

**Florida Association of County Social Service Executives
Annual Conference
Business Meeting
June 21, 2001
9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees (with County)

Marilyn Wesley, Escambia
Beth Ryder, St. Lucie
Fletcher Smith, Lake
Rik Jimison, Sarasota
Gay N. Williams, Brevard
Sylvia Thompson-Warren,
Becky Gregory, Palm Beach
Elmira K. Warren, Alachua
Marion Henson, DOH
Kelly Studenwalt, Charlotte
Ed Smith, Polk
Karen Hawes, Lee
Ann Arnall, Lee
Martha Skinner, Collier
Joe Anne Hart, FAC
Cliff Smith, Pinellas Marcia Walker, Pinellas
Jean Vleming, Pinellas
Evelyn Bethel, Pinellas
Louis LaTorre, Monroe
Gloria Fordham, Volusia
Antonia Barber, Hillsborough
Fred Murry, Broward
Virgil Green, Duval
Jean Rags, Hernando
Royetta Runyon, Pasco
Adelaida D. Reyes, Pasco
Rebecca Falmlen, Alachua
Susan MacLean, St. John's
Gloria Benischeck, St. John's
Kevin Roberts, Highlands
Cindy Simpson, Martin
Elaine Maholtz, Manatee
Amy Merrill, Manatee

I. Welcome and Introductions – Rik Jimison

II. Review/Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2000

Kevin Roberts motioned to accept the minutes and Fletcher Smith seconded.

III. Legislative Update – Joe Anne Hart

A. State

1. Community Alliances and Community Based Care

Joe Anne reported that there was little legislation this year regarding Community Based Care. Some Counties have established Community Alliances and the goal is to have all involved in Community Based Care by 2003. She stressed that those present stay involved in the activities of their counties. A recent bill established a Community partnership matching grant program to be operated by the Department of Children and Families to encourage local participation in the community-based care program.

2. Elder Issues

This was a priority issue this year. The legislature looked at nursing homes and passed Senate Bill 1200.402, changing some aspects of how nursing homes will be governed. Last summer, the Department of Elder Affairs reviewed reducing funding for CCE and putting it into home-based care in order to increase the federal dollars granted for the program. Representative Maygarden proposed changing the way the law governs CCE. No legislation was passed, but CCE funding was reduced by \$4.6 million and the anticipated increased funding was not received. The nursing home bill passed and includes a provision that places a moratorium that limits the increase in Medicaid nursing home expenditures, provides flexibility for available dollars to be invested in Community Based Care (such as CCE), and allows for residents to be referred to Community Based Services.

Louis LaTorre discussed the Title V Senior Employment Program. As of July 1, 2001, the state has taken control of 723 of the 3800 slots available under this program. A national sponsor, AARP, represents 16 counties in the state, but six of the counties are without representation; 78% of the money goes to the national sponsor and the remaining 22% goes to the state. Mr. LaTorre listed Collier, Alachua, and Charlotte as having no other national sponsor than AARP. Martha Skinner discussed cuts in their counties.

*Most nursing homes
operating with
insurance
needs to
increase*

3. Proposed Medicaid County Billing Changes

Senate Bill 792 passed. The state will be shifting dollars from their responsibility to that of the counties'. The numbers received from ACHA are only an estimate, but most counties will receive three months of billing not planned for.

Evelyn Bethel suggested the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to educate the County Commissioners on Medicaid billing. Joe Anne reinforced this idea by stating that the impact on the budget needs to be discussed.

Beth Ryder discussed how her county chose to ignore this budget impact. She added that she was advised to speak to the Appropriations Committee two weeks before the legislature met. Karen Hawes continued the discussion. Louis LaTorre stressed the importance of being more involved with the County Commissioners.

4. Mental Health Issues

Senate Bill 1258 establishes the permission for DCF to test methods and techniques before integrating and managing the delivery of mental health and substance abuse treatment services. The bill creates a Behavioral Health Services Integration Workgroup with county representatives. The Commissioners need information to select person to appoint.

