



monthly events throughout the year in the different counties state-wide. As well as Regional Office specific events during the month of July to include a celebration in our Tallahassee State Office. The schedule of all events may be found on the APD website (apdcares.org) and we will also be sharing the Miami-Dade & Monroe County events via email.

**Today is our official start Kickoff Event** and we have planned a very special meeting which I am sure we will all enjoy.

**Presentation of Proclamation: It is my privilege and honor to introduce to you the Honorable Mayor of the City of Miami, Mayor Thomas Regalado who will be presenting the Proclamation.**

**On behalf of the Southern Region Office and the individuals we serve THANK YOU for this honor Mayor Regalado. We are truly humbled by your dedication and commitment to personally be here today to present us with this very meaningful proclamation and grateful for the support that you and your Team continue to provide us in serving our community. We will proudly display this proclamation in our office reception area.**

**Guest Speaker: It is also my pleasure to introduce Veronica Harrell-James, Ms. Harrell-James has served as Deputy Chief of the General Civil Litigation Division of the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida Since September 2002. She supervises the work of six (6) General Civil Litigation attorneys and three (3) paralegal/support staff persons. In her practice, Ms. Harrell-James focuses primarily on civil rights litigation and investigation of complaints of violation of the Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, and other federal civil rights laws.**

Prior to her appointment as Deputy Chief, she served in various capacities within the U.S. Attorney's Office, and **earned various awards** and recognitions. **Most notably**, Ms. Harrell-James received the Executive Office of United States Attorneys Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in recognition for negotiating an unprecedented \$1.2 million settlement in United States v. Milton, a rental housing discrimination case based on race. Ms. Harrell-James is a **1986 graduate of the University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Florida.** In May 1983, she **earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.**

**Upon graduation** from law school, she joined Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., Miami, Florida, where she served for nearly three (3) years as a staff attorney in the housing section. She represented the poor in defense of public housing and private landlord-tenant evictions, mortgage foreclosure actions, and filed Chapter 13 Bankruptcy actions to save their homes.

Ms. Harrell-James is very **active in her community**, having served in various capacities, including the following:

President, Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association (formerly/known/as Black Lawyers Association);

Board of Directors, Gwen S. Cherry Dade County Chapter Women Lawyers Division, Miami, Florida;

Chairperson, Florida Bar Grievance Committee 11-B;

Chairperson, Florida Bar Grievance Committee 17-F;

Member, Board of Directors, Legal Service of Greater Miami, Inc.,  
the Fountain of New Life Church (f/k/a Fountain of Pembroke Pines Church),  
Chapel Trail Estates Homeowners Association;

Member and Advisor of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,

South Broward Alumnae Chapter, and as Treasurer and Parliamentarian in the Dade County Alumnae Chapter; and Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida (f/k/a Girl Scouts of Broward County).

Ms. Harrell-James is a **native of Miami**, Florida. She is 27 years **married** to Keith James. They have two (2) **daughters** - Simone and Sydney, ages 23 and 18.

**Please join me in giving a warm welcome to Ms. Veronica Harrell-James**

**Q & A**

**Thank you for being here this morning and sharing your knowledge and expertise with us. This information is very valuable to know for the work that we do not only for our knowledge but to also further educate our clients and the community at large. Once again, thank you and we appreciate all that you do to also serve individuals with disabilities.**

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**Abbreviated Provider Meeting Held:**

Thank you all for being here and a special thanks to the planning committee that made this possible!

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

1. **iBudget/ABC Issues**

- If there are requests you plan to make in a consumer's costplan that will require documentation to support the request; please send it in before you submit the costplan. In many instances we are receiving costplans indicating you have sent documents. When we contact your office, we are then advised you didn't send them yet.
- Please do not ask the waiver staff to add a service code for a provider that is not showing up in the iBudget system as an option to be selected. You have all been reminded that these requests should be directed to the Southern Region provider enrollment staff.
- Support coordinators, **please do not send iBudget costplans to the Region manually unless you have to**. There should be a reason for us needing to review the costplan that would normally just be approved if you clicked/chose the "process" button.
- Support coordinators, please be detailed and specific in your WSC processing comments. We should not be seeing "please approve", "changes made", "just approve." These are actual comments we have seen. This is not clear and is not helpful for our office to review. Costplans will be returned to you if your comments are not specific.
- Support coordinators **please read the Regional comments** that are written when a costplan has been returned to you. We are continually seeing no responses to our questions we've asked.

