



Family Care Council Area 1

educate and empower

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Minutes

Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Dina Justice
Patty Houghland

Mary Thomas
Danny Parker

Members Absent:

Jim Howard
Debbie Moore

Katie Chapman
John Collins

Nancy Cherry

Guests:

Annette Zeeb, APD
Rand Fernandez/EPRC
Francis Wiggins, Jobs for You (Fort Walton)
Sharon Horvath, Jobs for You (Niceville)

Octavius Jackson, APD

Bradley Thomas

The meeting was convened at 12:35 p.m. by Chair Patty Houghland. Patty welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Patty reviewed the minutes from the December meeting. Mary Thomas motioned to approve minutes. Dina Justice seconded with revisions.

Dina gave an update and on Area 1 banner, tablecloth and brochures. We are still waiting to receive shipment from our liaison.

She also gave an update on the Transition Training Seminar with Area 2. We will be doing a stronger push on social media and through emails.

Annette Zeeb gave a brief update on Agency for Persons with Disabilities. APD employees are still teleworking and offices remain closed to the public. There was concern at Christmas that residents in group homes who went home would be exposed to COVID-19. Since the holiday season, there has been an overall increase in resident and staff positive cases reported to the region. The regional nurses are working with the local county Department of Health and assisting with direct follow up and contact tracing is being done. Some clients have been hospitalized from the end of December until now, sadly 2 consumers in our region have passed away from COVID. Group Home Providers were given guidance on registering residents and staff with CVS and Walgreens Pharmacies for COVID vaccine programs. For Group Homes who did not register for this program (for different reasons), the agency has been working with Department of Health on including these providers in another vaccination program. In either vaccine program, it is the choice of the consumer/guardian and provider staff to participate. County DOH works directly



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with the GH operator to schedule date/time and location for clinics. DOH has been very accommodating to the special needs and most clinics are held at the GH. Some group home staff and residents have already received vaccines and did not report problems. The agency has an established a Vaccine subcommittee that is working to establish educational guides for consumers in other living settings about the vaccine and vaccination programs available through their local Department of Health program. In the region of the 39 ADT programs, 25 open, 1 suspended program for 1 week due to COVID exposure, 11 have not reopened due to COVID, and 2 permanently closed their programs.

Dina shared information from the January Family Care Council meeting regarding the Legislative Recommendations and showed samples. FCCF is utilizing an email campaign with personal stories now through the end of April. Each council will receive postcards with creative/recommendations to use when they visit local legislators. She also shared information regarding how session will be conducted and vaccine updates.

Patty shared the following information: Florida DD Council is still planning on revising their Planning Ahead information booklet. This is still on hold. She discussed the idea of a virtual support group for Area 1. In lieu of today's climate, this could be beneficial to members and those in the community. She asked for input from those on the call. Rand will email information on current groups in the area. Area 1 will look into partnering with another group.

Next meeting will also be virtual; link will be sent via email - Thursday, February 18 at 12:30 p.m.

Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Dina Justice, Vice Chair

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