

**SERVICE AREA 15
MENTAL HEALTH
FLORIDA LOCAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

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

**Fort Myers Regional Service Center
2295 Victoria Avenue
Fort Myers, Florida
August 7, 2006
Minutes**

Members Present:

Stan Appelbaum , Chair
Leslie Swanson, Vice-Chair
Lyn Carlson
Jim Hogue
Shara Weaver
James Bratt
Toni DeFinis

Guests:

Nancy Langman, Ruth Cooper Center
Michael McNally, Ruth Cooper Center
Pamela Baker, SAMH
Patrick Hendry, SAMH
Marcie Gillis, SAMH
Debbie Pickles, Lee FACT, Coastal

Members Absent:

Carol Hayes, 2nd Vice-Chair
Kathy Stick
Jane Bevan
Kellie Elders

Staff Present:

Penny Vallario, LAC staff

Call To Order & Introductions: Mr. Appelbaum called the August 7, 2006 meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was established.

Agenda : Council members approved the agenda. Mr. Appelbaum requested changes be made for the September agenda to include adding guests John Gervickas, and Mike Sedgwick under District Mental Health Update.

Minutes: The minutes for the 7/3/06 meeting were approved and signed.

Receiving Center Reports:

Ruth Cooper Center:

- Nancy Langman was introduced to the council by Stan Appelbaum. Ms. Langman gave the council some of her background information ie, psych nurse clinician with a very strong administrative background.
- Ms. Langman stated that the center is currently looking for a Medical Director.
- Adding in-patient beds is a priority for the center as well according to Ms. Langman.
- Mr. Appelbaum introduced to Ms. Langman the purpose of the LAC council, emphasizing that the council protects the rights of all clients. He continued that LAC is authorized to investigate cases brought to the attention of the council. In addition, LAC monitors mental health facilities throughout this service area.
- Mr. Appelbaum expressed the desire to keep strong ties with RCC which would include monthly reports previously received from the center.
- Michael McNally reported that RCC just received their 3-year accreditation from CARF.
- Mr. McNally also announced that two committees have been formed; the Cultural Competing Committee and the Accessibility Committee. He also announced that the Lee County Sherriff Department will be receiving CIT training on November 13, 2006.
- The Advocacy Meeting will be Thursday, August 10 1:00-3:00pm at the Regional Service Center in Room 165C.

District Program Office Mental Health Update:

- Pamela Baker announced that SAMH will be meeting with the Protective Investigative Units district wide to survey the services that are available for children. They will also be working closely with Children's Network to increase the services for children.
- Ms. Baker informed the council that there is an increase of \$2.1 million for Adult Substance Abuse services, appropriated by the legislature as "Closing the Treatment Gap" money. There is also \$100,000 in new Children's Substance Abuse money.
- Ms. Baker stated that there is a severe need for a detox facility in Charlotte County. Currently the federal government is providing funding for those states that incurred hurricane damages in 2005 (Wilma) and it needs to be spent by the fall, 2007. SWAFAS will be getting funding for a new detox facility. Ruth Cooper Center, David Lawrence and Charlotte Mental Health are all slated to receive funding as well.

- SAMH is talking with PSF about the need for therapeutic group homes for children. The Medicaid capitation rates for each child enrolled per month in this area are:

0-11 mos	\$ 7.14
1-5 yrs	46.94
6-13 yrs	344.76
14 yrs & up	356.00

 Ms. Baker stated that there are several other state areas that have lower rates.
- Patrick Hendry announced that there is an Annual Consumer Retreat coming up on 11/9/06 that will include a day of conferences on self-advocacy, recovery, and benefits. So far they have 179 booked for lunch and 120 booked for dinner. Entertainment in the evening will also be provided.
- Mr. Hendry will also be heading up focus groups for consumers/families throughout the district.

FACT Team Update:

- Marcie Gillis said that there are enhancement funds that will be geared toward medical/dental. The transition of Collier is still going smoothly and all of the staff has been maintained.
- The Lee county team is recruiting for several positions; Team Leader, Transition Specialist, and Vocational Specialist.
- The Alternative Family Care Council has 10 forensic beds. The wait time for beds is 10 weeks for men and 13 weeks for women.
- James Bratt announced that the FACT – PSI Fort Myers team is looking for a Substance Abuse Specialist.
- Jim Hogue, LAC, member expressed his concerns that the clients are not well represented by the public defenders at the baker act hearings that he has attended at Vista.

Monitoring: No facilities were monitored this month. Mr. Appelbaum stated that a schedule needs to be set up to monitor Ruth Cooper Center, SWAFAS, and David Lawrence Center. Also, the completion of the monitoring of 60 files for Children’s Network will need to take place this month and the members to participate will be Mr. Appelbaum, Ms. Swanson, Ms. Hayes, Ms. Weaver, and Ms.DeFinis. The dates are to be determined.

Forensics: There was no report made.

Community Based Care: There was no report made.

Baker Act Reviews:

- Jim Hogue, LAC member, expressed his concerns that the clients are not well represented by the public defenders at the baker act hearings that he has attended at Vista.
If you are unable to attend a Baker Act, please call.

Statewide Advocacy Council Report: There was no report made.

Chair's Report:

- Mr. Appelbaum announced that his term is ending and that a nomination and vote will take place at the September meeting. The nomination committee is Carol Hayes, Shara Weaver, and James Hogue.

Staff Support Report:

- Penny Vallario distributed the 05/06 budget and the 06/07 budget. The complaint logs, the new monitoring form, the assignment list, and the member list were also distributed to all members.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business: There was no new business discussed.

CLOSED SESSION:

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 2295 Victoria Avenue at the Fort Myers Regional Service Center at 10:00 a.m. on September 11, 2006 in room #110.

Submitted by

Penny Vallario
LAC Staff

Stan Appelbaum
Chairperson

In order to ensure a quorum, members should contact Stan Appelbaum if they will be unable to attend the next meeting.