2. **Documentation**

- Support coordinators please read the recommendations being made by providers. Often times you are submitting requests to our office and you are not in synch with what the documentation is indicating. This is causing our office to seek clarification from you.

3. **Support Plan/Case Note Issues/Service Requests**

- a. **Please ensure that you are sending AIMS – Waitlist to Waiver documents to the SAN email address [southern.SANs@apdcare.org](mailto:southern.SANs@apdcare.org)**. Please use the same subject line that you were given in prior instructions for this process. More importantly identify the subject line to indicate "Waitlist to Waiver Consumer AIM Documents." There is no need to copy other waiver staff on this email since we all have access to receive it.
- b. We are emailing WSCs that Martine previously assisted who will be covering weekly. Please pay attention to this since it is not the same person each week.

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

- I want to remind you about the new website that went online about a month ago to help people with disabilities find employment. The site is: AbilitiesWork.employflorida.com
- The Employment Enhancement Project is coming along nicely. We have 12 confirmed hired, and 7 in the process of hiring, for a total of 19 employed.
- The EEP goal of 39 has been amended and our new goal is 30. However, our budget is almost gone at this point and we will be speaking with State office about the possibility of additional funding.

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

Kirk Ryon announced a special initiative for the Gallery of Dreams which will be presented in July of 2015. In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA),

The clients, Adult Day Training Programs and other interested parties who contribute art to the annual celebration of art will be asked to create works which reflect the spirit of ADA.

Mr. Ryon will be distributing guidelines for the upcoming gallery in the immediate future via email. All interested contributors are welcome to submit works for the gallery using these guidelines. As many of the qualified works of art as possible, given the limited space, will appear from July 1 through August 31 at the State of Florida Rohde building at 401 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. in the South Tower lobby.

**New Providers:** Young at Heart Solutions, Inc, Avenue Supportive Care, and Lovely Fameux.

**Attendance:**

George Carasco, Elizabeth Coats, Diana Flenard, Aileen Rowe, Barbara Divoll, Neil McMicheal, Sherals Chodron, Corinne Triviski. Damaris Scranton, Ellen Collins, Cherie O'Geen, Kibel Quesada, Roberto Pire, Ybeth Baez, Sandra Solis, Irene Estevez, Isis Espino, Judy Gayoso, Judith Rodriguez, Graciela Lorenzo, Cindy Timbis, Aleyda Blanco, Gloria Rodriguez, Haydee Milian, Martha Khan, Aileen Phelan, Marie Rodriguez, Luis Lopez, Montrese Albury, Michael Cardello, Gabriel LeFran, Ellen Bethel, Nereida Babilonia, Reginald Wheeler, Marianela Wata-Wara, Manuel Achong, Cristina Schwartz, Tammie Martin, Sherrie Dadulla, Andrea Lawrence, Dionne Barton, Josephine Livingston, James Louis, Pinor Ocern, Pascale Malette, Amanda Ortiz, Gladys Minino, Mercedes Franco, Kwame Lumumba, Miguelina Minino, Sophonie Maneus, Jose Casanova, Paola Arce, Carlos Rocha, Nayza Hernandez, Janet Batet, Portia James, Luis Rodriguez, Penny Schueneman, Martina Osaghae

Osasumwen Osaghae, Roger Diaz, Jeanette Williams, Tajuana Givens, Felisha Williams, Jackie Butler-Wilson, Jacques Thompson, Cynthia Gay, Cristiana Robaina, Mario Osegueda, Christopher Opiba, Jeanne Pierre, Carmen Fernandez, Kathleen Mulkey, Viveen Brooks, Rose Goldie Louis, Patrick James, Geau Henry, Lovely Fameux, Mariette Figueroa, Gloria Fortune, Zoily Rivero, Belkis Martinez, Hugo Merino, Ramon Minino, Thomas Maldonado, Jerome Silverberg, Sandra Ames, Chantal Meo, Steven Kuster, Ivonne Gonzalez, and Darilyn Ginebra.

**Tardy (20+ minutes):**

Karen Curtis, Diane Gelpi, Mable Burger, Gisel Prado, Denise Prehay, Ludmila Senkevich, Sara Cartaya and Twa Obggen.