

**Florida Association of Social Services Executives  
Business Meeting  
December 1, 2004  
Sarasota Hyatt  
Minutes**

**Report from JoeAnne Hart, Health and Human Services Liaison, Florida Association of Counties**

JoeAnne discussed the Medicaid COR issue—stating that there is discussion to streamline the process. One thought is for it to be billed to the county monthly, quarterly, annually. From the Medicaid discussion workgroup they agreed to it—the state is supportive of eliminating the COR process and the group discussed how that would be laid out without over-billing. The issue of new nursing homes coming into the area then adding new beds was discussed. JoeAnne indicated that there is a moratorium on new nursing homes until 2010. Beth and Evelyn will represent FACSSE for the Medicaid COR issues and the group endorsed them unanimously. The next meetings are December 9, 2004 from 1:00PM-5:00PM, January 20, 2005 1:00PM-5:00PM and February 3, 2005 1:00PM-5:00PM with the final report due March 1, 2005. By the time of the January meeting the group will have nailed down most issues if not by February. JoeAnne reported that the report is due to the legislature, committee staff and to FAC by March 1, 2005.

**Old Business:**

Beth attended the NACO conference for Health and Human Services. Louie indicated that the Workforce group had at one time sought to break away from the Health and Human Services of NACO. She relayed a story of a young woman who was in foster system.

Fred the social worker conference was scheduled to be in Escambia County. Fred will contact Marilyn to see if it can be switched to Lee County for this year due to the Hurricane damage and let Escambia County be the one after that. Fred will ask Ann to be the social worker conference planner. Ann asked about the potential number of folks that might attend for planning services. Fred asked Ann to send something out on the list serv requesting that information. The group agreed. Ann also asked about topics they would like to hear as well. Fred indicated that the other thing that they had done was allocate dollars. Louie made a motion to authorize \$2,000 for the conference, second from Gloria for the social worker conference—all agreed.

Fred indicated that the workshop for the afternoon was not listed on the brochure. There will be a workshop on the interim issues for providing social services as the result of the disasters—lessons learned. It will be this afternoon at 2PM. Fred will send a letter from either Fred or the President to FAC to let them know of this oversight.

Clark Scott Pinellas County on the interim assistance authorization forms so that all counties will be using a similar form. Several counties have not sent back to David Hines to the state that would allow them to reimburse counties for expenditures prior to being determined eligible for disability. Some counties are still doing a manual system. If you have questions contact Clark. There was much discussion on issues related to this opportunity for obtaining funding.

Nominations for the FACSSE Award need to be submitted by April for the June meeting.

**New Business:**

Policy issues have been discussed.

The new process for the annual conference. They are asking for papers that they think are good for the general group; they schedule that for the general FACSSE membership. Marilyn sent that recently via email. It is unclear as to what that will do for the FACSSE meetings. If you've done something that is extraordinary it should be promoted for consideration for the annual conference. If you've got topics—you can mail to [Fmurray@Broward.org](mailto:Fmurray@Broward.org).

Fred asked to go around the table for community updates:

**Pinellas County.** Homeless policy taskforce, a consortium of community leaders, representatives from faith based, working on a ten-year plan to end homelessness. Planning and delivery of Human Services

**Monroe County.** Louie asked what each county does in dealing with evacuation and handling the elderly. Louie handles the special needs shelter; he discussed the program for evacuating and registering seniors. Louie indicated that the Monroe is creating pet friendly shelters for the elderly—approved by the board, with (5) special needs shelters identified with some of the facility for people with pets. There was discussion of the issue of pet shelters for hurricanes with recommendations that the Monroe County effort be described in the June workshops. Louie indicated that Volusia County has led the state in this effort.

**St. John's County** has developed a Health and Human Services Department with a new director. She was the former director of the mental health department. Community Based Care, Mental Health Department, Social Services Department, the Independent Agency Contracts department with Maria as the head. Gloria is the head of Independent Contracts and Social Services. First started this new reorganization in October and working out the kinks. Community Based care is working well. District 4, St. John's County is considered the leader. St. John's County took over because of the need to keep track of the monies. Now trying to get a direct appropriation from the state to the county and are looking at this as a possible.

**Alachua County.** Did the referendum for ½ penny sales tax for Human Services.

**Pasco County.** Discussion of cremation of indigent burials. Providing direct burial or direct cremation. Could not hear remainder of report on the tape. Louie indicated that you should fingerprint all of your paupers because of future identification of the body in case someone seeks to locate the person. Louie indicates that the police department or ME do it.

Fred indicated that the Pet Shelter and the Health related issues that might be brought forward for the general membership.

**Clark County**—had a change in county commissioners. Discussion regarding HCRA issues was brought up.

**Lee County.** Discussion on the crisis services in the county was described and how it relates to substance abuse issues. The mental health court established two years ago has been very successful. Ann Arnall provided some examples of individuals served in the process. Crisis Intervention Teams in Lee County are being started. The folks from Memphis will be working with Lee County law enforcement to develop the capacity for this. Supportive Housing issues with CDBG have been developed.

**Alachua County.** ¼ cent sales tax did pass. They are looking for a CHOICES Health Services Director. With that CHOICES program, they are looking for formalizing, but will be providing primary care; they are meeting with the Dean of the Dental School as well as trying to provide to do something creative with the crisis services—the tax passed by 85 people. Currently developing a CHOICES advisory board. Are holding a homeless summit in March to work with the city to implement a 10-year plan to end homelessness. Responsible for working with Red Cross for mass care.

**Collier County.** Updating an Emergency Departmental procedure. If there were any counties in a self-sufficiency program would like to hear about that.

**Broward County.** Just lost one of the big mental health providers and have gone out of business. Working on combining primary care and mental health services. Access Independent grant for 130K. Hope Grant working with wraparound services to prevent/address homelessness. Providers are completing comprehensive assessments. Human Services Business plan is developed.