



Florida Center for INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

FCIC Community Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

Virtual (zoom) Thursday, December 15th, 2022

12:00 pm - 3:30 pm

CAC Members Present: Chatequa Pinkston (Chair), Eddie Hall (Vice Chair), Keith Berry, Margaret Hooper, John Howell, Lisa Bunn, Liesl Ramos, Shelly Baer, Margaret Hooper, Mercedes Jimenez Ramirez, Lauren Mills, Barbara Jones Marrero, Shelly Baer, Gary Martoccio, Liesl Ramos, Krystal Sims, Kimberley Spire-Oh, Harvey Brooks, Eddie Hall, Angela Roland, Jennifer Duggar, and Montoya (Matty) Wiczorek.

FCIC Staff Members:, Donald Kincaid, Elizabeth Perkins, Christopher Vatland, Denise Barnes, Laura Rodríguez López, Beth Boone, Siddiqua Alleyne.

CAC Members Absent: Debra Jones, Mildretta Williams, Selina O' Shannon, Danielle McGill.

Welcome & Introductions: Chatequa Pinkston, CAC Chair

Roll Call and Introductions conducted by Denise Barnes. New Members are as follows:

Lisa Bunn of Hillsborough County, parent and community advocate; Lauren Mills of Brevard County, self-advocate and graduate of Partners in Policy Making; Harvey Brooks of Manatee County, self-advocate, Exec Director of Sarasota CIL, Barbara Jones Marrero of Brevard County, a parent and a community advocate; Matti Wiczorek of Hillsborough County, a self-advocate and community-advocate.

October Minutes Approval: By unanimous vote the October meeting minutes were approved. *Please note due to power outages and interruption of recorded meeting/transcripts - the names of who motioned/2nd for approval were not recorded.*

1. FCIC Updates:

1. Dr. Don Kincaid: Annual Report/Search Committee
 - a. Transitions - Don updated the group on the pending retirement for Dr. Elizabeth Pekins on 2/21/2023. Today is her last CAC meeting. Dr. Beth Boone will assume the role of FCIC Associate Director and continue as the CARD Executive Director. Lisa Fox stepped down as FCIC director to take the chair of CFS position. Search Committee - A national search has begun for the FCIC/UCED Director. Don elaborated on the national search process. The final candidates will be required to do a Town Hall like presentation. CAC will have an opportunity to meet them. It is expected to have the position filled by the Fall of 2023.
 - b. Annual Report (See attachment) – FCIC has over 31 programs and projects with over 100 staff and faculty members. We have over 14-million-dollar grants and funding; providing free services, technical assistance, and trainings. Leverage of funding more than 13 million dollars allows us to provide a lot of direct services and research activities.

2. Dr. Liz Perkins: DD Waitlist
 - a. Since 2015, based on our community needs assessments, created an awareness campaign and hub to find out about the waitlist. Website created at www.DDWAITLISTFL.ORG. Topics include the data, how to get involved in advocacy, the DD Partners and how one can take action. There is also a Facebook page ([Florida DD Waitlist Campaign | Facebook](#)). News articles, interviews and other media pieces are shared, along with relevant reports. Waitlist is over 22K in Florida. Low wages and high turn-over make it hard to employ employees in the I/DD field. The Policy Brief tab will be updated in 2023 for the new legislative session. Aging caregivers - unfair expectation of priority service at age 70, would like to see that age lowered. Previously advocated for 10% reduction but that doesn't cover the growth from new applicants, so it is not decreasing the overall number. Urging FL to account for the population growth, and desire for people to age in place. As people age, they also tend to have increased support needs. Continue work with Margaret Hooper (Director of FDDC) and Tony diPalma (director of FDDC Public Policy). Currently creating a new document designed for reporters and community advocates to have compelling facts about the waitlist. Once developed – a small group of CAC members will be asked to review the materials and provide feedback, prior to it being released to the public.

