



agency for persons with disabilities  
*State of Florida*

**APD Southern Region Provider Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 15th 2015 @ 9:30 A.M.**  
**401 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE, SUITE N-1011, MIAMI, FL 33128**

| AGENDA ITEM             | ISSUE / DISCUSSION  | ACTION / FOLLOW UP  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>I. CALL TO ORDER</b> | <p>Evelyn Alvarez, Regional Operations Manager opened the meeting at 9:40am, introducing herself and welcomed participants in audience and via tele-conference. Ms. Alvarez reminded audience that all phones be silenced to avoid interruptions.</p> <p><b>Management Staff Introductions:</b> Kirk Ryon, Maria Linares, Hillary Jackson and Brenda Viera.</p> <p><b>New Staff Announcements:</b> Welcome: Daymara Amed,RN &amp; Ernesto Delgado, RN</p> <p><b>Staff Changes: none</b></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker(s):</b> Jose Bahamonde, Adult Protective Investigations Specialist contact number 786-257-5346.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ For more information about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, please contact Evelyn Alvarez at (305) 349-1478.</li></ul> |

## II. INTRODUCTION

### ❖ Hillary Jackson, RPS discussed the following:

#### CDC+

- Reminder to consultants, when calculating budgets for a consumer with EQ Health PCA approved the entire 6 month timeframe will be included in the appropriate section. For example, 797 hours was approved for 4/1/15 to 9/30/15 totaling \$11,955.00. This entire amount would be entered for 6 months.

#### • iBudget/ABC Issues

- In reviewing several files from WSCs the following issues have been noted: 1st entry of the case note is not signed then all others initialed, notes do not contain details but mechanically written, notes containing information for other consumers, poorly documented follow up if any on consumer issues, costplans not signed by the consumer/guardian, using “recycled” paper to print documents on one side with other consumer’s information on the other side of the page, files not organized in accordance with the Central Record file policy/procedures, documents not filed in proper chronological order, etc.
- The new FY 15-16 annual budgets have been released so all support coordinators please begin inputting the new costplans for your consumers. Each support coordinator was given a deadline to complete and submit the costplans to our office; please comply.

#### • Documentation

- Non WSC providers, specifically, behavioral therapy providers, we are receiving complaints that you are not providing the WSCs with the required supporting documentation. As you are aware, you could be jeopardizing services for a consumer since medical necessity is based upon documentation. Please comply in providing the WSCs all documentation required as indicated in the Handbook.

#### • Other Issues

- Support coordinators, please use encrypted email when sending/requesting 2515s and LOC documents to Maxine Johnson. If you are using regular email then please only use the PIN # for that consumer.
- Support coordinators, please ensure that you follow the procedures to report a consumer’s death. Recently, we contacted a family to conduct a QSI for a consumer who passed away in September 2014. This places all parties in a very uncomfortable situation.

❖ **Ms. Maria Linares, MS discussed the following:**

- Employment Enhancement Project, 22 employed!
- Supported Employment Quarterly Reports are due today by 5 pm! Don't act surprised, you were aware of this.
- The next Family Care Council Meeting will be Wednesday May 13<sup>h</sup>, at 10 am to 12 noon in the APD, South Tower Conference Room.
- Invoicing must be submitted in a timely manner. As we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, this becomes even more important. Tallahassee will be providing me with a deadline for submitting the June invoices and I will share this information with you. You are all business owners so the concept of closing the current fiscal year and opening the new fiscal year is not alien to any of you. I need your cooperation! This is only for provider serving Wait List consumers (GR services).
- Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Stephen P. Clark Center (Government Center), 111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 18-4.

❖ **Ms. Brenda Viera, MCM discussed the following:**

1. This month of April is Autism month.
2. Autism and autism spectrum are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorder is characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. Autism has its roots in early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 12 and 18 month of age. Autism statistics from the U.S. centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify around 1 in 68 American children on the autism spectrum-a ten-fold increase in prevalence over the last 40 years. Studies also show that autism is four to five times more common among boys than girls. An estimated 1 out of 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States. Autism is estimated to affect more than 2 million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide. Moreover, government autism statistics suggest that prevalence rated have increased 10 to 17 percent annually in recent years. There is no established explanation for this continuing increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered.
3. People always have questions on what causes autism. Researchers have found that there is no one cause of autism just as there is no one type of autism. Over the last five years, scientists have identified a number of rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. Research has identified more than a hundred autism risk genes. However, most cases involved complex and variable combination of genetic risk and environmental factors that influence early brain development.

