

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

*Serving the residents of Sarasota, Manatee and,
DeSoto County*

Special Olympics Gene Whipp Center
Venice, FL

May 12, 2006

Members Present

Barbra Bartz, Chair
Rainer Kroll
Fred Shattuck
Betsy Roberts
Christine Sanford
Margaret Riggall
Anne MacConnell
Betty Busbee, SA 15 SAC

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Penny Vallario, LAC staff support

Guests

P.J. McKay, SA 9 SAC Member

OPEN SESSION

Call To Order & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Bartz at 10:05 AM with quorum present.. P.J. McKay, SAC member from Hillsborough County, was welcomed as a guest.

Ms. Busbee introduced Penny Vallario, new staff person for the Fort Myers Hub, who came on board May 5th. She informed members that Ms. Vallario has an AA degree in Social Sciences and a BA degree in Psychology/Criminal Justice. She has had experience in the field of Social Services and transferred to this position from Agency for Persons with Disabilities. She is familiar with the LACs because her duties in APD included representing that agency at the DD LAC meetings. Council members welcomed Ms. Vallario.

Ms. MacConnell was welcomed as a newly appointed member. Since she has been an LAC member previously, it was decided that she will only need to be updated for training. Her appointment now brings the council to an official membership to conduct business and close cases.

Agenda:

There were no changes or additions to the agenda..

Minutes:

The council did not meet in April. Minutes of the March meeting were approved with minor corrections. Appreciation was expressed to Ms. Roberts for taking the minutes during the absence of staff support and to Ms. Busbee for putting them in the proper format.

Monitoring Reports

There were no monitoring reports at this time.

SAC Report

Ms. Busbee advised members about the training for trainers to be held July 18th in Tampa. She pointed out that Ms. Bartz has been doing the new member training for this council, but that as membership builds, it would be good to have an additional trainer. She encouraged other members to consider becoming trainers. She also informed them that there will be a full SAC meeting July 19-21 following the training. Information about registration for the training and meeting were sent by email, but will be resent since some members stated they did not receive it. Ms. Bartz, Ms. Roberts and Ms. MacConnell expressed interest in attending.

The council was informed about the status of the Access petitions filed in Tallahassee. These petitions are no longer under seal, and Craig Rappell, attorney member of SAC, is scheduled to meet with agency attorneys on May 15th in Tallahassee for mediation on data sharing agreements as ordered by the judge. The agreements are not to contain the requirement of obtaining client consent for access.

Ms. Busbee also reported on the late development in the legislative session which inserted language into House and Senate Bills that, if signed by Governor Bush, will change portions of the SAC/LAC legislation. These changes stipulate that SAC is to meet at least once a year (instead of the current six times a year), that the Governor can remove members prior to the end of a term, narrows jurisdiction to only four agencies (AHCA, DCF, APD and DOEA) and specifies requirements for the person appointed by the Governor to be SAC Executive Director.

Council was asked by Ms. Busbee to be patient until Ms. Vallario gets the office organized and learns the specific duties and responsibilities of the job. She explained that the previous staff person and the several temporary staff that were in the office have left things in a turmoil, so it will take time to sort it out. She also explained the problems with the numerous phone calls being forwarded to the office that are not actually calls for the LAC. The SAC Executive Director is attempting to rectify this.

Chair's Report

Ms. Bartz stated that she did not actually have anything to report at this time. She encouraged members to continue to recruit new members in order to build up the council so that all three counties and all programs could be covered.

Old Business

Members expressed concern about the lack of ID cards and phone cards. The only member who had a phone card was Ms. Bartz, and she said that it no longer worked. Ms. Roberts, Ms. Sanford, Dr. Kroll and now Ms. MacConnell need ID cards. Ms. Busbee explained that some applications for phone cards had been found in the office...signed but not sent to SAC for processing. She also reported that they found a passport picture for Dr. Kroll which was probably intended for use on an ID card. Thus far, the blank cards or laminator have not been located, but there has been communication with the SAC office about this. Members were also advised that now that we were no longer connected with DCF, they were not taking photos for the cards, so members would need to get a passport picture for this purpose. Ms. Busbee informed members that AAA does the pictures free for members and that several businesses do them for a nominal fee.

New Business

There was discussion about the meeting day. Ms. Busbee explained that there is a statewide staff conference call on Friday mornings in which Ms. Vallario should participate. She asked if the members could meet on any other day, and explained that now that the same staff person has to cover several LAC meetings, efforts were being made to work out conflicts.

After discussion, the council decided to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

Ms. Bartz stated that the council members needed monitoring forms. Ms. McKay, who is chair of the SAC Standards and Training Committee, volunteered to email these to Ms. Bartz and Ms. Vallario for distribution to members.

Ms. Bartz asked Ms. Rigall to monitor Magnolia Health and Rehabilitation facility.

CLOSED SESSION

Next meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on June 1, 2006, at Gene Whipp, 910 Gulf Coast Blvd. Special Olympics building, Venice

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved By:

Penny Vallario, LAC Staff

Barbra Bartz, Chair