

Area 4 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008

List of Attendees: Dave Vinson, Jeantte Wilson, Pat Stevenson, Nancy Hanisch, Jennifer Denmark, Francis Dollinger, Robert Dobler, Martha Fornof, Jessica Hoffman, Pat Goff, Cathy Guiry, Shari Weitzner, Jerry Martin, Sherndina Moreland, Terry Mothershed Neuman

- I. Meeting called to order by Robert Dobler. Robert and Terry welcomed those attending. Robert introduced himself and asked for others to introduce themselves.
- II. Terry distributed copies of the Delmarva POM's graph showing the percent of outcomes and supports present for people receiving services in the area and compared to the interviews conducted statewide. The two lowest areas for outcomes are "Has Friends" with "Chooses Services". Under supports, the lowest areas are: "Has intimate relationships", "uses their environment", "performs different social roles" and "Has friends". Steering committee members had a discussion about some of the barriers for people in our community and discussed ideas to help people develop friendships in the community. Also discussed need to make people aware of opportunities to link people to natural supports in the communities. (See attached Handout)
- III. Jessica Hoffman, Director of the Citizens Program/Best Buddies gave a presentation on the services and activities offered by the program. She explained the process for recruiting "buddies" and making matches. Citizen buddies are expected to commit to a year friendship, see each other twice a month and maintain weekly contact by phone or mail. She also described the E-buddies program where people use e-mail to stay in contact. The committee discussed ways to assist in the recruitment of Citizen buddies in areas of town where people are waiting for friends. This could be part of the Area 4 newsletter. Brochures distributed to all members.
- IV. Nancy Hanisch gave an update on Area 4 Supported Employment Initiative. Area 4 is at 54% of our goal and we are currently 3 in the state. She also gave an overview of start up Florida/Quick Launch program. The program is not disability specific and will serve 4 to 5 people residing in Duval or Clay County. Cary Griffin will be presenting March 4, 2008. Nancy also reviewed

activities of the First Coast BLN. Lockheed Martin did a presentation at the last BLN meeting. Federal government has a goal to have 2% of their workforce people with developmental disabilities. The local JOC has also submitted a proposal to the local BLN to establish a position that will link these two groups. The goal is to have an effective linkage to job opportunities and people needing employment.

Nancy also discussed problems with transportation services.

Several issues were discussed reduction of door to door/on-demand services for people with disabilities, limited availability in certain areas and limited availability of provider for Phase I services funded by VR.

- V. Sherndina Moreland shared information about the successful conference hosted by the Family Care Council. There were 150 participants and topics ranged from Guardianship Options, Supported Employment, Community Involvement, Benefits and Parents having a Life. Sherndina also invited everyone to the upcoming FCC sponsored Special Need Trust Training in March 2008 at the library on Beach Boulevard.

- VI. Big Ideas Discussion – Distributed list with ideas from last meeting and discussed those presented. There was much discussion about having new providers “volunteers” at a community organization as a part of new provider enrollment process. Two provider agencies have expressed an interest in being a volunteer site. FCC members also discussed this proposal and thought it would be good for new providers to get first hand exposure to people and disability-related issues. (See attached list for additional ideas).

- VII. Next meetings were scheduled for April 2, 2008 and June 4, 2008.

- VIII. Meeting adjourned by Robert Dobler at 1:10 pm