

SUNCOAST AREA QUALITY STEERING COMMITTEE

MISSION: “To promote continuous improvement of the SunCoast Region’s service systems by providing recommendations and guidance; thereby encouraging effective, quality services that support individuals with developmental disabilities”

MINUTES

May 12, 2014

Chairman: William Rambaum

Co-Chair: Tom Nurse

Attendees: List on File upon request

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

Introductions & Acknowledgements

*Review/Approval of Minutes – April

* Introductions - **Visitors**

10:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Action Items:

❖ **Sub-Committee** “Consumer Advocacy Committee” (New Name!)

Dane Jones gave an update on the purpose of the sub-committee which initially was charged to provide success stories from consumers who are receiving services at various levels. Then we would encourage them to join the steering committee and/or the FCC. Dane mentioned several interviews were done and said the logistics and Lync was the predominantly decided on methods for presentation. Dane also suggested the new name for the sub-committee be “Consumer Advocacy Committee”

Michael Taylor provided addition information stating there were approximately 30 individuals interviewed and Michelle Tolini is in the process of consolidating the data to present to Ms. Williams. *Mr. Taylor said he would send out questionnaire to update all steering committee members.

Tom Nurse mentioned adding data from the Florida Council – Strategy 24 Population Workgroup; for individuals on the waitlist; but members elected not to be included at this time.

Also, FDDC and Ounce of Prevention have a called to action for Self Advocacy for people on the wait list. It was discussed, however, the members decided to stick with one purpose. In the long run, those who tell their stories would be encouraged to get involved.

Mr. Rambaum re-emphasized the importance of the committee to refocus on the positive aspects of what APD has done to enhance the quality of life for individual served by APD. He also suggested the committee come to consensus on a simpler

method for presentation; such as posters and/or pictures with one page narratives. Mr. Rambaum **motioned** to have each member of the steering committee conduct an “Impact Stories” presented , one client per month. This would enhance the subcommittee’s goals and increase awareness on who APD is on an ongoing basis. It was voted on and **all agreed**.

❖ **Provider Meetings – Communication style:**

Marcia Digrazia gave updates from the Provider Meeting held on 4-21-2014 at the Children’s Board in Tampa. There were two meetings; one in the morning the second in the afternoon. There were approximately 200 participants. She mentioned that Jeff Smith gave updates on improved APD and Provider communication; especially concerning Delmarva Standards and Remediation. Anne Hendon gave updates on background screening and Linda Henderson provided updates on Incident Reports; placing special emphasis on the requirements for non-critical reports. Marcia concluded by stressing the importance of training, communication and follow up.

❖ **Other items:**

- **Progress of Field Office 8 – FCC & Steering Committee**
Bill Rambaum asked for an update on individuals in the Ft. Myers area participation on FCC and the Steering Committee. Mr. Smith said he has been encouraging more participation and identified one individual/consumer who is interested but is currently recovering from health issues. Jeff mentioned applications for the FCC are being managed better than in the past and attendance in the area is normally once a month with approximately 9 persons attending at the Center for Independent Living. **Lyn Jones** is a possible to contact for conferencing.
- **Communication:** Maryland Ruiz, Family Network on Disabilities also said traveling has been problematic towards maintaining attendance. Tom Nurse suggested using the Lync system for the next meeting and Bill Rambaum asked us to include Lynn Jones in the next meeting.
- **Tracking Systems** – Michael Taylor
 - **Wait List** - It was determined that this committee would provide an updated excel spread sheet by next meeting. Information regarding decisions on waitlist approvals rests at the state office level. The goal of a waitlist tracking would be to show progress made by the Suncoast and plans for follow up.

- **Employment Enhancement Project-Michael Taylor**

The Employment Enhancement Project (EEP), Represents people still on the waitlist, has increased by 97 participants; with 31 presently working. There has been \$175,000 allocated and the EEP has been refunded for FY 2015. It was noted the schools are lagging behind of sending referrals.

Marilyn Ruiz suggested we educate others at the Hearts of Hope State Presentation on 13 Sept 2014 at Dunedin Middle School.

Marcia DiGrazia suggested to start contacting the PTA's

- **Incident Reports** are being tracked by region.- Currently Linda Henderson
- **Remediation Report** - Information comes directly from Delmarva

11:20a.m – 11:40 a.m. Regional Update:

*Ms. Geri Williams –**Represented by Michael Taylor:**

- Mr. Taylor update: The funding in 2013, to address the waitlist came in three (3) waves. The first wave of funding brought onto the Waiver; 133 consumers. The second wave came in the Fall bringing onto the Waiver 107 consumers, of which some are still being processed. The third wave which started in March. Ten waiver letters sent out, resulting in 44 total. There have been 280 total transferred onto the waiver
- The house and senate has \$20 million to work on consumer listed in Category 3 of persons on the Waitlist. Region 23's original goals were 1,500, which has been exceeded by reaching 1,800 and projects approximately 2,000 for Category 3.

Mr. Taylor mentioned the impact of significant changes to the category 3 individuals means Category 2's may have smaller cost plans.

Individuals over 21 have their cost plans reductions pre-calculated based on service needs. Mr. Taylor said there may be 4,500 to 5,000 transitioning from the waitlist and QSI's are scheduled based on the assessors' workloads and crisis cases. Annual contact letters goal is to correctly identify Category Placements.

11:40 a.m. –11:50a.m.

Advocacy Opportunities – Anyone Contact Legislators?

- Shanita Richardson suggested we educate others at the Disability Expo on May 24, 2014 at All Peoples Life Center 6105 E. Sligh Ave. Tampa, Fl.
- Tom Nurse mentioned he will be presenting at the Expo and stated there are approved funds but information from the state to the county level is being missed.
- Kym Mason provided information on the Alzheimer Aging Project: Its purpose is to focus on 4 designated workgroups:
 1. Developmentally Disabled and their caregivers living together
 2. Developmentally Disabled and caregivers living in alternative settings
 3. Developmentally Disabled who transition to appropriate living settings when caregivers are not available
 4. Training & resources for providers and medical practitioners

Ms. Mason's said the second phase of the committee would focus on developing plans of action to submit that may provide increased awareness, education and/or problem solving alternatives for families, providers, APD and caregivers for future service transitions.

FCC- FAMILY CARE COUNCILS: No Items covered this month

- FCC – Pinellas
- FCC – Hillsborough
- FCC – Ft. Myers- Ms. DiGrazia will contact the chairperson and discuss needs. (Lyn Jones)

11:50a.m. – 12:00p.m. Wrap-Up- What needs to be on the agenda next month?

1. Review Impact Interviews from members.
2. Review comments on data sent prior to meeting.
3. Testing Lync System coupled with Conference Calling.

Next Meeting June 9, 2014
1201 102nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg. From 10 – 12,

Conference call in Number is: 1-888-670-3525 CODE: 2090422049

DON'T FORGET TO TRY THE LYNC SYSTEM!

Focus 2014: Membership, Credibility & Success Stories