3. Dr. Beth Boone: Transition to FCIC, CARD & TLA
 - a. Dr. Boone shared her background prior to USF and CARD and TLA. She has been in the field for over 20 years and worked at 4 different UCEDDs. She was previously a LEND Fellow, has a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and is a board-certified behavior analyst. Dr. Boone shared her phone number (813-974-4033) and email address (boone4@usf.edu) with the group.
 - b. [CARD-USF](#) is grant funded to serve persons with ASD across the lifespan, in 14 counties. CARD provides basic services for free but does not duplicate services provided by other agencies. CARD-USF served over 8,527 people; provided over 8K hours of support to the community. CARD-USF also creates and shares information and resources needed by the community, families and business. CARD-USF also provides technical assistance to the school districts and businesses becoming ASD Friendly. CARD had over 4500 Technical Assistance contacts, provided over 192 training to over 3000 participants. The list includes first responders, hospitals, community groups, etc. CARD's safety initiatives are promoted with community partners and services for our families. CARD, like FCIC, has a Constituency Board comprised of people with ASD and family members of persons with ASD. CARD USF has an [e-library](#) open to families, professionals and persons with ASD. This is provided at no charge. Dr Boone encouraged following CARD-USF on social Media. [FB](#), [Pinterest](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).
 - c. [The Learning Academy](#) provides a 2 semester transition program (USF Tampa) for youth and adults with ASD. They also provide employment services in a 14-county area. LAES (Learning Academy Employment Services) has partnered with MTC and DVR to provide transition, technology certification and automation certification. Employment services, technical assistance and training offered to 280 individuals, 19 businesses and potential employers.
 - d. Dr. Laura Rodriguez Lopez, FCIC Training Director - OJT Program/Dissertation. Dr. Laura Rodriguez Lopez presented highlights from her dissertation, *A Program Evaluation for Community Scholars: A Diversity Pipeline Program to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for People with Disabilities*. Dr. Rodriguez Lopez also discussed the community scholars' program. FCIC's Interdisciplinary Training programs primary goal is to educate pre-service professionals and provide them with tools the tools that they need to promote inclusion for people with disabilities in their future practices. The programs were offered as part of the training at FCIC lead to certifications (the PBS graduate certificate), or degrees (MS in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health – concentration in Developmental Disabilities). We currently have 38 trainees this year, also partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation and the Grow Group Employment agency to become an authorized work site and

offer our participants OJT. Created a new Self-Advocacy core curriculum training module produced by our participants as a more nuanced approach to community integration and inclusion. Currently seeking external funding that will help grow, support, and sustain the diversity pipeline program outside of our current partnership with the Grow Group.

2. Self-Advocate/Family Member Updates:

- a. Chatequa Pinkston – Had several events with Hidden Treasure Ministries: CP Redefined Workshop (online), Christmas Celebration, and a picnic at the Yes! I Can accessible playground in Tampa. She also published book # 7 and 8 – CP Redefined: Redefining CP According to the Word of God and its companion workbook/study guide.
- b. Mercedes Jimenez Ramirez (via Denise Barnes) shared continued concerns with the special needs shelters during hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Discussion proceeded with APD, FDDC, and others about the need for a guidebook for shelters when dealing with those with I/DD. Denise shared she is working on a committee that is creating a guidebook but was sidelined by the actual hurricanes striking in 2022. Updates will be provided when the book is finalized.

3. Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Updates:

- a. Shelly Baer, [Mailman Center UCEDD](#) (Director of Leadership Training initiatives and Pipeline programs):
Mailman is working on a toolkit for involving PWD in research, and may be involved in a pilot for this project. Self-Advocates Leadership Training (SALT), next class will be in person in February. A Texas SA group is interested in replicating their SALT project. Staff changes, Dr. Jeff Brosco, no longer the Associate Director due to taking a federal position (Director for the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs at the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau), Dr. Michelle Schladant is their new Associate Director. Dr. Danny Armstrong continues as Director of the Mailman Center. Upcoming events include their Innovation and Connection conferences held 3 times a year. They are a full day's program on different themes and different topics, such as lifespan issues, inter-professional collaboratives, legal guardianship, communication skills, health disparities. Their Progression Across Transitions in Healthcare (PATH) clinic has now been open for over 1 year.
- b. Margaret D Hooper, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at [Florida Developmental Disabilities Council](#): Expands the capacity of persons with I/DD to live in the community. Educates legislatures on ideas/recommendations needed to do so. Advocates for funding to fulfill access to services, interactive technology, and home and community-based services. Aging Caregivers initiative to streamline services for aging caregivers and persons with I/DD who are aging. Currently assessing services, needs and how to combine services without duplication. Legislative Initiatives are on the website at www.fddc.org/advocacy. Support Coordination, Case management, Behavior analyst and direct care workforces are decreasing. Over 5000 Baker Acts this year, current staffing and services are not appropriate to work with challenging behaviors. Dr. Boone will be contacted for strategies. Also continuing to work on Supported Decision Making. Foster care system also needs behavior assistance and diversion services to help prevent children going into the foster care system. The Florida DD Awareness Day [FL DD Day](#) is March 14th, 2023. Will be sending out toolkits for those that can't travel to Tallahassee to guide them in activities to do in their local areas or in conjunction with the Florida DD Day. Legislative session for 2023 is Feb 8th to May 5th, 2023.
- c. Selina O' Shannon, [Disability Rights Florida](#) (Shared by Denise Barnes): Over 1500 Transition Toolkits have been disseminated. The website will allow people to access the Toolkit's materials

electronically. The Group is also working on publishing a Braille version of the Toolkit. DRF Issues and Litigation/Administrative Relief; Denials of Effective Communication at Medical Facilities. DRF has filed multiple complaints recently with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights to address medical providers' failure to provide effective communication to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. FAPE Denials Related to Staffing Shortages; DRF is seeing many education cases in which districts are failing to implement IEPs or seeking to change services based on staffing shortages.

