the Governor and awaiting approval. Once both councils are up and running they will be looking at possibly supporting another provider fair.

IOC Meeting: Dave Hawthorne gave an overview of his experience presenting the steering committee's recommendations to the IQC. He felt they were receptive but did not get any indication of how they would follow-up or support the recommendation.

Marcia will follow-up with Linda Mabile on this issue.

APD Update: Carl noted that Shelly Brantely is no longer our director. The Governor appointed Mr. Barney Ray as interim Director. Due to a budget deficit, we will not be bringing individual on to the Waiver from the Waiting List. Individuals in crisis will need

to be funding from General Revenue. This does not ensure that there will be continuation of services for next year.

Carl shared information on a legislative forum meeting in St. Petersburg the following week. Debra Killion stated that VR had met with legislators individually and were well received. It was suggested that member determine which legislator are open to supporting the needs of individuals with disabilities. Once determined, we could target them with information and/or invite them to a forum.

VR has worked collaboratively with APD. Rebecca Vasey gave an example of past problems with the system, assisting people with sever physical limitations. Her family was a great support in helping her open an antique shop.

Wanda Blanton and several other staff will be retiring in the coming year. Brenda Clark retired January 19, 2007.

Carl continues to work on information on developing a phone tree.

New business:

- There was a discussion on transportation being one of the barriers to employment. It was suggested that the person from APD that is on the committee of Transportation Disadvantage attend our next meeting and educate member on transportation issues. Marcia will make arrangements.
- There was also a discussion on the need to have a newsletter to keep individuals, families and providers better informed of changes in the system. FCC had produced the last few newsletters. The funding came from the FCC budget. The committee had discussed this when the committee began but APD did not have funds to print and mail out a newsletter, and we did not want to duplicate what was going on with the FCC. It was recommended that we have a subgroup to research this. Christi Riechert volunteered to get it started. Marcia will follow up with Ms. Riechert.

The Next Meeting: **February 22, 2007 at the St. Petersburg office, 1201 102 Street North, from 9 am – Noon.**