

Suncoast Region Steering Committee

Mission: To promote continuous improvement of the Suncoast Region's service systems by providing recommendations and guidance thereby encouraging effective, quality services that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 10, 2014 10AM – NOON

LOCATION: APD – TAMPA OFFICE
1313 N. Tampa St.
Tampa, Fl. Room 516

FACILITATOR	Bill Rambaum, chairperson
NOTE TAKERS	Mary Fuller & Janis Alberti
ATTENDEES	Janis Alberti, Provider/Member Betty Beauchaine, Parent/Member Marcia DiGrazia, APD AQL Liaison Shaqounna Fowler, Consumer/Member Melissa Godena, Provider Mary Fuller, PhD., Provider/Member Ann Graybeal, Parent/Member Dane Jones, Provider/Member Michelle Tolini, APD Division Director Mrs. Geri Williams Regional Manager
VISITORS/NEW ATTENDEES	Shanita Richardson, Enrolling WSC – Submitted Application for membership.
ATTENDEES VIA TELECONFERENCE	Rebecca Vasey, Consumer/Member Kym Mason, ICF/DD Nancy Simmons, FCC Pauline Lipps, FCC Tom Nurse, Parent/Member
MEMBERS ABSENT	Gary Goodwin, Gary Hartfield, Patty Rendon
GUEST SPEAKER	Anne Hendon, QA Unit Debra Noel, Supported Employment Coordinator
CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, & INTRODUCTIONS	Meeting called to order at 10am by Bill Rambaum, Chairperson. Welcome and introductions.
REVIEW OF MINUTES	Minutes were not reviewed at this time. Marcia Digrazia will complete minutes to be reviewed at the February 10 th meeting.
INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS & UPDATE OF PLANNING	<p>Introduction of Shanita Richardson. She is enrolling as a Waiver Support Coordinator. She used to be employed by Early Steps. This experience as well as being an advocate for persons with disabilities will assist her in her new job. She is completing an application for membership to the Steering Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mr. Rambaum reviewed the history of the Steering Committee. He would like to receive information from presenters in a format that would show processes. Once the committee hears this information, we will utilize the next meeting to review the processes and make any recommendations that seem helpful. He wanted to see what systems are in place in each unit. 2) Mrs. Geri Williams addressed the progress that the Suncoast has made over the last several years. She suggested that steering committee members review the process maps for the Quality Assurance Unit. This should give the members a better understanding of APD systems. 3) Improvement that have been made are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Providers are assigned enrollment unit liaisons to work with them on any issues.

- b) A Medicaid Waiver Services Agreement process has been developed which now requires that renewal requests are sent out to providers two months prior to expiration.
 - c) Remediation process has been streamlined to ensure response from providers.
 - d) Licensing and renewals were also streamlined. Group homes are not reviewed by their liaison but by another residential staff to provide a more objective review.
- 4) All areas are being tracked for compliance purposes. Ann Hendon reviewed the analysis of the Delmarva reviews. Last month she reviewed many statistics from Delmarva, this was the update to that presentation. APD is not a punitive situation, they are in the process of providing remediation and technical support. It is more of a collaborative situation that what the expectation was in the past.
- 5) Debra Noel: In the last year the Supported employment: concentration is on the 18-24 year olds. They are providing transportation in this program. The governor and APD offices is worried about them being without jobs. Working with the students that are graduating from schools this year.
- a. The first wave of funding released will address the needs of employment for 128 individuals. In order to get these people employed, the State will pay the first 90 days of wages in order to get them started. This program is from an allocation of money that was established by the legislature and the governor.
 - b. The stipulation is that the consumers must be in the age bracket from 18 – 24 years old. The individuals involved have been identified by the QSI review process and they must be on the waiting list.
 - c. The second wave of consumer funding will start next week. The issue will be how Suncoast Region can get the information out to all stakeholders in a short time period? Suggestions were:
 - i. Improve the networking of SE providers.
 - ii. Attend meetings of work related class teachers in the school system. Knowing the information does not seem to be the problem. It is the using and taking advantage of this opportunities
 - iii. Attend PTA meeting and let the parents know about this program.
 - d. Increase employer’s knowledge of the advantages of hiring individuals who have challenges and who to contact regarding opportunities for these individuals.

Sub-committee to explore self-advocacy opportunities for consumers using Waiver-funded residential services. Dane Jones, Michelle Tolini, and Janis Alberti to meet after this meeting.

FCC – Not addressed at this time.

Completed by Mrs. Williams- The Legislation session will be starting up again soon. Many of the people within the Suncoast are politically active.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm

February 10, 2014 10am- noon, APD St. Petersburg Field Office: 1201 102nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33716

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