- Here are some resources that you can provide the family:

- [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)
- [www.autismsocietymiami.org](http://www.autismsocietymiami.org)
- [www.autismfl.com](http://www.autismfl.com)
- [www.umasac.org](http://www.umasac.org)

I am providing information on the Miami walk now for Autism speaks. It is this April 19 at Doral Central Park. Registration starts at 7:30 am.

- A reminder on Medication Error report make sure to report them this will help us guide you and give you technical assistance and prevent any health and safety issues for our consumers. You can contact me at (305) 377-7431.

❖ **Mr. Kirk Ryon, RPS discussed the following:**

Kirk Ryon discussed 2 handouts for the 2015 Gallery of Dreams Exhibition at the 401 building between July 1 and August 31, 2015. Mr. Ryon noted that this will be the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Gallery of Dreams Exhibition and all clients are welcome to participate. Art must be registered with Southern Region by May 8, 2015 and submitted no later than June 5, 2015. This year's exhibition will include a theme related to the APD celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The theme is "Freedom to Live your Life". This theme may be shown in art which portrays the artists in community activities such as work, school, sports, Special Olympics or the enjoyment of daily life. If you have any questions, please contact Kirk Ryon at: 305-377-7436.

Kirk Ryon discussed Medicaid Waiver Provider Agreements which was emailed to providers whose agreements will expire on June 30, 2015. Over 285 agreements were emailed to providers who's Medicaid Waiver Agreements will expire. To date, only 65 have been returned, signed and with the liability insurance attached. Mr. Ryon reminded all present that if they have an uncompleted agreement or know other providers with unsigned agreements, which will expire in June, to please sign the agreements and send them to APD as quickly as possible.

Mr. Ryon reminded all present that if their agreement expires without a new updated, signed agreement, the provider number will no longer be active and the provider will have to cease billing and submit a new application.

❖ **Ms Evelyn Alvarez, ROM discussed for following**

**Announcements:**

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts with A+ Government Solutions for the PERM Program (Payment Error Rate Measurement Program). The function of this entity is to verify Medicaid Claims. IT is important that if you are contacted via phone or letter by A+ Government Solutions that you are responsive and comply. More information may be found on the [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)
- Gov. Scott Proclaims March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Down Syndrome Awareness Week.
- The Juvenile Court House inauguration is schedule for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11am. The court house which is situated next door to the 401 Bldg will be opening shortly thereafter. We will update you on any developments regarding available parking for the 401 Bldg guests.

**Agency Updates:**

- Carlton Palms: The Agency entered into a settlement agreement with Carlton Palms on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Carlton Palms may begin receiving referrals for admissions moving forward.

**Legislative Session:**

- We are almost at the conclusion of this year's legislative session and are very excited and pleased that APD is receiving widespread support from both House and Senate. We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone self-advocates, providers, families, stakeholders associations, staff that are working in collaboration with APD which is helping APD achieve its goals for this session. The Southern Region also thanks and commends Director Palmer, the Executive Management and Legislative Affairs Team in state office for their leadership and hard work during this session.
- March 7<sup>th</sup> Gov. Scott and the Florida Cabinet proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> was Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capitol.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation (FACTS) hosted Transportation Disadvantaged Day at the Capitol.

**Summary of Legislative Bills Related to People with Disabilities**

By Robert Brown

**SB 7048 - Relating to Developmental Disabilities by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs**

**CoSponsors: Detert**

**Summary**

This bill requires the Agency for Persons Disabilities to revise the priority order for the waiver services for specified children which are otherwise not available to them. This bill will establish requirements for children and certain young adults with a category 2 priority. Effective Date: 7/1/2015.

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**SB 7022 - Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Governmental Oversight and Accountability**

**Cosponsors: Galvano, Hukill, Fiscal Policy**

**Summary**

This is a committee bill for individuals with disabilities. The bill revises definitions and defines the term "individual who has a disability". The bill revises the state's equal employment opportunity policy to include individuals who have a disability and requires each executive agency to annually report to the Department of Management Services regarding the agency's progress in increasing employment among certain underrepresented groups. The bill requires the department to develop and implement certain programs geared toward individuals who have a disability. Effective Date: 7/1/2015.

