

**SERVICE AREA 15
MULTI-PROGRAM
FLORIDA LOCAL ADVOCACY
COUNCIL**

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

**Fort Myers Regional Service Center
2295 Victoria Avenue
June 8, 2006**

Minutes

Members Present:

Nell Knott, Chair
Edward Ferguson
Greg Masonick
Orin Oppermann
Raleigh Scott
Betty Busbee, SAC

Members Absent:

Penny Deutsch, Vice-Chair
Shayna Cavanaugh
Alan Dimmit

Staff Present:

Penny Vallario, LAC Staff

Guests Present:

Harry Propper, Children's Network
Herb Glover, OPA Protective Investigations

Call To Order & Introductions:

Ms. Knott, Chairman, called the June 8, 2006 meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. A quorum was established.

Agenda : The council members approved the agenda.

Minutes: The council members approved the 5/11/06 minutes.

Chair's Report: Ms. Knott reported that she and her family had a wonderful vacation in Alaska.

Monitoring: There were no monitoring reports done. Ms. Knott and Mr. Scott agreed to monitor Eckerd Camp.

SAC Report:

- ◆ Ms. Busbee informed the council that her term will expire in November.
- ◆ Ms. Busbee reported that a House and Senate bill that if passed late in the legislative session, and signed by the governor soon, will limit SAC/LAC jurisdiction to four agencies; DCF, APD, AHCA, and DOEA. This bill also allows the governor, at his discretion, to remove a SAC member term before the 4-year term expiration. The qualifications for the executive director will also change. There are supposed to be data sharing agreements developed between SAC and state agencies and this is should be done by June 30. These agreements are not to include the requirement for signed consents.
- ◆ Ms. Busbee reminded all of the SAC training and meeting in July. Ms. Busbee has recommended that Greg Masonick replace Ed Ferguson as one of the statewide trainers on the SAC Standards & Training Committee. Mr. Masonick and Ms. Knott will be attending the training.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business:

Ms. Knott stated that we still need new members. Ms. Prince was to show for the meeting and did not. Mr. Niler seemed to lose interest.

Ms. Knott will email Mr. Dimmitt to send in all his complaints so they may be reassigned as necessary.

Ms. Knott announced that there is no room available at the Regional Service Center on December 14th. It was decided that they would have a Christmas Party in lieu of the meeting. Ms. Knott volunteered to coordinate the food and everyone could bring a dish. It was decided that everyone could buy and \$1.00 unisex gift to be exchanged at the party. Ms. Vallario will try to make arrangements at the Ford Street extension.

Mr. Ferguson turned in his Regional Service Center key card. Ms. Knott and Mr. Masonick have requested key cards as well. Ms. Vallario will try to transfer the name on the pass turned in by Mr. Ferguson to Ms. Knott and get a new one for Mr. Masonick.

LAC Staff Report:

Ms. Vallario provided all members with copies of the following:

- ◆ Client Complaint Report

Guest: Harry Propper, CEO of Children’s Network of Southwest Florida

- Mr. Propper explained to the members that the private companies hold onto their foster children longer because the legislature has approved more budget for them. However, this service area is below what is needed for foster care by four million dollars. There are currently 1500 children in foster care. These numbers have dropped and that is due to prevention, intervention, and reuniting families. In the homes that the families have been reunited, 97% have had no repeat abuse.
- Mr. Propper informed the council that there was an Access to Recovery Program in Charlotte County for adults and juveniles. Also the Charlotte Mental Health facility has a new director. These are positive changes that could affect the number of foster children.
- Lee and Collier counties now have juvenile assessment centers. There is still a need for a juvenile assessment center in Charlotte County.
- Mr. Propper also stated that the school boards have to provide all services needed for children. That would include all therapies, physical and emotional.
- Mr. Propper stressed that advocacy that is not a part of the system such as the council can really make a difference with our children and our community.
- Mr. Propper agreed to forward the latest list of phone numbers of the Children’s Network staff.

CLOSED SESSION

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 2295 Victoria Avenue in Room 110 of the Regional Service Center at 10:00 a.m. on July 13, 2006.

Penny Vallario
Southwest Regional Manager

Nell Knott
Chairperson