

Florida Association of County Human Service Administrators
FAC 2011-12 Policy Committee Conference
FACHSA Business Meeting – Volusia County
September 22, 2011

Members Present:

Elmira Warren, Alachua County
Susan Myers, Broward County
Kate Parmelee, Martin County
Celestia McCloud, Osceola County
Angela Sterling, Osceola County
Claudia Tuck, Palm Beach County
Cliff Smith, Pinellas County
Mary Buccigrossi, Pinellas County
Clark Scott, Pinellas County
Yonaira M. Rivera, Pinellas County
N.D. Jackson, Pinellas County
Wilma Daniels, Polk County
Jan Howell, Polk County
Beth Ryder, St. Lucie County
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County
Wayne Applebee, Sarasota County
Pat James, Volusia County

Others Present:

Heather Wildermuth, FAC

Welcome:

Meeting called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Pauline Tracy.

Introductions

Legislative Overview

Heather Wildermuth explained the process of the policy conference as an opportunity for FAC staff to meet with the membership to discuss priorities and issues. Staff then conducts research and makes formal policy recommendations at the legislative conference in November.

Health and Human Services Agenda

Heather discussed the upcoming 2012 legislative session and noted areas of concern for HHS to include a review by Senator Negron of funding for adult substance abuse and mental health services which he refers to as “soft services”; as well as the need for continued efforts to protect state funding for Healthy Families.

The discussion then focused on the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program (no longer referred to as Medicaid Reform as it is now law) and three key areas which are of concern to include:

- 1) County Health Departments – Since local HD’s are prohibited from being Medicaid providers, it has been suggested that they become FQHC’s. Also, discussions on the

percentage providers are allowed for medical loss ratio as well as the Low Income Pool (LIP) being in jeopardy due to the Affordable Care Act (a waiver may be passed but only until 12/31/13).

- 2) Transportation Disadvantaged program – asking for this to be carved out and not folded into managed care because it is already capitated. HMO's will only have to provide rides to physicians and medical services, no other types of trips which will result in a fragmented system. Also, no requirement that HMOs must contract with current provider.
- 3) Medically Needy – potential reduction as in previous years.

Additional discussion on Medicaid share of cost. There is the potential that managed care will drive costs down which revived the conversation about the need to develop a fair formula which was the focus of a former FACHSA workgroup in 2004. It was decided that FACHSA would reconvene the Medicaid workgroup to develop new recommendations on how the Medicaid cost share is administered. The workgroup will consist of small, medium and large counties. Pinellas and Broward volunteered to participate.

Miscellaneous

- Choose Life – passed last session, difficult due to much misinformation
- Unclaimed bodies – is chemical cremation consistent with statute? Nothing currently prevents in statute. Roberson will likely sponsor a larger bill to include standardizing the Medical Examiner's fee to certify cremations as he believes many counties are increasing fees which varies widely and is frustrating for funeral homes who serve many counties. Also wants to support exemption of the fee for indigent cases handled by counties.
- Bill filing deadline is in November – get a move on!
- Felon billing issue – FAC has taken a neutral stance as counties have different experiences and opinions on this issue.
- Homelessness – HB0105, SB0160 – tax credit for corporations who hire the homeless - support statement

Susan presented several issues impacting Broward (Juvenile Justice alternative programs, increases in arrestee medical expenses, food inspections for child care centers) and asked if any other counties were experiencing anything similar. Other counties were not experiencing the same issues

Kate from Martin County asked for support to recommend to the HHS committee to expand the list of those authorized to conduct in jail psych assessments to include Licensed Mental Health Counselors in addition to psychiatrists and psychologists. The group supported the addition.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.