

**SERVICE AREA 10  
MULTI-PROGRAM  
FLORIDA LOCAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

*Serving the residents of Pinellas and Pasco Counties*

**MARY GRIZZLE BUILDING  
11351 Ulmerton Rd.  
Largo, Florida  
June 28, 2006  
Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Culhane, Linda Vice-Chair  
Johnson, James  
Feeley, John  
Behn, Betty  
Berry, Esther  
Daley, Grace  
P. J. McKay, SAC

**Members Absent:**

Kane, Richard Chair  
Schramek, Susanna  
Siracusa, Brian  
Nenni, Tamara

**Staff Present:**

Penny Vallario

**Guests Present:**

Debra Prewitt, MPA of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County  
Jeanine Evoli, L.C.S.W. of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County

**Call To Order & Introductions:** Ms. Culhane called the June 28, 2006 meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was established.

**Agenda :** The agenda for this meeting was approved. The only suggestion for change in the future was to reverse the order of the open and closed sessions ie, the closed session to be last because of visitors in the beginning of the meeting.

**Minutes:** The May 24, 2006 minutes were approved as presented.

**Guest Introductions:**

Jeanine Evoli explained that she was new in her position as Manager of Child Welfare Advocacy and was told of the LAC group and wanted to come to our meeting to understand the LAC mission. The Director of Public Policy for the Juvenile Welfare Board, Debra Prewitt, introduced herself and also wanted to know how the communication between her board and LAC could mutually benefit all.

**Chair's Report:**

Linda Culhane stated that Mr. Kane wanted her to present the question on how to delegate the complaints, by member living area? It was discussed by the members and they all agreed to the following assignment areas:

<b>Betty Behn</b>	Pinellas Park / Clearwater	<b>John Feeley</b>	Pasco County
<b>James Johnson</b>	S. Ulmerton Road (children, ALF)	<b>Esther Berry</b>	Clearwater / St. Petersburg
<b>Linda Culhane</b>	Clearwater / Pinellas Park	<b>Dick Kane</b>	Dunedan / Safety Harbor

Ms. Culhane reminded all about the SAC meeting and training on July 18. Esther Berry plans to attend and Ms. Culhane will be attending the second day of the SAC meeting to hear about death reports.

**Statewide Advocacy Council Report:**

- Ms. McKay encouraged everyone to attend the SAC meeting on July 19-21 in Tampa with training for trainers scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. McKay attended a SAC conference before arriving today that included three other committee meetings; developmental disabilities committee, adult committee, and children committee.
- Ms. McKay reported that the following SAC members have resigned:  
Carolyn Shell, Chair resigned effective 6/26/06  
Craig Rappel, Past Chair resigning effective 6/30/06  
Ray Martin, SAC representative of Miami resigned last month  
Betty Busbee has assumed the SAC Chair position and Joel Pate has been newly elected to SAC Vice-Chair.
- Ms. McKay reported that a letter from a SAC member was sent to the Attorney General inquiring as to why LAC members are excluded from SAC meeting closed sessions. It is generally thought that the LAC members have no need to know the details of other LAC councils.

- Ms. Culhane inquired from Ms. McKay the role the LAC members are to play in helping people resolve their complaint issues. Ms. McKay stated that the LAC role is to help people if at all possible. With valid complaints, LAC is to try to resolve the problem and try to fix the system to circumvent further complaints.
- Mr. Feeley inquired about the procedure to be taken when a LAC member is denied access to records. Ms. McKay instructed that a written request can assist in some cases and if not, the use of the LAC consent form.
- Ms. Culhane asked Ms. McKay about the law regarding the ratio of residents to staff in group homes and the need for 24 hour wake staff. Ms. Culhane also wanted to know if it is necessary for everything to be locked up in a group home ie, every cabinet or closet. Ms. McKay will research the issues and report back to the council.

### **Monitoring**

Linda Culhane and John Feeley monitored the Maple Way Group Home at 475 Maple Way, Safety Harbor, FL. This home was previously closed and recently reopened. They found that the home had been renovated with the most update appliances and it was clean and orderly. Ms.Culhane will be submitting a letter to the home with the council's seal of approval.

The council agreed to commit to 1 monitoring per month.

**Old Business:** Badges are still need for Betty Behn, Brian Siracusa, Susanna Schramek, and Tamara Nenni. Staff person, Penny Vallario, gave the badge cards to Linda Culhane so that they can be distributed to those who need badges. The cards are to signed and sent with pictures to the hub office so the badges can be made for the next meeting.

### **New Business:**

A case was discussed among the council that addressed a question on the ESS application that if not answered as ESS wants it answered it will discontinue the process of the application. If the person completing the computer application answers no to the question relating to bodily injury being reported to the police, the applicant process terminates. The complaint in this case feels this violates her privacy rights and her rights to services.

The council discussed the number of complaints submitted and otherwise that are about the new computer application process. It was suggested that before applicants try to navigate the computer application that they should print it off first and complete it before processing online. For those people that cannot navigate the ESS computer system at all the council can refer them to the authorized Community Partner Locations.

After much discussion among members on the ESS computer application system, it was agreed that a visit from an ESS supervisor would benefit all at the next meeting. Ms. Culhane will attempt to arrange the visit.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. The next meeting will be held at 11351 Ulmerton Road in the Griswald Buidling at 10:00 a.m. on July 26, 2006.

Submitted by

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Penny Vallario  
Staff member

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Linda Culhane  
Vice-Chairperson

***In order to ensure a quorum, members should contact Richard Kane if they will be unable to attend the next meeting.***