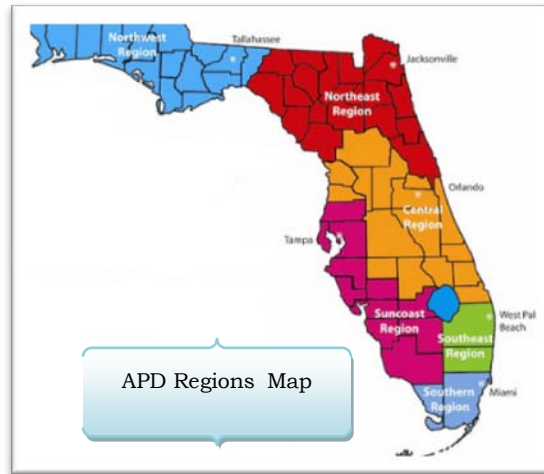


Suncoast Region Committee Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2012



Steering Committee Meeting		
8.13.2012	10:00am	APD (St. Pete Office) 1201 102 nd Ave. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33716
Meeting called by	Gary T. Hartfield, Chairman	
Facilitator	Gary T. Hartfield, Chairman	
Note taker	Kym Mason, Member	
Timekeeper	Gary T. Hartfield, Chairman	
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Gary T. Hartfield ❖ Tom Nurse, Co-Chair ❖ Marcia DiGrazia, Liaison ❖ William "Bill" Rambung, Parent/Member ❖ Betty Beauchaine, Parent/Member ❖ Shaqounna Fowler, Consumer/Member ❖ Kym Mason, Provider/Member ❖ Gloria Moreno, APD 	
Tele-Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rebecca Vasey, Consumer/Member ❖ Pauline Lipps, Parent/FCC ❖ Betty Beauchaine, Parent/FCC ❖ Janis Alberti, Provider/Member 	
Visitors/Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Monique Petronje, VR Contract Manager ❖ John Howell, VR Area Director ❖ Steve Banales, Dream Support Inc. ❖ Aimee P.-Dream Support Inc. 	
Minutes Review		
10:00-10:15AM	Gary T. Hartfield called the meeting to order. Minutes from July's meeting was reviewed and adopted with no changes.	
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Overview of Services		
10:15-11:15AM	John T.R. Howell, Area 4 Director	

Discussion	<p>John presented an overview of VR Services which featured Power Point presentation and handouts. Bullet points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ VR is a 4 to 1 Federal & State match ✓ VR focus on competitive employment in integrated work settings. ✓ Disability does not automatically makes a person eligible for VR services ✓ No waiting list for person classified as category 1 & 2 "Most Significant" ✓ VR has 60 days to make an eligibility determination ✓ VR partners with APD for support services <p>Presentation concluded with a question and answer session. John provided contact information for the various VR locations within the Suncoast Region.</p>
Artista Café -Company Overview	
11:15-11:30AM	Vicky Westra, Owner of Artista's Café
Discussion	<p>Vicky provided an overview of Artista's Café. Vicky shared that Artista Café started in 2006 when the fusion of her coffee business and passion for helping people with autism blended. Artista Café provides gourmet coffee and baristas within several Mercedes Benz locations throughout the Tampa Bay Area. What's unique about Artista Café is that Barista's all have Autism. Artista is a shining example of Social Entrepreneurship and has recently partnered with Casey's Cookies and will serve delicious cookies to customers.</p>
Casey's Cookies-Company Overview	
11:30-11:45AM	Barry Torman, Executive Director
<p>Barry showed a short television documentary that depicted the story of Casey's Cookies. Casey's Cookies was started by Barry and his wife as they realized their Daughter Casey had limited employment opportunities due to her disability. Casey Cookies sells and ships cookies. All cookies are baked, packaged, and shipped by the company. All employees have disabilities. Casey's Cookies is funded through donations and cookie sales. Barry stressed that Steering Committee can help Casey's Cookies by purchasing cookies and spreading the word.</p>	
Regional Update	
11:45-12:15pm	<p>Barbra Palmer is the new Director of APD. The agency is focusing on Development of Community Employment. Highlights from August 2nd Community Forum hosted by FCC was shared by Pauline. Rhonda Sloan has been designated to oversee CDC Plus.</p>
12:15pm	<p>Meeting was adjourned by Gary Hartfield.</p>