



Florida Center for
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

FCIC Community Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes
Conference Call Friday, September 4, 2020
11:30 am - 12:31 pm

CAC Members Present: : Keith Berry, Eddie Hall, Mildretta Williams, Debra Jones, Danielle McGill, Kimberly Spire-Oh, Liesl Ramos, Shelly Baer, Wendy Metty, Chatequa Pinkston

FCIC Staff Members: Elizabeth Perkins, Lise Fox, Donald Kincaid, Christopher Vatland, Brenda Clark, Laura Rodriguez Lopez, Telisha McKenzie

CAC Members Absent: Keli Mondello (Chair), Krystal Sims (Vice Chair), Finn Kavanagh, Selina O' Shannon, Rebecca Best, John Howell, Margaret Hooper

Welcome & Introductions: Keith Berry welcomed everyone and extended hope that everyone is doing well and protecting their families. Brenda Clark reviewed the names for roll call.

1. **June 2020 Meeting Minutes Approval:** Debra Jones motion to approve; Kimberly Spire-Oh second, no oppose, all in favor, June 2020 Minutes accepted.

2. CAC Member Updates:

Keith Berry- Leon County Parent Representative. Keith gave a quick perspective on what parents are dealing with as everyone transitions back to school. The biggest challenge is lots of uncertainty and finding some level of commonality. Keith also questions what the new landscape of safety means. Keith advised that emotional health is real, encourage parents/advocates to stay connected to their students in the community, and advocate for service delivery and equity.

Danielle McGill- Hillsborough County Advocate. Danielle added to what Keith mentioned about mental health and how important it is. Danielle hopes that Hillsborough County is looking into how to adapt with IEPs to help students during this time of the pandemic. She is concerned about how parents of students with unique abilities are adapting to the new norm during this school year. Danielle shared that she relocated to the Tampa area in March and is acclimating to various agencies. She noted that she has attended conferences, family care council meetings, and APD meetings, which allowed her to hear different perspectives of everyone. Danielle shared that she and Eddie Hall participated in a virtual workshop to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act 30th anniversary. The event was titled Breaking Barriers to Possibilities. The advocates that spoke and organized the event were five individuals that live with disabilities. Each presenter talked about the different titles under ADA legislation, highlighted what they do throughout the state, and shared about possible resources.

3. General FCIC Updates:

Lise Fox-Professor, FCIC Co-Director. Lise discussed products that were developed around reopening schools for children with disabilities. The Lise directs National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation (NCPMI). This project is through the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP), Technical Assistance Center (TAC). It is a project equivalent to a PBIS Center and focuses on children from birth to five years of age. She also noted that Don Kincaid is also involved in a PBIS project around reopening schools for children K-12 programs. The NCPMI project focuses on children's social emotional and behavioral health and outcomes for children with disabilities starting from having the right to IDEA services through the transition of kindergarten. The NCPMI website offers more information about the products and the center. The website address is www.challengingbehavior.org. Lise shares some of the first products developed during the pandemic were about helping people cope with the pandemic and support their young children. It was then realized that parents needed guidance on their own wellness, how to care for their child, and establish routines. Products were developed to respond to those needs. A reopening guide for programs was developed that starts with a reopening plan that encourages programs to include family members and teachers on the team. The guide also provides guidance on how to welcome children back, learn about new procedures, and offers resources to help support the children upon return. A hyperlink is included in the guide for easy access to resources. In addition, a *My Teachers Want To Know* document, has been created in English and Spanish which allows parents to share what has been happening since starting of school. Similar materials are also available to use for those families that are virtual learners. Lise also shares there has been lots of national guidance promoting the critical importance of social, emotional, and mental health supports. These areas of concerns are placed front and center at childcare programs. A template has been created to assist in how to have virtual meetings that are family-centered that helps families express their needs and offers supports to address those needs.

Liz Perkins –Professor, FCIC Associate Director. Liz was invited to participate in a project called Golisano Developmental Disability Nursing Institute. Golisano is a billionaire philanthropist who has supported efforts in the health arena and has provided hefty funds for Rochester UCEDD and Special Olympics Inclusive Health Program. There is a gap in education that Golisano is trying to address. Liz shared main points are to help transform the quality of care and support for people with developmental disabilities. The project will focus on training nursing professionals with skills and knowledge through the development of an internationally recognized curriculum for developmental disabilities nursing education. The curriculum adds more content on the care of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The credentialing will create the next generation of thought leaders to care and advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Plans are to implement this by starting with a 2-year summer fellows program to include a week residency and a post-graduate certificate program in developmental disabilities healthcare. Liz shares this is another opportunity to educate nurses about developmental disabilities and for them to become nurse leaders in the field.

