

SUNCOAST REGION QUALITY
STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2008

Attendance: Carl Littlefield (APD), Jen Stone (Chairperson), Betty Beauchaine (FCC), Joanna H Rydzewski (CDC+), Patricia Hayston (Family), Patty Rendon (WSC), Rebecca Vasey (consumer), Debbie Morgan (Support for Rebecca), Rebecca's WSC, Tom Nurse (parent), Anne Grabel (parent), Janice Alberti (provider),

Guest: Harold Gross (APD), Glorie Singleton (APD), Judith Redding (APD).

Absent: Marcia Di Grazia (AQL),.

Meeting began at 10:10 am at the Tampa office.

The minutes were read and accepted by all board members.

Old Business:

There was a previous discussion on the Tiers and QSI's. Tom Nurse stated he made a suggestion of a recommendation last month about the QSI's. Tom questioned why we are still doing the QSI's when they did not have any effect on the placement of the customers in the Tiers levels? He also questioned why we are spending unnecessary funds on the new QSI's and hiring temp staff to do them while customers are being cut services? It was determined that it is difficult to ascertain what the correlation between the QSI assessments and impact of the tiers is at this time. It will have to be studied after the QSI assessments are completed in June 2009.

Rebecca spoke stating that the Tiers placement is not being put together properly because they are not using the consideration of peoples needs. The placement is being based on the money more than the needs. It was stated that you can appeal the TIERS for the purpose of meeting your needs but you could not appeal the fund amount due to the Legislative Ruling. If you wanted an appeal for reasons of your needs not being met then you had 10 days from the date you actually received your letter.

Denise Oetinger was brought in to answer the committee's questions in reference to the Tiers. Denise was introduced by Carl Littlefield giving us a brief summary of what she does in her position for APD. Denise is the Supervisor for the Waiver Program and also the Supervisor for the Waiting List and the GR Revenue people. Denise spoke about how after the letters went out the break down of how many people had to be moved to another Tier and was over their budget and needed to decide where their services were going to be reduced. It was stated about 50.1% were to be reduced and this did not include the Tier 4 customers.

Patty stated the problem with some of the placements were that they were placed on their cost plans which may have not been properly completed or had been updated after the

fact of the assignments so their placement was incorrect due to the timeframes of the updates.

Tom Nurse mentioned that the core services need to be changed to include ADT and other services. It was stated the ADT is not a life threatening or health issue but to some it is a mental issue. It stimulated the customer's mental health instead of sitting in a room all day watching TV when they could be doing something worthwhile in an ADT facility and also a social stimulation.

Jen Stone asked if Sun Coast Region could track the impact on how this will affect our customer's. Carl stated it was too early to get good data until after the QSI's were all completed.

Patty Rendon complimented the Local APD in Tampa / St Pete office for taking on this task, going full force with respect to the customer who is really going to feel this impact when the placements go into effect. With all the confusion that is going on they have tried to make the changes as needed so that it would free up the hearing process for the ones who really need them.

It was suggested by a committee member that we need to get families to go and talk to the office staff in our own Legislators Office's and take your customer (son or daughter) and let them meet them see how this impacting their lives instead of the good make sure they hear about how bad it has become too. We should hold town meeting with our Legislators and families through the help of the Family Care Council so that families could talk to them about how this is impacting lives. We have 4 members on the FCC and 1 liaison and 1 Director in our current meetings to bring this information back to the FCC for help.

It was also suggested that we get about 30 cases that already had the QSI's and placements of TIERS and use the results to build data for research on how it has impacted our customers so far. What are the negative impacts and positive impacts? Are the Levels of care being provided to the individuals? It was noted that the people hardest hit are in the placement of Tier 3.

Glorie Singleton gave out handouts for the Conference on Oct 3, 2008 in Sarasota with Kim Houston on Employment. The FCC and APD have been very involved in getting this Conference up and ready for everyone.

Patty commended a staff member from APD (Helene Coutu) who has taken the initiative to make an updated list of available beds in homes so that the WSC do not have to just start calling ever home to find an empty bed. She stated this will also help so that a customer is not lost in the system. It will tell you where each one is and what home that they are residing it.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING IS IN ST PETE OFFICE ON OCT 13, 2008