

**Florida Association of County Social Service Executives**  
**Radisson Hotel Orlando**  
**Business Meeting**  
**November 14, 2001**  
**9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**

**Members Present:**

Rik Jimison, President	Sarasota
Beth Ryder, President-Elect	St. Lucie
Marilyn Wesley, Secretary	Escambia
Fletcher Smith, Treasurer	Lake
Joe Anne Hart, FAC H&HS Liason	Leon
Susan Myers	Alachua
Elmira Warren	Alachua
Fred Murry	Broward
Anne Westbrook	Citrus
Tom D'Aprile	Charlotte
Marion Hinson	Clay
Barry Williams	Collier
Jean Rags	Hernando
Joyce Johnston-Carlson	Indian River
Karen Hawes	Lee
Ann Arnall	Lee
Cheryl Bass	Martin
Louis Latorre	Monroe
Heidi Denis	Osceola
Royetta Runyon	Pasco
Becky Gregory	Palm Beach
Kevin Gay	Palm Beach
Evelyn Bethell	Pinellas
Marcia Walker	Pinellas
Gloria Benischeck	St. Johns
Susan MacLean	St. Johns

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Legislative Update**

The Local Match for Healthy Kids was challenged by the governor who said that since it was not legally binding in the budget, a separate bill is necessary. This case will be heard on November 28 to determine if the law will stand. It should be a one-day trial.

Joe Anne informed the group that she has requested that the Department of Children and Families' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to

meet to look at local match formula. Some counties overpay their local match. At the initial meeting on November 20, they will review objectives and Joe Anne requested the assistance of the members present to submit opinions about the local match formula. Becky Gregory asserted that her county is pleased with the current local match expenditure. Joe Anne assured the group that they do not want to make a proposal that will increase the costs to the counties.

Joe Anne discussed Medicaid. During the first special session, there was a budget shortfall and the costs are usually shifted to counties. The nursing home and hospital increases were concerns of the members. The Senate wanted to increase the \$55 cap for nursing homes to \$90. The House looked at increasing the \$55 cap to \$140 shifting to counties. Both proposals are unacceptable because these increases are meant for this fiscal year and the counties' budgets are already set. She stressed that the members inform their County Commissioners about how social service issues will impact their budgets and that the legislature sees this issues as a "scapegoat" because when the budget is not balanced, Education and Health and Human Services are the first to have funding decreased. The Senate's proposal would have saved \$5 million, but the impact to counties would be \$10 million (because of different fiscal years -- June versus October.) The House plan would have saved the state \$26 million, but the impact to counties would have been \$37 million. It is important for the Commissioners to understand that the legislature needs to pass this in a separate bill.

Joe Anne distributed an article stating that in 1970, the state required that counties assume 10 per cent of the Medicaid costs for nursing home care not covered by the federal government. The legislature has taken this example and compared it to the counties' share today. The 2 percent that the legislators' claim is really 164 percent in the House and 55 percent increase in the Senate.

The special session begins on November 26 and an agreement will be reached by December 6. Counties were mandated by law to pay hospital costs from the 13<sup>th</sup> day to the 45<sup>th</sup> day. Last session, it was moved to the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 45<sup>th</sup> day and now there is a move to change it to the 10<sup>th</sup> day. Beth Ryder agrees that this shows that the "2 percent" increase claim is inaccurate.

Kevin Roberts suggested presenting the handout with the aforementioned statistics to the County Commissioners.

Fletcher asked about the status of Community Based care. Joe Anne answered that this has been moved to April 2002.

**III. Review/Approval of Minutes – June 27, 2001 – Marilyn Wesley**

Marilyn announced that the FACSSE Directory is available and for members to mark any changes on the copy. The minutes were approved.

**IV. Committee Reports:**

**A. Medicaid County Billing – Evelyn Bethell**

This topic will be discussed during the meeting this afternoon.

**B. Mental Health – Ann Arnall**

Ann reported that the summary of the 2001-02 budget revisions from the Special Session is that community mental health and substance abuse programs funded by DCF escaped cuts and there were no cuts for special projects for community mental health providers. However, there were decreases in the Medicaid program that will affect mental health consumers or people in need of services as the Medically Needy program for adults. She noted the \$3 million cut for the Department of Corrections for substance abuse and rehabilitation treatment for inmates, cuts in the Juvenile Justice programs for runaways in need of services, and cuts affecting the Department of Health for tobacco control and school programs.

Ann continued by stating that the largest movement is the Mental Health Insurance Parity Bill that treats mental illnesses and brain disorders as any other medical disorder. This seems to be moving ahead.

Ann described the Outreach Program that accompanies recovering residents into the community to help them assimilate. She added that Drug Court dollars would remain in place.

**C. Community Alliances – Fletcher Smith**

Fletcher noted that Lake County alliance and steering committees have been meeting and are moving forward. Susan Howell faxed Fletcher the homepage for finding the situation reports for community-based care; this is helpful for those interested in the status of their county's district. Lake County is working on developing an RP for competitive procurement process; their deadline is the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

Fletcher distributed a handout detailing the status of the counties' progresses. There are thirty-four formal community alliances, with two counties preparing to ratify their bylaws in the last quarter of the calendar year. There are twenty-four single county alliances and nine multi-county alliances. There is a list of lead agency contacts as well as the projected status through June 2002. The due date may be moved up to February 2002.

Kevin Roberts asked about non-participation of counties. Fletcher answered that DCF met to discuss this issue and it was decided that the responsibility would fall to DCF; however, this has never been formalized.

Rik commented that Bob Morin, the District 7 Administrator, would make a presentation this afternoon about how his district will implement community alliances on a local level. He asked how much money DCF will save by moving date to February and if funding will be assumed at local level by community alliances.

