

**FCIC Community Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes   
Conference Call Friday, March 24th, 2023**

**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**

**CAC Members Present:** Mercedes Ramirez, Jennifer Duggar**,** Harvey Brooks, Liesl Ramos, Harvey Brooks, Barbara Jones Marrero, Matonya (Matti) Wieczorek, Gary Martoccio,

Matti The Grow Group**,** Lisa Bunn, Andrea Carroz, Barbara Jones, Margaret Hooper, John Howell, Selina O’Shannon, Shelly Baer, Lisa Bunn, Eddie Hall, Chatequa Pinkston

**FCIC Staff Members:** Beth Boone, Donald Kincaid, Laura Rodriguez, Denise Barnes, Siddiqua Alleyne, Telisha McKenzie, Baily Braunstein (Grad Student)

**CAC Members Absent:** Danielle McGill, Lauren Mills

**Welcome & Introductions:** Chautauqua Pinkston (Chair) welcomed everyone.

**Roll Call:** Denise Barnes

**December 2022 Meeting Minutes Approval:** John Howell motioned to approve; Siddiqua Alleyne second, none opposed. Correction to minutes submitted by Liesl Ramos

On page 4, item #4. State Agency Updates: a.

The sentence that reads: “The agency is compiling an Adult Day Training Guidebook and rates for revised services and program options for providers,” Should be replaced with: “The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is working on the iBudget rule promulgation process to finalize the edits to the iBudget Handbook and the Rate Table.”

Matonya (Matti) Wieczorek and Jennifer Duggar are the corrected name spellings.

1. **FCIC Highlights:**
2. **Dr. Laura Rodriguez Lopez: Website Development for Feedback 25 minutes** Lauraintroduced Siddiqua and shared that C. Vatland created a grant for an FCIC Family Liaison position. The Liaison, Siddiqua has been working on the Inclusion Florida website along with Andrea; the website was presented. The site has been revised. The goal is to ensure the site is easy to navigate and included following fields on the site; Home, Health, Employment, Community Living, K-12 Education, Contact. Siddiqua is looking for feedback on the website updates. Is the website in plain language? Suggestions were given to add other resources [Small Business Administration).](https://www.sba.gov/) Siddiqua will send an email to everyone. Please take the time to review the website upon receipt of the email. Siddiqua Alleyne- [alleynes@usf.edu](mailto:alleynes@usf.edu) and Inclusion Florida Website- [www.inclusionfl.cbcs.usf.edu](http://www.inclusionfl.cbcs.usf.edu)

**Don Kincaid: Disaster Relief Funding/Grant** FCIC Director search continues, hopefully a new director will start by fall. The [ACL](https://acl.gov/) Disaster Relief Funding has $4 million that will be distributed to the [Center for Independent Living](https://floridacils.org/)  (CILs) for their individuals that can benefit from the program, instead of going to UCEDDs. The relief spans from Oct. 1st, 2022 and goes through 2 years. It is only to remediate problems that have happened in the areas impacted by the 2022 hurricanes and flooding. FCIC will support the CIL’s in this effort. Eddie asked about funds for an accessible boat for search and rescue, or trac chairs. As the fund cannot be used to address future issues, Don, suggested that Eddie reach out to CIL of Broward County Center or Gulf Coast with suggestions for accessible rescue boats and trac chairs, national guard efforts and Emergency Management ideas to pursue the funding. CIL’s will be able to repair adaptive equipment, repair houses, repair homes, or whatever unmet needs remains from the storms. [Center for Independent Living of Gulf Coast](http://www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org) in Ft. Myers, [www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org](http://www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org). (Phone) 239-260-4575.

* 1. **Dr. Beth Boone: September CAC Meeting Date** September 22nd is a schedule conflict. She is looking to moving the meeting to another week. Beth will be at a FDDC Conference. Beth will ask Denise to help with sending out an email regarding another date.