4. DD Network Representative Updates:

Selina O'Shannon - Disability Rights Florida (DRF). Selina's updates were read by Keith Berry. Keith reads DRF is working on suggestions for the Florida Department of Education and Law Enforcement Agencies for School Resource Officers. The suggestions stem from information collected from discipline projects, arrests, baker acts, suspensions, and expulsions. DRF is hoping to be finalized by mid-September. DRF will

continue the discipline project into the year to address the continued misuse of constraints, seclusion, suspension, expulsion, arrests, and baker act of students with disabilities and to look into implementing the Florida statute 1006.12C. Complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training will improve officers' knowledge and skills as first responders to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety. All of the schools reopening plans have been collected and is located on the DRF website. The preliminary injunction hearing regarding the Governor's lack of American Sign Language interpreters at his COVID press conferences is set for September 3rd and 4th.

Shelly Baer - Mailman Center for Child Development (MCCD) – Shelly shared that in Miami pediatric clinics are being done via telehealth, with the exception of extreme conditions and the same thing is happening in the Early Steps program. Psychological education evaluations, training, and therapy is also through telehealth. Jumpstart Program at Mailman is an early discovery program that work closely with the Miami Children's Trust. Shelly also shares that the program received funding to create five short videos related to Covid-19 CDC and DCF Guidelines, Social Distancing Story, and Minnie Mouse Reopening Back to School Guidelines. The videos are available in English, Spanish and Creole language. Shelly will forward information regarding the videos to disseminate to the FCIC CAC. Shelly shared updates on the following leadership programs: Leadership Pipeline Program - a virtual platform geared towards high school students with and without disabilities and their siblings to begin in a few weeks and SALT - Self-Advocate Leadership Training with virtual weekly meetings and webinars.

5. Agency Representative Updates:

Wendy Metty– Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services (BEES) – Wendy shares that Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is returning to work via virtual format along with other innovative ways. FDOE and Discretionary Projects are releasing information and resources to assist with various formats and COVID. There is more information on the FDOE website. BEES has held webinars for teachers/families. Wendy will send the links to share with the FCIC CAC.

Liesl Ramos – Agency for Persons With Disabilities (APD) - Liesl thanked Brenda Clark for sending the information via email for the Exceptional Employer and Employee Success Stories nominations. Liesl advises there is a link in the email that can be used to nominate someone. The link should be used to nominate someone from APD, VR, Blind Services, or any other disabilities partners. APD is looking for outstanding Florida employers with a history of hiring persons living with disabilities, recognition will take place in October. Another way to vote is to visit the website at www.apdcares.org . Contact Liesl with any questions around the voting process. Liesl shared that Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 82 on June 23, 2020. Liesl share the Bill requires several changes on how APD delivers Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) through the iBudget waiver to individuals with Developmental Disabilities. A major change is streamlining and centralizing the significant additional needs process which ensures individuals receive services that are medically necessary and in accordance with state/federal Medicaid regulations. Also, Liesl mentions the review process is now centralized at the APD state office. The Bill also clarifies requirements for provider usage of APD IConnect system when billing for services. The Bill reforms waiver support coordination to include requiring Waiver Support Coordinator (WSC) to be employees of an agency and revision of duties for APD relating to WSCs. It requires coordinators to enhance their professional skills and establishes more housing options for individuals with maladaptive behaviors. All changes become effect July 1, 2021. APD issued a guidance memorandum regarding group homes and foster care operators regarding visitors. There is a lot of

detailed information around this for example when homes can receive visitors and what the requirements are for visitors to go in. Liesl shares that she will send an email to Brenda Clark to share websites and links with the FCIC CAC.

6. Announcements:

Keith Berry – Next FCIC CAC Meeting:

November 6, 2020

9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Eddie Hall – Eddie shares that FL SAND hosts a virtual call every Monday at 3:30 p.m. regarding COVID and impact on persons with disabilities. The number to call in on is on the website at www.floridasands.org. Eddie also shared that he played a part in helping to get funds set aside out of County CARES funds specifically for the elderly and persons living with disabilities in Polk County after speaking with Bill Braswell, Chair of Polk County Commissioners. The BOCC of Polk County is working on a method that will allow people to apply for the possibility of receiving up to \$2000.

Brenda Clark – Brenda shares FL SAND has a resource page listing possible committees/boards throughout Florida and Nationally for persons to check for their areas of advocacy interest to use their voice and or apply to serve.

7. Telisha McKenzie – Final roll call confirmation.

8. Adjourn: Debra Jones moved to adjourn. Eddie Hall second. No oppose all agree motion approved to adjourn at 12:31PM.