

**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  
July 26, 2006  
Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Kane, Richard Chair  
Culhane, Linda Vice-Chair  
Johnson, James  
Feeley, John  
Behn, Betty  
Schramek, Susanna  
Siracusa, Brian  
Nenni, Tamara  
Daley, Grace  
P. J. McKay, SAC

**Members Absent:**

Berry, Esther

**Staff Present:**

Penny Vallario, LAC staff

**Guests Present:**

Sherri Mason - ACCESS

**Call To Order & Introductions:** Mr. Kane called the July 26, 2006 meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was established.

**Agenda :** The agenda for this meeting was approved.

**Minutes:** The June 28, 2006 minutes were approved with a few minor changes.

### **Guest Introductions:**

- Sherri Mason of ACCESS, formerly known as Economic Self-Sufficiency (ESS), was the guest speaker. Ms. Mason was asked to come to this meeting because of a complaint that was received by the council which stated that the application process was terminated when answering no to the question relating to bodily injury being reported to the police. Ms. Mason had not ever heard of that question and was unable to find that question in the application that she provided to the council. Additionally, the council wanted to have a better understanding of the application process. Ms. Mason had handouts that included the application which she reviewed with the council.
- Ms. Mason stated that her office gets between 2300 and 2400 new clients each month. Also each month they have 4500-4700 recertifications. Less than 25% of these applicants use computer applications. Ms. Mason also warned that in cases where paperwork is pending that the cases are closed after 15 days.
- Ms. Mason also informed the council that identity and citizenship has to be verified now on all Medicaid applications. This new procedure has caused many problems especially with children. The existing SSI, SSA recipients are the only population that does not have to meet this requirement.
- Mr. Feeley explained that he had a problem trying to access records. Ms. Mason suggested that when trying to access records that the council go through the authorized representative or get a signed consent. Mr. Feeley also wanted Ms. Mason to explain the Medically Needy program. She explained that Medicaid only kicks in after the client meets the share of cost amount.
- Ms. Daley inquired as to how long it takes to get the Medipass card after application. Ms. Mason stated that it takes 60-90 days, however, a temporary can be issued in some cases.
- Ms. Vallario asked Ms. Mason what to tell clients who call the LAC 800 and are frustrated trying to get through on their 866 number. Ms. Mason suggested that the clients avoid the peak call time frame which is from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

### **Chair's Report:**

Richard Kane informed the council that he attended a portion of the SAC meeting and he observed that the new SAC members seem to be committed to doing a good job. He reported to SAC that APD is no longer giving reports to the council.

## **Statewide Advocacy Council Report:**

- Ms. McKay reported that the Attorney General sent down his opinion on the LAC's being able to attend SAC meeting closed sessions. His opinion was NO as the LAC's are appointed for certain areas only. The SAC council intends to take a closer look at what agenda will be included in closed sessions.
- Ms. McKay attended the IQC meeting held in Tampa where Delmarva and APD came together. She had the complete report and a 4-page summary. Tamara Nenni wants a copy of it.
- The judge in the access records case does not want consent to be included in the agreements.
- The SAC meeting included a speaker, Brian Lee, who represents the Long Term Care Program and he spoke about the agency agreements with SAC.
- Ms. McKay announced that the SAC website [www.floridasac.org](http://www.floridasac.org) is to be updated.
- SAC members will be meeting 2x per year and the next meeting will be scheduled for October. There will be conference calls in between meetings.
- Mr. Kane requested that the council members receive the updates for the SAC procedure manual. He also wants the latest recruiting package.

## **Monitoring**

In response to two complaints, Linda Culhane and Betty Behn monitored the Country Inn ALF at 7600 78<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, St. Petersburg, FL. Ms. Culhane reported that the facility was not clean and odor free, had a strong cigarette smoke odor, the yard was not neat, water spots were on the ceilings, and there appeared to be few activities for the residents. Ms. Culhane noted that there were animals for pet therapy.

Mr. Kane reminded the council that members should be doing 1 monitoring per month. Two members per monitoring are preferred. P.J. McKay reminded everyone that each member needs to do their own report and to not discuss their findings with the other member.

Mr. Kane and Mr. Feeley agreed to monitor Palmetto Place this month.

## **Old Business:**

Badges are still needed for Betty Behn and Brian Siracusa . All members want to have new business cards and Grace L. Daley only wants 10 to last until her term expiration.

Last month 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. Nenni explained to the council that the ratio is individualized per facility and resident. The service authorization for each resident indicates the ratio required for that person. It was also confirmed that the only items to be locked up in a group home were medications and cleaning supplies.

The current complaint numbering system is still under controversy and there has not been a resolution to date.

**New Business:** There was no new business reported.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 11351 Ulmerton Road in the Mary Grizzle Building at 10:00 a.m. on August 23, 2006.

Submitted by

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Penny Vallario  
Staff member

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Richard Kane  
Chairperson

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