

**Service Area 8  
Local Advocacy Council– Multi-Program  
Bartow  
Thursday, March 23, 2006 9AM  
Heartland Offices, 1239 East Main**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rev Karl Thiele Chair  
Lois Matthews-Smith  
Catherine Uria  
Kim Nesbit  
Bobby Boedicker  
Keith Finlayson  
Joan Machill

**SAC**

Sherri McVay – SAC E.D.  
PJ McKay via telephone conference

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Pat Babcock - Excused  
Gonzalo Lezama

**STAFF**

Bryan Morgan - LAC

**GUESTS:**

Vanessa McCottry  
Daniel Moorey  
Eric Olsen  
Julia Hermelbracht

***Open Session***

**I. Call to Order**

Reverend Thiele called the meeting to order at 9:20AM. There was a quorum established.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda was discussed under the leadership of Reverend Thiele, there were no changes suggested. The agenda was followed however not in order in respect to visitors and their time constraints.

**III. Part I: Training or Guest Speakers**

Julia Hermelbracht of Adult Services gave an introduction and report.

- Her agency is seeing an increase in abuse reports and will work to ensure that reports be delivered to Mr. Morgan at the LAC Hub to ensure proper distribution.
- Mrs. Hermelbracht hand delivered current notifications to Mr. Morgan and the Chair.
- Mrs. Hermelbracht's agency includes Adult Protection Services, investigations, SSI, and homecare for disabled.

Eric Olsen of Agency for Persons with Disabilities made an introduction and report.

- Agency is in the process of enrolling persons on the wait list.
- Mr. Olsen discussed 393 legislation changes for direct care.
- Over 10,000 people have been contacted and made aware of services available through APD.

Vanessa McCottry from Heartland gave an update:

- Adoption finalizations. 117 have been finalized with an expected 8 more to total 125. Goal is 157 finalizations and Heartland is well on way to target.
- Mrs. McCottry discussed new shelter facilities of a 60 day capability. To qualify there needs to be one stay at home parent at all times.
- Heartland is currently continuing training foster families.

#### IV. **Part II: Business Meeting**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes was not passed. Mrs. McKay voiced changes needed to the minutes. Mr. Morgan will make necessary corrections and forward to the Chair for approval at that time.

- **CHAIR'S WELCOME AND REPORT**

Chair welcomed the council, guests and staff. The Chair informed the visiting Program Directors they have full access to the SAC Executive Staff if there were any concerns or comments that needed to be shared. At this time the Chair deferred his report to the SAC report and Mrs. McVay.

- **SAC REPORT**

Joining the meeting via telephone, Mrs. McKay suggested Mrs. McVay, SAC Executive Director, make the SAC report. Mrs. McVay summarized the SAC workshop held in February. This included training for new SAC members, work plan items, committee assignments and legislative bills and recommendations.

SAC Bill discussion included the details that the bill originally had the SAC/LAC being removed from the EOG into the office of the Attorney General. The SAC bill also would name SAC as a health oversight agency. This would hope to assist in the issue of access in investigations. Mrs. McVay informed the council that during a following phone conference meeting held by SAC, the removal of SAC from the EOG was struck.

Mrs. McVay also included in her report information on a new bill suggesting SAC meet only one time a year rather than six times a year. This also gives more support to the LAC councils as they are seen by the bill supporter as the body doing the work.

Mrs. McVay discussed the SAC budget and LAC budgets, stating that the SA8 council is fine with money and should not be concerned. A further discussion between Mrs. McVay and Mrs. McKay will be at different time concerning budgets.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

At this time, the Chair resumed his report and noted which council members were to receive what complaint notifications. The following was submitted:

Karl/Lois	Aging
Keith/Lois	Mental Health
Kim/JJ	Family Services
Pat	Highlands and Hardee counties (all)
Bobby/Catherine	APD
Karl	Food Stamps/Medicaid

The Chair had also conveyed to the council the names of the four Program Directors in the SA8 area:

Ombudsman	Teauge
Mental Health	MacCloud
Heartland	Cowen
APD	Olsen
Aging	Hermelbracht

It was requested of Mr. Morgan to send a council roster to the members or SA8 for communication purposes. Mrs. Uria will have a copy mailed to her.

Next Meetings:           April 27, 9am  
                                  May 25, 9am  
                                  Summer schedule to be determined.

Mrs. Finlayson and the Chair gave a report of a monitoring that was done at Florida Southern in Auburndale. Comments were made to the Director at the facility after their monitoring. Access was freely granted for their tour and had good interaction with the patients.

Mrs. Machill gave a report of a monitoring made on the North Side holding 300 beds. Access was given to monitor only in the company of the Director of the facility. Standing water in the kitchen and other observances were noted by both the Chair and Mrs. Machill who visited the location. The hiring process of the facility also drew concern from council members visiting. Training and thorough background checks aren't part of procedure.

Mr. Boedicker discussed his witness to patient abuse at Tandem West. Chair suggested a monitoring of the facility due to the LAC member generated complaint.

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED TO PUBLIC**

VI. **Adjourn**

The Council had no further business and called the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

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Bryan Morgan

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Rev. Karl Thiele, Chair

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Date