

**SERVICE AREA 15
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
LOCAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

*Serving the residents of Charlotte, Collier, Glades,
Hendry and Lee County*

Gulf Coast Center
Nurses Conference Room
5820 Buckingham Road
Fort Myers, Florida

January 26, 2006

Members Present

Sarah Gabele, Chair
Paula Paquette, Vice-Chair
Ron Campbell
Denise McCallion
Eugene Plummer
Mina Trabon
Mary Provencher
Betty Busbee, SAC

Members Absent

Linda Somsak
Leslie Steiner

Staff Present

Eileen Wickeri, DCF
Penny Vallario, APD Program office
Jim Akin, APD Program Office
Carmen Martinez, LAC Staff Support

Guests

Sherri McVay, SAC Executive Director
Jeff Jarabek, Internal Investigator, GCC
Nell Knott, Chair, MP LAC

OPEN SESSION

Call To Order & Introductions:

Ms. Gabele called the January 26, 2006 meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. A quorum was established.

Agenda:

Council members approved the agenda.

Minutes:

Ms. McCallion motioned to accept the minutes with minor corrections and Ms. Paquette seconded. Council concurred.

Guests

Sherri McVay, Executive Director of the Statewide Advocacy Council, was introduced to members, and she introduced Carmen Martinez, new staff person for the Fort Myers hub. Nell Knott, chair of the Multi Program LAC, was also introduced as a guest.

Developmental Disabilities Report

Mr. Akin reported that they are reducing the waiting list, that 5,141 clients have been placed on the waiver and that others on the waiting list who are not receiving services are eligible for the \$2,500.. He also informed members that up to \$5,000 is available for supported employment for individuals enrolled on the FSLW. He distributed copies of the Mayor's Alliance applications for awards, provided copies of the updated Waiver Support Coordinators providers who have openings and distributed information about the upcoming Provider Fair. The DD LAC will have members and information at the fair..

Ms. Vallario reported on activities in her area of the program office.

Monitoring Reports

Ms. Gabele and Ms. Paquette reported on a visit to Sunrise CC. They informed members that Darrin Kenyon is now in charge. Concerns noted were the fact that there is not adequate space to accommodate the many non-ambulatory clients. There were also concerns that many individuals have physical limitations. It was noted that the staff were very pleasant and helpful to them. It was recommended that Letter number 1 be sent commending them for the good and encouraging them to pursue enlarging the space. Ms. Paquette will prepare the written report.

Ms. Provencher and Ms. Knott reported on visits to the Professional Group Homes. They registered concerns about several matters which will be discussed with APD staff. An appointment will be made to meet with the program staff, and several members will be included. A complaint will also be filed concerning one issue.

Ms. Paquette inquired about the request made for Incident Reports. She was advised that APD headquarters is reviewing the request.

Gulf Coast Center Report

Jeff Jarabek reported that Donna Gary is a new internal investigator for Gulf Coast Center. He also asked what kind of information the LAC would like to receive from the center. He advised that the monthly reports that GCC has been providing to the council are being reviewed to ensure that they are in

compliance with HIPAA guidelines and that this may reduce the information that GCC will be allowed to provide. In the future, medical information will be redacted from reports.

Mr. Plummer requested information concerning the approximately 280 residents as to a breakdown of ambulatory and non-ambulatory clients and staff/client ratio. He also commented on the number of van and golf cart injuries and requested information on how drivers are informed of proper procedures as well as condition/repairs of these vehicles.

Chair's Report

Ms. Gabele reported that Ms. Steiner had submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately as she felt that with a new baby and a new job she could not devote the necessary time to the council. Her resignation was accepted with regret.

The chair requested that Ms. Vallario ensure that LAC members are placed on the quarterly provider mailing list.

Ms. Somsack has not attended several meetings, so the LAC will contact her concerning her intentions.

Ms. Gabele reminded members that recruitment efforts need to be increased as membership is declining. Ms. Busbee agreed to send out recruitment notices.

SAC Report

Ms. McVay asked the council's patience in the transition of staff support. She informed members that efforts were being made to develop standard operating procedures statewide and hopefully to transition to doing many things by electronic transmission thereby eliminating much of the paper and mailing expenses. She reported that due to the numerous expenses involved with establishing our own offices, etc., there have been budgetary deficits this year and that SAC meetings have had to be cancelled; however, she advised that the LACs will have funds to continue operating.

Ms. McVay stated that she recognizes that access is an extremely important issue and that she is hoping that conclusions will be reached on the signing of data sharing agreements.

Old Business

Mr. Campbell reported that he had discussed the Local Death Review Committee with Dr. Judith Hartner of the Lee County Department of Health. She informed him that although there are still local committees, most of them are not active and that the State Committee is experiencing some problems.

It was pointed out that the council is not receiving Incident Reports on client deaths. Ms. Vallario informed the council that the APD IR procedures do not stipulate that the LAC is to be notified.

New Business

Ms. Paquette reported that the Christmas giving for the council amounted to \$105. She stated that \$122.00 was spent on the six children living in the home that was selected by the council.

CLOSED SESSION

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m. ting will be held February 16, in the Nurses Conference Room at Gulf Coast Center, 5820 Buckingham Road in Fort Myers, FL at 10:00a.m.

Sarah Gabele, Chairperson

Rewritten by Betty Busbee, SAC Member
From draft done by Carmen Martinez.