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**SB 380 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Bradley**

**Summary**

This bill requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to allow an applicant whose parent or guardian is a member of the United States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard to receive Medicaid home and community-based waiver program services under certain conditions. Effective Date: 7/1/2015

**Comparative Bill**

**HB 177 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Hill**

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**SB 848 - Relating to Employment of Individuals With Disabilities by Richter, CS Sponsors:**

**Governmental Oversight and Accountability**

**Summary**

This bill creates the "Employment First Act" and requires specified state agencies and organizations to develop and implement an interagency cooperative agreement. The bill requires the interagency cooperative agreement to provide the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of state agencies and organizations. Effective Date: 7/1/2015

**Similar Bill**

**HB 1083 - Relating to Employment Opportunities for Persons With Disabilities by Rooney**

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**SB 330 – Relating to Missing Persons With Special Needs by Dean, CS Sponsors: Criminal Justice**

**Summary**

This bill provides for immunity from civil liability for certain persons who comply with a request to release

information concerning missing persons with special needs to appropriate agencies. The bill provides for a presumption that a person recording, reporting, transmitting, displaying, or releasing such information acted in good faith. An additional amendment is being crafted to make these electronic devices available by drawing down federal funding for this purpose. Effective Date: 7/1/2015

**Identical Bill**

**HB 69 – Relating to Missing Persons With Special Needs by Porter**

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**SB 496 – Relating to Guardians by Detert, CS Sponsors: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs,**

**Judiciary**

**Summary**

This bill creates a process to identify guardians and guardian advocates for children with developmental disabilities or incapacity and are in need of guardianship beyond their 18th birthday. The bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create updated case plans developed in face-to-face conferences with a child and other specified persons, when appropriate. The bill authorizes the probate court to initiate proceedings for the minor and provide all due process rights conferred upon an adult. It also allows the child's parents to be considered as natural guardians unless the dependency or probate court determines it is not in the child's best interest or the parents' rights have been terminated. Effective Date: 7/1/2015

**Similar Bill**

**HB 437 – Relating to Guardians for Dependent Children Who are Developmentally Disabled or Incapacitated by Adkins**

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**SB 152 – Relating to Disability Awareness by Ring, CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K - 12**

**Summary**

This bill requires rather than authorizes, each district school board to provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools beginning in 2016-2017. Presentations by individuals with a disability are to be included in the disability history and awareness instruction. The bill also requires each public school to establish a disability history and awareness advisory council; providing membership on the council; providing responsibilities of the council; providing meeting times for the council. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

**Similar Bill**

**HB 123 – Relating to Disability Awareness by Cores (J)**

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**SB 576 – Relating to Land Acquisition Trust Fund/Agency for Persons With Disabilities by Dean**

**Summary**

This bill creates the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) within the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). This trust fund is established as a depository for funds received from the LATF within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Expenditure of the funds in the LATF within APD must be for the purposes specified in article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution. Effective Date: 7/1/2015

**Comparative Bill**  
**SB 2502 – Relating Implementing the General Appropriations Act by Appropriations**

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**SB 642 – Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Benacquisto, CoSponsors: Sobel and Banking and Insurance**

**Summary**

This bill creates the Florida ABLE program, which would assist individuals with disabilities in saving money without losing their eligibility for state and federal benefits, and thereby providing a pathway for economic independence and a better quality of life. This program was created by the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 (ABLE Act), which authorizes states to establish ABLE programs as an agency or instrumentality of the state or contract with other states to administer such accounts if certain conditions are met. The ABLE accounts resemble in some respects the federal 529-college savings plan that are tax-advantaged savings accounts. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

**Similar Bill**

**HB 935 – Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Rodrigues (R)**

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**SB 602 – Relating to Students With Disabilities by Gaetz, CoSponsors: Galvano and Appropriations**

**Summary**

This bill amends the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program (PLSA) by expanding the pool of eligible students, tightening program accountability requirements, streamlining program implementation, increasing Department of Education (DOE) responsibility to implement the program, and clarifying program implementation. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

**Comparative Bill**

**HB 7095 – Relating to Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts by Education Committee**

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**SB 7030 – Relating to Postsecondary Education for Students With Disabilities by Higher Education**

**Summary**

This bill creates the “Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act”; establishing eligibility requirements for enrollment in the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. The bill establishes the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities and establishes a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship for certain qualified students. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

**Similar Bill**

**HB 7091 – Relating to Postsecondary Options for Students With Disabilities by Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee**

