



Family Care Council Area 1

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Thursday, May 20, 2021

Minutes

Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Dina Justice
Patty Houghland

Mary Thomas

Members Absent:

Jim Howard
Debbie Moore

Katie Chapman
John Collins

Nancy Cherry
Danny Parker

Guests:

Annette Zeeb, APD
Bradley Thomas

Linda Donar, APD
Marilyn Weatherspoon

The meeting was convened at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Patty Houghland. Patty welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Patty reviewed the minutes from the April 2021 meeting. Mary Thomas motioned to approve minutes. Dina Justice seconded. Motion passed.

Patty mentioned that the Area 1 Virtual Support Group discussion from last meeting would be moved to the June Council meeting.

Dina touched on the Disaster Planning Summit with the Florida Development Disabilities Council and the World Institute on Disability. Conference date is Thursday, June 24. It will be a hybrid conference with some key stakeholders (ACHA, APD, self-advocates, DOH) in Tallahassee and all others virtually. There will be a representative from each of the 15 FCC councils. As of this date, an agenda has not been sent. She will forward when she receives.

Patty mentioned a few interesting items to note. (1) Florida nursing homes with COVID are higher than the national average. (2) She shared an article on health care industry – medical services are exempt from vaccine passport. (3) Discussion on HB 241 - The bill establishes the “Parents’ Bill of Rights.” The bill provides that the state, its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or other institution may not infringe upon the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of a minor child. If those entities infringe upon a parent’s fundamental right, they must demonstrate that the action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, and the action must be narrowly tailored and not otherwise served by less restrictive means.

Linda Donar gave an update on Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Since April, APD has



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followed established phases for employees to return to work in the offices and the last phase will be implemented on Monday May 24. All remaining employees will be back in the offices on this date. While the offices will be open to visitors, the agency will continue to follow CDC guidelines in the day-to-day operations. The agency staff will resume in person visits to the group homes, Waiver Support Coordinators will conduct in person visits with consumers, individuals will return to ADT programs, etc.

The region is continuing to process applications for WSC transition to Qualified Organization. Regional staff are conducting annual Disaster Preparedness Readiness activities with consumers, providers and employees for the 2021 Hurricane Season.

Recent Group Home Openings: Health Group Home-Minors-Standard-Panama City; Royale Residential, For Minors, Standard Panama City; Resolute Care Services-Adults-Behavior Focused-Milton. In 2021 the number of Group Homes in Process of License - Area 1=1; Area 2=2

Recent Group Home Closings: MJ House, Marianna.

Recent Providers Advisories issued by the agency include Clarification on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Line-in caregiver exemption. The centers for Medicaid and Medicaid Services (CMS) does not require EVV for providers who render services using a live-in caregiver role if specific criteria are met. APD will be hosting another optional provider Q&A webinar about the APD iConnect standardized External Provider Interface (EPI) on Friday May 28 from 11 am to 12 pm (EDT)

NWR has ongoing vacant positions in all workstreams and program managers are actively seeking to fill these positions. The region recently filled positions for a newly established position of Training Specialist (Tallahassee Office) and will have a new Waitlist Support Coordinator and Waiver Liaison (Pensacola office) at the end of the month. A candidate to fill the administrative assistant position has been selected and requested to hire. This position has been relocated to Panama City Office.

Next meeting will also be virtual; link will be sent via email - Thursday, June 24 at 6 p.m.

Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Dina Justice, Vice Chair
FCC Area 1