**D. KidCare – Kevin Roberts**

Kevin discussed that the Governor wants each county to participate in the local match, but the legislature does not. The legislature wants to eliminate the local match for one year only, but counties may pay more in the long run. There was some discussion on individual counties' approach to local match. More information may be found on the website.

Fred Murry asked about the number of slots available as he had heard that there were thirty thousand. Kevin responded that he was unaware of the limitation on KidCare availability.

**E. County Survey – Karen Hawes**

Thirty of sixty-seven counties have responded to the survey. The intent of the survey was to discover how much counties invest in human services across the state so that legislators understand that counties make a significant investment in human services.

Karen noted that if a county was not an affiliate, the survey was mailed to the County Manager. She distributed a handout detailing the responses received. The Task Force will email the survey to those counties who have not responded and give them another deadline. It should be updated by mid-December. The formats will include one that lists mandated and non-mandated items. Karen motioned to amend the bylaws to have to survey be an

annual update. Rik summarized that this information may be "captured" by the end of the September (the fiscal year) so that it may be used during the legislative session. Kevin seconded. All agreed and motion was passed unanimously. The survey data is kept in an Excel spreadsheet.

**F. Indigent Health Care Task Force – Ed Smith**

Mr. Smith is not present. The intent of the task force is to determine where counties are in terms of indigent health care to develop a common statewide approach.

**V. FACAE – Louis Latorre**

Mr. Latorre discussed several issues. He mentioned that Welfare Reform was reviewed at the NACO conference and that TANF supported the reauthorization of the Act. NACO's Task force recommendation was distributed. He continued that in March, this issue would be taken to Congress. It is possible that there will be no more welfare reform after five years. He urged members to be involved in the TANF reorganization.

Mr. Latorre continued that the Congress has agreed on \$1.7 billion in appropriations for Social Services. The House wants to allow transfers of up to 10 % while the Senate favors up to 6.5%. The Older Americans Act has been increased by 10%. Prescription drugs remain an issue.

Mr. Latorre distributed the Aging Project Survey handout. He added that most Nursing Homes in Florida do not have health insurance coverage and most are expected to fail. Most have lost their insurance coverage due to high rates because of several lawsuits. He suggested having a speaker present to the members the problems of nursing home insurance coverage in the state of Florida; the nursing home is required to have \$12,000 in coverage for each resident. Counties are not currently represented on the task force studying this issue.

Mr. Latorre added that at NACO there was also a session on Bioterrorism. He suggested that FACSSE pursue a gentleman named Dr. Rosenberg to discuss labor laws in Florida.

Becky added that Fred and his Broward County Family Success Center gave a very good presentation.

Karen Hawes discussed Lee County's approach to nursing home liability coverage. She noted that in previous years, the insurance coverage cost was \$48,000/year, but this year the liability insurance will be \$450 million

even though no claims have been filed. Rik concurred with Mr. Latorre that a workshop to cover this topic is a good idea.

## **VI. Treasurer's Report**

Fletcher reported that membership dues have been received from all but four of the existing member counties, resulting in a balance approximately \$400 less than anticipated. The counties yet to pay are Dade, Wakulla, Okeechobee, and Clay.

Beginning Balance	\$ 4732.01
Credits	337.07
Debits	354.25
CD	5000.00
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 9714.83</b>

The audit information has been sent to Dennis Gray at the Clerk's Office, but there has been no response so far. The Florida Statistical Abstract, citing population changes by county, will be published soon, after which Fletcher will mail dues/billing statements. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. NACO/NACHSA Update**

Regarding the NACO membership, Louis Latorre encouraged the FACSSE membership to become more active. Some members noted that the expense was prohibitive. Mr. Latorre warned that if Florida, fourth state in population, does not have someone to represent them at the national level, they will be left out.

Beth Ryder will be serving as a representative to the NACHSA Board's Annual Legislative Conference. Evelyn Bethell motioned that FACSSE pay to send someone to this annual conference. Louis Latorre seconded. Mr. Latorre reminded the members that the next conference is in March in Washington, D.C., the next annual conference is in July in New Orleans, and the next Human Services conference will be in November.

### **B. 2002: Social Workers' Conference – Brevard County**

Gay Williams had volunteered to sponsor this meeting. Evelyn motioned that the conference be postponed for one fiscal year and Karen Hawes seconded. Fred Murry suggested that this issue be revisited at the June

meeting. Louis Latorre made a new motion that the Executive Committee will review and notify membership; Karen seconded.

Fred motioned to waive the by-laws regarding Karen's previous motion regarding the survey; Beth Ryder seconded. This would incorporate the survey as a responsibility of the Executive Committee or a delegated committee.

#### VIII. New Business

**A. Proposed Nominating Committee: Fred Murry, Beth Ryder, Vikki Porter**

All agreed to the assignment of these individuals.

**B. Sutton Award Nominees**

Rik stated that there would be another Sutton Award given in June and nominations are being accepted.

**C. PROPOSAL: a non-annual award for non-FACSSE members who we believe has contributed sufficiently to human services in the community, the county, or the state to deserve recognition. This would serve the purpose of FAC's legislative awards, but **WOULD NOT** be limited to legislators.**

The Executive Committee has prepared a list of items that might be included in a FACSSE Human Services contribution award. This will be discussed during an Executive Committee Conference Call.

**D. Workshop ideas for the annual conference on Marco Island**

An excellent idea was presented by Louis Latorre for a workshop on the liability insurance issue and nursing homes. Please let Rik know of any additional suggestions.

**END OF MEETING**