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**SB 1246 – Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Detert, CS Sponsors: Fiscal Policy, Commerce and Tourism**

**Summary**

This bill creates the Florida Unique Abilities Partner program to recognize business entities that employ individuals who have a disability, contribute to organizations that support the independence of individuals who have a disability, or establish a program that contributes to the independence of individuals who have a disability. It states that The Agency for Persons With Disabilities shall provide a link on its website to the department's website for the Florida Unique Abilities Partner program. Effective Date: 7/1/2015

**SimilarBill**

HB 7099 – Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Economic Affairs Committee

**Regional Updates:**

- **Vacancy Update:** Currently hiring and looking for qualified and skilled personnel for the following positions: QSI Assessors, LTRC Monitors, Clerical Support Staff, Case Managers for Waitlist Unit. Please send resumes to [evelyn.alvarez@apdcares.org](mailto:evelyn.alvarez@apdcares.org)
- **Abuse Reports:** Reminder we are all mandated reporters. If when calling the abuse registry you are not successful in them taking the report please ask for a supervisor and be sure to explain the individual's risk factor due to disability. If you are still not successful in your attempt please do not hesitate to contact my office for assistance. APD continues working in partnership with DCF to ensure the highest quality investigation for all APD involved cases both institutional and client victims. Ms. Alvarez and, Mr. Ryon have been participating in Administrative Reviews of API cases and collaborating in identifying opportunities to improve current system by improving training for investigative staff and investigative outcomes. Please respond promptly to any API/CPI investigation inquiries.
- **Family Care Council:** We continue to have seats available on our FCC please share this information and the importance of the FCC with clients, families and other interested parties. For more information visit [apdcares.com](http://apdcares.com) go to the Family Care Council Florida link and then to local Councils Area 11.
- SR FCC Vice Chair, Mr. Suau addressed the audience in regards to needing volunteers, speakers, and resources for the upcoming Provider Fair. The tentative date is May 30<sup>th</sup> but is likely to be changed to the Fall. Anyone interested or wanting to join and or assist the planning committee may contact Mr. Suau at [mes.fcc@gmail.com](mailto:mes.fcc@gmail.com)

The FCC Area 11 has a new website [fccarea11.weebly.com](http://fccarea11.weebly.com).

**Commendations:**

- Ms. Alvarez thanked and commended the providers and APD staff for their commitment, hard work and team spirit. “I greatly appreciate each and every one of you and all that you do!”

**Attendance:** Jerome Silverberg, Aleyda Blanco, Ben Saba, Isis Espino, Gloria Rodriguez, Jacques Thompson, Aileen Phelan, Jose Casanova, Cynthia Gay, Cassandra Smith, Andres Pacheco, Jay Steinberg, Alexander Bain, James Louis, Darilyn Ginebra, Nereida Babilonia, Ekandem Essiet, Gwen Walker, Jacqueline Butler-Wilson, Miguelina Minino, Vivian Owen, Jeanne Pierre, Pascale Malette, Manuel Achong, Carlos Rocha, Alexander Ajayi, Sophonie Maneus, Laura Vinent, Gloria Fortune, Martha Khan, Karina Gomez, Paulette Charles, Madelin Armas, Luis Rodriguez, Veronica Oliver, Roberto Pire Patrice Lawrence, Ellen Bethel, Cesar Cerran, Zoila Delgado, Janet Batet, Helena Osaghae, Jose Gamba, Gabriel LeFran, Isis Abreu, Dionne Barton, Ann Diaz, Laura Westbrook, Sherylyn Westbrook, Tammie Martin, Mercedes Franco, Carmen Calderon-Roberts, Antonio Fernandez, Steven Kuster, Jeanette Williams, and Christian Valenzuela.

**\*\*\*Tardy:** Sandra Mercado, Roger Diaz, Sara Diaz, Christopher Obioha, Hugo Merino, Kathleen Mulkey, Ludmilla Senkevich, Jesenia Blanco, Jony Lazo, Shireen Sutherland, Lasonja Simpkins, Pedro Herrera, Heilyn Gandia, Adeyinka Obajimi, Josephine Livingston, and Edith Griffith.

**Monroe County** attendees on the phone was:

Diana Flenard, Aileen Rowe, Barbara Divoll, Ellen Collins, Damarys Scranton and Shereb Chovron.

**New Providers** – Budgets Made Easy, Rehab Center of Miami, Available to You, Florence Belbeua-Charles.