

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

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

REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER
Room 110
Fort Myers, Florida

May 25, 2006

Members Present

Sarah Gabele, Chair
Paula Paquette, Vice Chair
Ron Campbell
Mary Provencher
Eve Nicholson

Members Absent

Denise McCallion
Eugene Plummer
Mina Trabon

Staff Present

Penny Vallario, LAC Staff Support

Guests

Jeff Jarabek, Gulf Coast Center

OPEN SESSION

Call To Order & Introductions:

Ms. Gabele called the May 25, 2006 meeting to order at 10:12 am. A quorum was established.

Agenda:

Council members approved the agenda.

Minutes:

There was a question as to whether the minutes are for public record. Sarah suggested that Betty could answer that question.

The 2006 January, February, and April minutes were accepted and approved.

Guests:

No guests were present.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities Report

No representative from APD was present.

Gulf Coast Center Report

Jeff Jarabek from GCC reported that the May information on abuse reports and Incident Reports was sent to the LAC office. It was discussed and agreed upon that the Abuse Summary Report will be sent directly to Sarah Gabele monthly. Mr. Jarabek also agreed to ask Tom Cockrell to send a copy of the incidents by cottage as well.

Mention was made that many of the incidents at GCC were hand/foot fractures. Mr. Jarabek commented that most are self-injuries or osteoporosis (bone density) related.

He reported that staffing issues are not a concern at the present time. There are 239 residents left at GCC and the goal is to transition 60 residents per year out into the community until 2010.

Chair's Report

Sarah Gabele welcomed Eve Nicholson and confirmed her appointment to the council. Ms. Gabele and Ms. Paquette will be training Eve before the 7/18/06 training in Tampa. She will be given the Policy & Procedures.

Sarah reminded all members of the SAC meeting and training in July. The trainer-the-trainer session will be on July 18 from 12 – 5. The SAC meeting will be from July 19-21, ending at noon. Chairs and Vice-chairs are encouraged to attend by Betty. Paula Paquette and Mary Provencher plan to attend the training session only on the 18th. The cut-off date to register will be June 14.

Sarah asked members about having a coffee fund. It was decided that coffee can be provided by Ron Campbell when it gets low.

Monitoring Reports

Adonis Group Home Ms. Gabele and Ms. Paquette visited this home in Estero and found it to be very pleasant. They both agreed that a #1 letter be sent to the home. Ms. Gabele instructed Penny Vallario to inquire with Eileen Wickeri for the monitor letters to be used post monitor visits.

On 4/25/06 Paula Paquette, her partner, and staff visited all of the ADTs in Lee County. Her report is as follows:

LARC - they looked at the ADAPT program and found it be wonderful.

SUNRISE – found that they were renovating the back room so things were unorganized. This warrants another after the renovation is complete.

NEW BEGINNINGS – they found it to be clean, tidy, and the staff made the visitors feel welcome. The consumers were happy and were doing an educational group activity.

SPECIAL POPS – the experience was all positive.

On 4/23/06 Mary Provencher attended the GCC Family Day. She said that there was a lot of family entertainment with good interaction. The inclusion team answered a lot of questions.

On 5/20/06 Mary Provencher and her house managers attended the Treasures & Transition Conference at Gulf Coast University. She said it was excellent. Mary will be attending the Family Café from 6/2 – 6/5/06.

Old Business

There was no old business presented.

New Business

Ms. Gabele stated that with the new staff member, Penny Vallario, we have a new procedure on distributing the abuse reports. Penny will be emailing them to Ms. Gabele and she will email back to her the assignment at which time Penny will forward to the assignee by email. This will be a time saver and will save on postage as well.

The numbering system of the complaints has been a problem with the long numbers so Penny will be combining all complaints of all councils on one log and will be using much shorter numbers.

Ms. Gabele's understanding is that Jim Vidrine of APD monitors all the incident reports from DD homes and GCC. Ms. Gabele asked Paula Paquette to clarify that with Marsha Vollmar. Ms. Gabele stated that she did not want a log of incident reports.

The IQC Meeting in Tampa will be held on 6/21/06. Paula Paquette, Nell, Knott, Betty Busbee, P.J. McKay, and Susie Robertson will be attending this meeting.

Bob Steinhauer is the new trainer for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). Lannon Ruth has left her position with APD and has taken a position with LARC.

CLOSED SESSION

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be held June 15th at Gulf Coast Center, Nurses Conference Room, 5820 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers, FL at 10:00 am.

Sarah Gabele, Chairperson

Prepared by Penny Vallario