4. State Agency Updates:

- a. Liesl Ramos, [Agency for Persons with Disabilities](#): Adult Day Training (ADT) and Employment redesign pursuant to CMS HCB Settings Rule: ADT Service: Revised to include life skills and social development skills and remove job training activities; Prevocational Service: New service to work on prevocational high level, non-job-task specific skills; Supported Employment: Individual and group employment assistance in competitive integrated employment. More information at: <https://apd.myflorida.com/providers/supported-employment>. The agency is compiling an Adult Day Training Guidebook and rates for revised services and program options for providers. Recruiting individuals for Adult Project Search Sites (The Arc of Putnam County - Palatka, FL, ARC of Martin County – Stuart, FL, Goodwill Suncoast - Clearwater, FL, and MacDonald Training Center – Tampa, FL. For more information on the Adult Project SEARCH, Courtney Swilley, Member Services Director, Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (FARF) d/b/a RESPECT of Florida, Inc., cswilley@floridaarf.org. APD currently serves a total of 35,437 clients on the Home and Community-Based Services iBudget Waiver. There are currently 22,492 clients on the Waiting List to receive services from the HCBS iBudget Waiver. Total Number of Clients enrolled on the iBudget Waiver from 7/1/22 – 12/1/22 was 599.
- b. FLDOE: [Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services \(BEES\)](#): Introduction and welcome of our new FLDOE representatives Jennifer Duggar (State Lead: Speech/Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Orthopedic Impairments, and Physical Therapy) and Angela Roland (State Lead: Specific Learning Disabilities, Other Health Impairment, and Hospital Homebound).
- c. John Howell, [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](#): Helps PWD to obtain competitive employment. DVR services varying disabilities to go to work. ArtCIE Grants for competitive employment in arts, entertainment and recreation in integrated work settings. Pilots will occur in Sumter, Duval and Washington Counties. Sumter county has already phased out their day programs. Project Search funding has been extended until Sept 2023 for existing sites. FL hosted SERID conference (SouthEast Regional Institute On Deafness) in Altamont Springs. Over 300 people participated.
- d. Gary Martoccio, Self-Reliance/Center for Independent Living: State and federally funded. Bulk of funding comes from ACL and is matched by FL. 16 centers that provide 5 core services: Peer Mentoring, advocacy, ID living skills and training, Transition, and Information and Referral. Funding increase of over \$900,000 for Adult transition and health needs for individuals in nursing homes, getting persons from hospital to home due to equipment needs. Partnered with DOJ for released inmates with disabilities for employment readiness. This is in pilot stage at 4 centers. Also highlighted the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Assistant Services program ([JPPAS](#)). Seeking employed persons who need assistance to pay for personal care services needed while working. Income limits are up to \$150K annually. CILs worked post hurricane Ian and continue to transition people back into their homes, provide food, water and or durable medical equipment.

Elder Affairs awarded them \$600,000 for home modification of seniors over the age of 62 in Hillsborough County. Services for July 2022 to June 30th, 2023. New Hard of Hearing programs implemented. Contact your local CILS for services in your areas.

5. Recognitions, Thanks You's and Farewell's: Dr. Don Kincaid/Denise Barnes

We thanked Eddie Hall and Danielle McGill who renewed to a second 3 year term on the CAC! We said goodbye to Dr. Chris Vatland (FCIC Staff) who has a new position as a Data Associate with the Yang Tan Institute at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY; Mildretta Williams, Kimberly Spire-Oh, Krystal Sims, and Debra Jones - We thanked them for their service over the past 3-6 years and wish them well in their future endeavors. We also said and shared farewell wishes to Dr. Liz Perkins as this is her last meeting before she retires in February. All of the CAC members are invited to her retirement event.

Adjournment: Chatequa Pinkston adjourned the meeting at 3.30pm.

Next Meeting: Virtual, Friday March 24, 2023 via Zoom. 12 noon – 1.15pm

Handouts: Minutes, PPT, Annual Report Card, Dates for 2023