

**AREA 12**  
**Family Care Council**

**Chair Philip Pearson**

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities**  
**210 N. Palmetto Avenue, Suite 312**  
**Daytona Beach, Florida**  
**May 9, 2008**

**Draft Summary Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Phil Pearson, Chair  
Ray Sylvestre, Treasurer (by conference)  
Anita Martin  
Susan Tanner  
Linda Peterson  
Kay Samar

**STAFF & GUEST PRESENT:**

Ed De Bardeleben, APD  
Sandra Mills, APD  
Sandra Mills, APD  
Jimmy Perrin  
Rosemary Revoir  
Shirley Bostick, APD  
Mildretta Williams, APD

▪ **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 P.M

▪ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Chair Pearson motioned to approve the April meeting minutes, seconded by Member Peterson. The motion passed.**

▪ **OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Last Mailing / Next Mailing**

Chair Pearson advised that there is an upcoming newsletter to be mailed out within the next couple of months and again asked for in-put from those present. Member Pinto added that she had received a tremendous amount of phone calls after the advocacy article and Member Tanner suggested an article about the books that the Family Care Council had donated to the libraries.

• **Recommendations for libraries – book purchase**

Chair Pearson announced that the Special Needs Planning Guides purchased by the Family Care Council had come in and were to be donated to the libraries. Ms. Revoir advised that she had visited the Flagler County Library and had a hard time getting access to the literature that had already been donated. She had to do quite a bit of research and was told by the librarian that they cannot guarantee that the books would not be stolen. Ms. Revoir also advised that the libraries are no longer accepting VHS and can only accept DVD's. Chair Person will print donation stickers to be placed on any future materials donated to the libraries.

- **Recommended Providers**

A discussion ensued regarding providers to recommend on the FCC website. Chair Pearson advised that these providers are recommended by families and will be posted to the website.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **How to speak to your Legislators – Rolley Clapp:**

Mr. Clapp reported that he had participated in four campaigns and has a lot of experience in the Legislature and how it works. Mr. Clapp presented the following ways in which to effectively speak with Legislators:

- When you speak as a united voice you get recognition
- Express how important issues are through direct mailings, leaflets, press releases etc.
- Show a united front
- Call the secretary and ask for an appointment to speak with your Representative. Be polite but persistent.
- Remain focused and talk about solutions
- It should be made clear that the Family Care Council is a united group and a lot of individuals with disabilities are potential constituents
- Make yourself visible
- Become a citizens lobbyist
- Put together a questionnaire, as a group, with questions that are critical to individuals with Developmental Disabilities and let your Legislators know that it will be published in your newsletter.
- Invite Legislators to attend the Family Care Council meeting.

Mr. Clapp also advised that the State of Florida Legislators website contains a wealth of information. He also spoke about the legislative process and how a bill is passed. Member Samar reiterated the need to be where the representatives are. He also suggested speaking with the administrative staff that has close contact with the Legislators as are often the backbones of the office and can make sure your representatives hear you. Mr. De Bardeleben suggested providing statistical information, such as the number of individuals on the waitlist, costs associated with caring for individuals with developmental disabilities in the home as opposed to in institutions etc. He added that the council could get the information from APD. It is also important to collaborate with the FCCF so that everyone is on the same page.

Chair Pearson will send out an email for input on questions that should be included in the questionnaire. Member Pinto suggested subscribing via website to legislative newsletters so that the FCC can receive periodic emails as to where the legislators are going to be.

- **FCC New member training**

There was no new member training.

- **APD Update**

Mr. De Bardeleben reported on that the Legislative Session ended last week and due to the nature of the economy there was no program untouched. There is 43.5 million less in the budget for the new fiscal year. The House and Senate also passed a bill to amend F.S. 393

with regards to Residential Habilitation which provides the Agency with specific authority to suspend or revoke licenses and to also impose administrative fines. Mr. De Bardeleben also reported on the implementation of the Tiers and the dollar amount that each Tier is capped. APD is charges with looking at cost plans and which Tier an individual would fall under. Letters will be going out at the end of May identifying the process and of when the tiers are going into effect. Support Coordinators are more vital than ever before in helping families look at alternative services and the area office will be meeting with the coordinators this coming Wednesday. It is also very important for families to look at how to negotiate cost plans within the cap amount with the support coordinator. The Area office also has 2- provider meetings scheduled for tomorrow. There is going to be a rate reduction of 5.5% however it has not been determined if it is an across the board or just for certain services. Mr. De Bardeleben also reported that Jane Johnson has stepped down as Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and that the Governor is appointing a transition team to have a new Director in place. He will update the council as soon as he finds out who the new Director is going to be.

- **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Chair Pearson spoke about hiring a secretary for the Area 12 Family Care Council to take notes and transcribed the minutes. He will send out the information to his e-mail list and advertise for the position on the FCC website.

**Member Tanner motioned to purchase a toner cartridge for the council's printer seconded by Member Pinto. The motion carried.**

- **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.