5. Kid Care

The House proposed that a local match be made to the surplus in the Healthy Kids account in the amount of \$28million. It was appropriated last year to fund health insurance for children but only half was used. The FAC suggested using those dollars to replace the local match. The Governor, however, wants counties to participate. He believes that it is unconstitutional that the Healthy Kids Board has the authority to deal with local match. The subject has been referred to judicial review.

There will be Working Group this summer to review the local match issue.

Karen Hawes motioned that Task Force Groups be formed that correspond to each of the aforementioned issues. Fletcher Smith seconded. All concurred.

The Legislative session will start on January 22, 2001. The Interim Committee for the Legislature starts in September and the Policy Committee meetings will be October 3, 4, and 5 in Orlando, FL.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Fletcher Smith

A. Financial Update

Fletcher Smith reported the balances below:

Checking	\$4526.69	
Deposits	2032.04	(Dues, Volusia County's return of money for 2000 Conference)
Expenditures	707.00	
Balance	\$5850.37	
CD	\$5000.00	

B. Membership Update

A letter has been sent to participating counties that have not yet paid their dues. The above balance is approximately \$1100 short of expected receipts.

C. Audit

An audit is to be performed by the Internal Auditor of the Clerk's Office in Lake County.

A motion to accept the Financial Report was made and seconded. All agreed.

- V. FACSSE Survey: Results, Updates, The Future –led by Karen Hawes**
Information was sent to every county. About 50 percent responded. Karen stated the survey would be administered again in November. The survey was a great help in presenting counties' expenditures and issues to the legislature.

- VI. Medicaid County Billing (previously discussed, see III, A, 3.)**

VII. Presentation of Sutton Award

The Sutton Award was presented to Evelyn Bethel. Martha Skinner was presented a retirement gift.

VIII. Old Business

Beth Ryder will attend the NACHSA national conference on behalf of the affiliate.

IX. New Business

A. Social Workers' Conference

Gloria reported on the conference and distributed Budget handouts. Martha Jones and Olivia Gallagher received \$50 Savings Bonds. Gloria was thanked for an outstanding job.

A mailing will be done to solicit volunteer to organize the August 2002 Conference.

- B. **PROPOSAL:** The FACSSE Executive Committee voted to have two additional business meetings during the coming year. The first will be held in Orlando prior to the Legislative Conference (the morning of October 4th.) The second will occur before the Legislative Session, right after the first of the year (January 2002), to finalize legislative priorities and anything else that needs to be discussed.

Beth mentioned that the Medicaid issue was a catalyst for the additional meetings because the members thought that it would have been extremely beneficial to discuss the issue before the legislature met.

County budget issues in terms of paying for extra days were cited as a concern. Karen asserted that the timing of the extra meeting is a very important consideration as topics of concern arise during the legislative session.

Karen Hawes motioned to accept two additional meetings and Ed Smith seconded; all agreed.

October is when the legislative issues are finalized for the following January, according to one member.

- C. **PROPOSAL:** A **non-annual** award for a **non-FACSSE** member whom we believe has contributed sufficiently to human services in the community, the county, or the state to deserve recognition. This award will serve the purpose of FAC's legislative awards, but is **not** limited to legislators.

Rik gave the example of a recipient as a county that develops a health care system with the option sales tax or Kevin Roberts and his Children's Services Foundation should be recognized. Rik continued that there is not an agency that recognizes human services innovation and initiative on a statewide basis and he believes that this should be done and FACSSE is a logical organization to do so.

All agreed that the recipient **does not** have to be a non-FACSSE member. A member suggested using criteria based on national programs of this nature. Louis LaTorre motioned that the Executive Committee establish criteria and accept this proposal; Fletcher Smith seconded. All agreed.

- D. **Need for By-Laws Review**

Rik stated that it has been several years since the by-laws have been examined. Marilyn asked if an amendment is necessary to include the addition of two business meetings. Karen motioned that the Executive Committee review the by-laws and Louis LaTorre seconded.

