

**FCIC Community Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes   
Conference Call Friday, March 18th, 2022**

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

**CAC Members Present:** Chatequa Pinkston (Chair), Eddie Hall (Vice-Chair), Shelly Baer, Keith Berry, Liesl Ramos, Milton Moss (for John), Mercedes Ramirez, Margaret Hooper, Kimberly Spire-Oh.

**FCIC Staff Members:** Denise Barnes, Lise Fox, Don Kincaid, Telisha McKenzie, Liz Perkins.

**CAC Members Absent:** Krystal Sims, Debra Jones, Mildretta Williams, Danielle McGill, Wendy Metty, Selina O’Shannon, Gary Martoccio.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Chatequa Pinkston (Chair) welcomed everyone including new members to the first meeting in 2022.

**Roll Call:** Denise Barnes

1. **December 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval:** Kimberly Spire-Oh motioned to approve; Eddie Hall seconded, vote unanimous to accept minutes.
2. **FCIC CAC Members Highlights:**

**Mercedes Ramirez-** New member, has a Bachelor’s in Psychology and a Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling. Mother to daughter Lauren, who has autism and a severe form of epilepsy. Services are provided to her through APD. Mercedes has been involved in advocacy for individuals with disabilities for about 27 years. She previously served on New Jersey Developmental Disability Council. She has worked at the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. She has also worked as Mental Health Counselor, and with the Department of Juvenile Justice. She currently works in a private practice.

**Eddie Hall -** Big Bird Boats Project**.** The group started at a new venue, Crisp Park in St. Petersburg. To find out more visit [www.expeditelife.org](http://www.expeditelife.org).

**3. FCIC Highlights:**

**Elizabeth Perkins-** Covid-19 videos are complete. There are five versions of the videos, English, Spanish, and American sign language versions, featuring some of the CAC members. The two English versions, one about Covid-19, and one about Vaccinations were shown to the CAC. She encouraged all CAC members to share the videos. They can be accessed at <https://flfcic.cbcs.usf.edu/covid.html>

**Denise Barnes –** Shared flyers for upcoming events. March 24th Webinar, Technologies to Support Vocational Assessment and Matching. Promising Pathways Conference, Saturday, April 9th at Florida Gulf Coast University - CARD Satellite Office. Dr. Temple Grandin will be the keynote speaker. The FCIC’s Employment Virtual Conference; Talent Actualized Conference, Reimagining Talents and Supports, April 28th. Keynote speaker will be Kathy Davis, from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Business Services.

1. **DD Network Representative Updates:**

**Margaret Hooper, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council –** Legislative initiative, *Pay for My Care*. Encouraged legislators to raise wages for those who provide direct support (now $15 per hour). Stories were shared with legislators, including the difficulties accessing services for those on the waiver. There is a new healthcare pilot program in Orange County, a partnership with paramedics, and funded by their Covid grant. Overall aim is to encourage Covid-19 vaccinations, and will help with basic wellness assessment too. It will be offered as a free service. The goal is to access at least 200 families. <https://paramedicsforidd.org>.

**Shelly Baer, Mailman Center for Child Development –** LEND granttakes trainees year-round and takes public health and medical students. Last semester had two self-advocates that attended the LEND Program virtually. Their SALT program is looking to have an in-person meeting in May and virtual in June. A new clinic has opened for people with disabilities, transitioning out of Pediatric Care, called Progression Across Transitions in Healthcare (PATH). Shelly is currently acting as a Social Worker until care coordinators are hired.

1. **State Agency Updates:**

**Milton Moss, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation –** DVR’s New Agency Director is Brent McNeil**.** He has worked as a staff attorney.DVR is currently working on the implementation of a new database to track and record client information.

**Liesl Ramos, Agency for Persons with Disabilities –** Had a successful year in the legislature. APD’s Budget was $2.14 billion. $59.6 million for the waiting list to waiver enrollment, which will be mostly for individuals in crisis. Also, $8.5 million was received for dental repairment program. The Employment Enhancement Project received $1 million in funding.

**Kimberly Spire-Oh** – Kimberly Spire-Oh – Is on the board of an organization called Different Brains. http://differentbrains.org. It has a large database with neuro-diversity resources. They also have an internship program for the neurodiverse, which teaches them how to produce materials and media for the website. They will be presenting on Friday, April 23rd; “Demystifying Autism: Unveiling the Misconceptions” at CARD-FAU. Kimberly is also working on an individual project to prevent students with a disability from getting restrained in K-12.

1. **Adjournment: Eddie Hall, Vice-Chair, adjourned meeting 1:05pm**

**Next Meeting: Virtual, June 24th @ 12 noon.**