

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

CD/ED Task Force Meeting Notes

October 9, 2009

Members Present

Jill McElyea Judy Owen Selina O'Shannon
Renee Valletutti Kathy Henderson Susan Gold
Sally Golden-McCord Lillian Sigler

Members attending by Phone

Michele Polland

Members absent

Jordan Knob
Jacky Needelman
Enrique Escallon
Sandra Osborn

Guests

David Jones, President
Laurie LoRe-Gussak, Executive Director
Kristy Carter, Inclusion Specialist

Staff Present

April Katine Bonnie Newsome
Debra Dowds (by phone for part of the meeting)
Margaret Hooper (by phone for part of meeting)

I. Call To Order & Welcome

Quorum was established and Kathy Henderson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 am. Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sally Golden-McCord was introduced as the newest resource member.

II. Approval of Minutes - The 7/10/09, CD/ED Task Force Meeting minutes and the 8/21/09 interim conference call minutes were reviewed.

III. MOTION: Lillian Sigler motioned to approve the 7/10/09 and 8/21/09 task force minutes and interim conference call minutes. Judy Owen seconded the motion; motion carried.

IV. Current Projects and Activities Updates:

Special Diploma: This rule has not yet been scheduled to go before the state board and is being reviewed by the FDOE Bureau Leadership Team.

State Wide Assessment Rule: The rule is scheduled to go before the state board at their January meeting and if it passes it will take effect starting April 1, 2010.

Sally wanted to get a brief summary of all the current CD/ED projects. April will send it to her after the meeting. April informed the task force that Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) will be changing their names in the future. It is unclear when that change will take place. Michelle Polland will keep the task force informed of the progress of these two changes.

Restraint and Seclusion: Margaret Hooper gave a brief report on the status of our position and bills on restraint and seclusion. The bills and our position are the same as last year, except seclusion is allowable for imminent danger in order to acknowledge that not allowing either could negatively impact the rate of incarceration and baker acts on students with disabilities.

V. HB61

April explained HB61 to the Task Force. She pointed out that HB61 included the addition of Geometry, Algebra II, Chemistry and Physics to requirements for a standard high school diploma and this could greatly reduce the number of students with disabilities receiving a standard diploma if this should pass. It was brought up last year but never heard in committee.

MOTION: Judy Owen moved to oppose HB61 as written and Jill McElyea second the motion.

Discussion: Susan Gold encourage the task force to be cautious of the wording that is used to ensure we are in favor of increasing standards for general education students, however we need to protect the population we're representing .

Renee Valletutti amended the motion to restate the support of higher standards, but oppose the bill as written because it does not safeguard students with disabilities. The motion carried with Michele Polland abstaining.

There was discussion pertaining to whether representatives of state agencies need to fill out a conflict of interest form if they abstain from a vote. Debra Dowds, Executive Director joined us by phone to clarify that we will need to do this however, not at this meeting until we formalize the process.

Universal Education

April went over what has been happening with our new Implementation of Universal Educational Practices and explained the new provider is an Evaluation Systems Design, Connie Bergquist, President. There was discussion about how to choose the three districts for the project. The task force decided the advisory group could best advise the provider on the criteria for choosing the districts.

Presentation:

Inclusive Recreation (Kristy Carter, David Jones, and Laurie LoRe-Gussak) did a presentation describing The Florida Disabled Outdoor Association and how their project fits into their mission. The task force wanted to ensure that the money was going for inclusive recreation instead of “separate but equal” recreation. The task force also wanted to ensure that data is being collected on the increasing number of students with disabilities participating in the recreation programs in Leon and Pasco Counties. (Power Point attached)

Due Process White Paper:

April informed the task force that the contract with Mark has ended. He was only able to turn in deliverable 3 (the rough draft) before the contract expired. He was docked 5% for deliverable #3 for being over a month late. Rose Coster and April Katine are going to work on editing the draft and hopefully have a product for the task force to look at for the January meeting. If they need money to hire someone they will let the task force know by the November 6 interim call. Judy Owen had a concern about providers, such as Mr. Kamleiter accepting other FDDC contracts while not being able to get the current contract completed on time or at all. Renee suggested check the policy for possible revisions in order for us not to have this problem in the future. Susan Gold wanted to thank April and Rose for taking on the task of re-writing the paper.

Part C Stargeitic Plan:

April explained that the Part C (early intervention) Program is in crisis and is using their stimulus money to stay afloat. They have asked for our help to convene a

Work group to come up with a plan to ensure their continuation after their money runs out. Sally explained more of the problem. CD/ED and the Health Care Task Force are joining together to work on this project.

Disabilities Awareness Project:

April explained that CD/ED was awarded another \$12,000.00 from programmatic reserve and this was money that we didn't now about until the Council Meeting in September. We already had another \$3,000.00 in reserve. April proposed to the task force that we use \$14,000.00 to purchase disabilities awareness books for children in pre-k – 12th grade that were recommended in Florida Department of Education Resource Guide. The task force liked that idea and Selina suggestion that instead of choosing districts randomly, we come up with a rubric and ask districts to send us proposals on how they would use the books to enhance disability awareness. April will update the task force on the November call and the task force will decide how to process.

Motion – Judy Owen motioned to approve the use of the funds to purchase and mail the disability awareness books and Lillian Seigler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

April provided the task force a verbal report on the different issues she is monitoring for the task force:

- **Expanding Opportunities Work Group** – April is working on the public awareness sub-group of this work group. The group is meeting regularly.
- **Life Experiences** – April asked the task force to read the letter from one of the scholarship recipients that is included in their binder. It was reported that this year's sessions were very successful.
- **Trauma Informed Care Work Group** – April explained that the Trauma Informed workgroup is many agencies working together to ensure training is happening in the schools, mental hospitals, correctional facilities and other places where people are being re-traumatized by subsequent care. April has just begun attending this work group and will share more details at a later date.
- **Governors Children's Cabinet Report** – April has attended the last two children's cabinet and they have been very informative about the state of children's issues in Florida. They have been choosing indicators to recommend to the legislature and in the process there has been a lot of good

information about measuring outcomes. April will continue to monitor the Cabinet Meetings.

- **Developmental Disabilities Prepaid Services** – The workgroup has drafted a proposed bill and is getting closer to having a final bill. These services are intended for persons with developmental disabilities once they age-out of the school system. It is going to pattern itself somewhat after the college prepaid system. So far the bill is too broad and needs to be more specific. A smaller group volunteered to work on this bill before the next meeting. April will attend that sub-committee meeting as well. April will update the task force at the November call.

Action Item:

Childhood Screening Discussion:

April highlighted possible task force areas of assistance. April's suggestions were under Goal 3: Revise and mandate child care training module on Observation, Screening and Assessment, under Goal 4: Re-establish Developmental Early Intervention screening and services in all hospital Neonatal Units to ensure infants are screened and families are provided follow-up services and under Goal 5: Develop and implement policies in early care and education programs that support children with 10-24% delays (who do not qualify for Part B or C) were recommended. Susan Gold recommended under Goal 1 we consider working on: Developing staff and parent training regarding the system of standardized child screening and incorporate coordinated training in interagency agreements. Susan also suggested the task force consider choosing under Goal 3: To Revise and mandate child care training module on Observation, Screening and Assessment. Susan also shared with us that David Lawrence, the Director of the Children's Trust in Miami Dade, has brought up a bill in the past for every child to have screening. We need to do research on this and see where it is stands.

The task force would like for our Universal Education provider to do a presentation for the January Task Force meeting.

Without further business to discuss, Kathy Henderson motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 pm. Renee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