Antonia Barber requested assistance from other counties regarding An issue she is working on.

E. Discussion

A member asked about the new Certificate of Residency form. Mr. LaTorre reminded that applicants' forms should be returned if they list a Post Office Box or General Delivery, as this is not allowed. Mr. LaTorre motioned that the Certificate of Residency Form be reviewed. The form is referred to in the Medicaid handbook issued by the Department of Children and Families and they should be made aware of this issue as well as contacted with any other questions regarding the form. Rik Jimison offered the Medicaid Billing Task Force to study it. Louis LaTorre withdrew his motion.

Kelly said that Heather Johnson faxed her a funding formula for counties to plan for Medicaid billing and she will fax the to Beth Ryder to disseminate.

Karen Hawes asked for volunteers for the survey. She would like the survey to be resent to the counties that did not respond and asked that the representatives assist in making sure their county responds. The volunteers are Rik Jimison, Beth Ryder, Becky Gregory, Fred Murry, and Cliff Thall.

Marilyn Wesley asked how other counties are handling the monies from the Choose Life license plate to be distributed in July. Ann Arnall provided information regarding an RFP from her County distributing the information to all agencies listed under Abortion Alternatives in the yellow pages as well as Catholic Charities. Right to Life was the only respondent with a bid so she gave them a standard county contract. Her county received \$15,000. She added that the criteria is based on who and how many will be helped and how effective the applicant can be.

Another member explained that her county received \$26,000 and that one agency awarded the contract will serve as a 'lead agency' and they will evenly divide the money coming to the county and taking care of the necessary forms.

Ann said that a legal ruling prohibits Children's Home Society From applying.

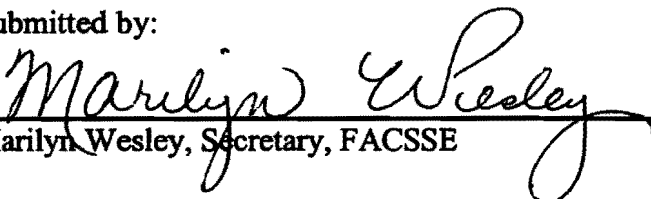
Louis LaTorre announced that there is a NACO Conference on July 13 through 17 in Philadelphia. The NACO Human Services and Workforce Conference will be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from November 7 to 11, 2001. There is more information on the NACO website and Beth will also send information.

Antonia Barber asked if there were any issues regarding the Faith-Based initiative. Discussion ensued.

Louis LaTorre discussed his meeting recently with Marlene Wilson, Human Service Director of Broward County, who suggested that there be a merger between FACSSE and the Florida Association of County Aging Executives. Karen motioned that there be a separate committee to discuss this issue. Louis LaTorre seconded. All agreed that the Chair should be someone with an aging program in their county. The committee will be Sylvia Thompson-Warren, Louis LaTorre, Martha Skinner, Kelly Studenwalt, and Kevin Roberts (Chair).

End of Meeting

Submitted by:


Marilyn Wesley, Secretary, FACSSE

AD HOC TASK FORCES:

Community Alliance

Fletcher Smith, Chair
Karen Hawes, Lee County
Chip Taylor

Elder Issues

Brenda Quattlebeen
Adelaida Reyes
Sylvia Thompson-Warren
Myra Price
Kelly Studenwalt
Louis LaTorre, Chair

Medicaid Billing

Evelyn Bethel, Chair
Delores Taylor
Beth Ryder
Royetta Runyon
Toni Barber
Marcia Walker, Pinellas
Elmira Warren, Alachua
Marion Henson, Clay
Kelly Studenwalt, Charlotte
Ed Smith, Polk
Susan Oliver, Lee
Cliff Smith, Pinellas

Mental Health

Chip Taylor, chair
Ed Smith, Polk
Anne Arnall
Jean Vleming, Pinellas

Kid Care

Rik Jimison
Kevin Roberts
Gay N. Williams, Brevard