1. **Self-Advocate and Family Member News and Updates- Open Discussion**
   1. **Barbara Jones Marrero**- **is a waiver support coordinator with a child with ASD,** about her concerns that Brevard County does not have therapists (SLP, OTR, PT), limited behavior therapists, and adults must go through Medicaid pre-approval first. She wants to see more information or solicitation and advocacy for the waiver. Are there contacts that can push for these things? There is no listing of community resources. She is looking for more support. The paperwork process is burdensome, it takes 6-9 months. It needs to be more streamed line. Transportation to therapies for adults is limited in her area. She finds it frustrating to support her child or waiver customers without the resources needed to meet their basic health needs. Mercedes also expressed that there are more challenges in Lake County. She suggests looking at a way to reach the communities because the services are not getting there. Mercedes is finding it difficult to find adult service providers in her area. She has had to not work to provide supports for her adult daughter. Also discussed were transition services and resources beyond ADP programs. Advocacy to expand the [APD](https://apd.myflorida.com/customers/application/) waiver supports and [resources](https://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/) for adults. Unsettling is the number of parents with children with disabilities, which have never heard of APD, Waivers, etc. APD stated that APD is currently has a huge staff shortage.
2. **Developmental Disabilities Network Partners:**
   1. **Margaret Hooper, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council –** Margaret D Hooper, [FDDC Awareness Day](https://ddday2023.org/#!) March 14th at the capitol. Dinner, awards, and vendors exhibits were held the night before and educated partners and council members. Looking to starting a mobile crisis team for the Dually Diagnosed. Then governor and house picked it up, now awaiting a response from the senate to get on board. APD will be a collaborator on the mobile response team. Predicated to be 1900 people that were baker-acted: the need for more behavior Intense homes, behavior services, and support coordination. The mobile response teams will address many of Barbara Jones Marrero’s concerns. Margaret also stated that due to prioritization Crisis, Foster Care and Diversion programs are given first priority for services and supports. Margaret, Denise, and Don share a passion for full inclusion and realized they had more in common prior to living in Florida. Deinstitutionalization in past employment and advocating for pwd. Don shared that he has contacts nationally/internationally to make systemic changes to move towards a community living for individuals living with disabilities. Including individual or smaller settings for persons with ASD can have life altering impacts. Aging Caregiver Initiative for the next 5 years that could address the parents that are getting older who live with adult children with disabilities. Liesl, bought up a pilot program being developed in Miami that takes people off the wait list using LTC dollars. Lisa Bunn and Liesel will be added as resources for this program as it expands across the state. Lisa Bunn is creating a community event to get parents guidance and resources for guardianship, special needs trusts and more. If you are interested in assisting Lisa for a Fall event, please reply to Lisa Bunn <bunnlisam@gmail.com> (813) 503-7784. [Able United](https://www.ableunited.com/overview/) was mentioned as a resource for Lisa Bunn.
   2. **Selina O’Shannon, Disability Rights Florida –** Shared the DRF [transition guide](https://disabilityrightsflorida.org/disability-topics/disability_topic_info/transition_the_passage_from_youth_to_adulthood) with Denise at an ESE event they attended recently, in at CYPRESS CREEK HIGH [ESE Transition Night & Dinner](https://cchs.pasco.k12.fl.us/event/ese-transition-night-dinner-chn/). Litigation, filed against Florida Department of Corrections as a student was not given services under IDEA and there have been separate transportation complaints. There has been a huge decrease in speech pathologists and nurses. ESY services are short as well. Started a disciplinary report regarding restraint and seclusion data from 68 school districts from 2018 to 2020.
   3. **Shelly Baer, Mailman Center for Child Development –** Project SALT was able to do

Cohorts, they had many applicants. They are in the process of converting the transitioning toolkit into braille. Self-Advocacy Leadership Training ([SALT](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U1SeHSdDSw)) Project are not back in person as of February. Shelly met with someone from Texas and that wanted to replicate the program and the process has begun. They will begin providing technical assistance to them.

1. **Agency Representative Updates:**
   1. **John Howell** – Had to leave early due to another meeting.
   2. **Jennifer Duggar, FLDOE-Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services** is now the contact for BEESS. Angela is no longer here. Nothing major. However, parents of students have no knowledge of Transition, Project 10, DVR & APD programs. It was a hot topic during a recent parent meeting. By law parents must be made aware of these programs. BEESS is working to ensure that parents understand what it is and what it is for. Part of the problem could be that parents are not attending IEP meetings. Meeting will be held in April 2023 with all of the transition contacts for all State of Florida school districts to address lack of parental knowledge of available services and how to increase their attendance at IEP meetings. BEESS will collaborate with APD soon. BEESS has a MOUs with DVR, DBS for ESE services; they will work together to increase understanding and participation by all parties. Expressed consensual frustrations with the DD Waitlist and APD’s inaccessible [Application for Services](https://apd.myflorida.com/customers/application/) – English [DOC](https://apd.myflorida.com/forms/Attachment-D-Application%20for%20Services%2017-09-06.docx) | [PDF](https://apd.myflorida.com/forms/Attachment-D-Application%20for%20Services%2017-09-06.pdf) or Solicitud español [DOC](https://apd.myflorida.com/forms/Attachment-D-Application-for-services-FINAL-17-09-06_spanish-Final.docx) | [PDF](https://apd.myflorida.com/forms/Attachment-D-Application-for-services-FINAL-17-09-06_spanish-Final.pdf) or Aplikasyon Pou Mande Sèvis [DOC](https://apd.myflorida.com/forms/Attachment-D-Application-for-services-FINAL-17-09-06-HC_haitian%20creole-Final.docx) | [PDF](https://apd.myflorida.com/forms/Attachment-D-Application-for-services-FINAL-17-09-06-HC_haitian%20creole-Final.pdf)

* 1. **Liesl Ramos, Agency for Persons with Disabilities –** Denise provided updates for Liesl.

APD has been in the process of completing assessments of 1,500 clients with our new Individual Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) since June 2022. The federal Home and Community-Based Settings Final Rule requires a March 17, 2023, implementation date. However, providers must continue to render services in compliance with the specified requirements in the September 2021 iBudget Waiver Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook until the iBudget Waiver and Rate Table Rules are finalized and adopted by the Agency for Health Care Administration. 35,672 clients enrolled on the iBudget Waiver and there are 22,255 clients on the Waiting List for the iBudget Waiver.

* 1. **Gary Martoccio,** [**Self-Reliance, Inc.**](http://www.self-reliance.org/) **A Center for Independent Living** – Submitted a budged appropriation request for an additional $975,000. These funds will provide additional transition core services to both adults and youth. Collaboration with [Sunshine Health](https://www.sunshinehealth.com/) to provide services in home for those discharged from LTC centers or hospital into the community. Continuing partnership with DOJ for employment readiness programs for their constituents in the CIL catchment area. Home Modification program appropriation for $500,000 and $300,000 from Hillsborough County, also for home modifications. Last year $30,000 was set aside for consumer technology repairs and vehicle modifications. Please have families reach out if they have need of technology or vehicle assistance.

1. **Adjourn: Chatequa Pinkston adjourned meeting.**
2. **Next Meeting: Virtual June 23rd Noon – 1:15pm**