

**Florida Association of Social Service Executives
Business Meeting
9:20 a.m. – 11:33 a.m.
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Martin County, Florida**

Present:

Jean Rags	Hernando Co.	Heidi Denis	Osceola Co.
Barry Williams	Collier Co.	Cheryl Bass	Martin Co.
Cathy Pearson	Citrus Co.	Evelyn Bethell	Pinellas Co.
Gloria Benischeck	St. John's Co.	Phil Stalvey	Seminole Co.
Susan Myers	Alachua Co.	Marilyn Wesley	Escambia Co.
Candie Nixon	Alachua Co.	Kevin Roberts	Highland Co.
Heather Youmons	FAC	Fletcher Smith	Lake Co.
Ed Smith	Polk Co.	Greg Alpers	Polk Co.
Larry Skidmore	Polk Co.		

Welcome: Sign in sheet passed around

M. Wesley welcomed everyone and provided directions to the day's lunch. Marilyn thanked everyone for attending in light of the recent hurricane season. Marilyn introduced Heather Youmons from FAC noting that Heather has taken JoAnne Hart's place for Health & Human Services. Marilyn thanked Heather for all her hard work and for being present today.

Introduction of attendees

Secretary's Report - Jean Rags

Jean noted that there were three sets of minutes from the June 22-24, 2005 Annual Conference needing approval. K. Roberts moved (Highlands) for approval of minutes, F. Smith (Lake) second, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Barry Williams

Barry reviewed the treasurer's report as presented. M. Wesley stated that the travel costs are a little higher this year due to her county's travel guidelines and her location. Barry reviewed the current dues status, noting there were a few counties who still had not paid for the year. E. Smith (Polk) motion to approve, E. Bethell second, motion passed.

Legislative Issues - Heather Youmons FAC

Heather indicated one of the most important issues was still the Medicaid reform issues that will affect the DOH on cost based reimbursement which will force the DOH to find alternative funding sources that may result in them looking like a FQCHC. Although this issue has taken priority, Heather wants to hear from counties on other issues. B. Williams asked if the changes to Medicaid will include mental health, Heather stated she did not believe it would. Heather stated her presentation for tomorrow would cover more in-depth information of the pilot programs. Heather stated the best place to look at these power-point presentations on the changes is at AHCA's web site. Robert Butler, AHCA is also very helpful and Phil Street from the State DOH.

Transportation Disadvantage funding took a big hit with HMO's taking the money to provide TD services with no information as to if they will actually provide the services. There are concerns with the wavier process and a pending lawsuit. Marilyn encouraged everyone to attend the legislative meeting tomorrow as these issues affect us differently. Heather stated that the legislative priorities would be voted on at that meeting. Marilyn asked for all members to review the legislative packet for health & human services. Heather stated that she is still learning about Medicaid and other related issues and encouraged everyone to grab her and share any concerns or information related to HHS.

Old Business --

NACO Annual Conference - M. Wesley noted that B. Ryder who attended will be arriving later today due to a conflict but noted that L. Latorre and E. Bethell also attended the NACO Annual National Conference. E. Bethell shared her experience from the conference noting the large number of attendees who attended the NACO prescription drug discount program. Evelyn also stated that she had tried to have a representative of the program attend today but he was unavailable. J. Rags stated that she would make contact with Andrew Goldstein (NACO) and try to have him attend the June 2006 conference. Marilyn asked J. Rags to provide to her via e-mail with the information on the prescription program and she would put it out on the list serve. Jean noted that Hernando was the first county in Florida to sign up. Jean reviewed the program highlights and benefits and agreed to provide Marilyn with the information she has on the program including the power-point presentation she had designed for everyone's review. Jean noted that all the information is propriety and cautioned everyone on its use. Jean offered her power point presentation for others to use for their Boards.

FAC Policy Committee Meeting -- Marilyn stated that there were only 3 members who attended the meeting. She noted that the policy draft was sent out for review and comments and she had not received any comments back. Discussion was made on the importance of members attending this meeting.

FACSSE Bi- Annual Conference -- Marilyn asked that a report be presented on this conference at the June meeting since Lee County was currently not present. Marilyn thanked Lee County for agreeing to take this conference on and noted that they did a

wonderful job. Marilyn stated that Escambia County is scheduled to do the conference in 2007 but she was concerned with the hurricane season and being able to host the conference in addition to travel costs. B. Williams (Collier) stated that his county would volunteer to do the 2007 Conference. Marilyn expressed her concern that attendance not drop, and that Escambia is far away from most counties which may cause a strain on travel budgets, thereby causing fewer people to attend. The group asked if the conference could be held in a different month due to end of year issues and the hurricane season. April and May were suggested as alternative months. E. Bethell noted that in the past we have held these conferences at a time when the hotel rates are lower and that we should be looking at corporate sponsors. Marilyn asked that a committee be formed to look at alternative dates so there are no conflicts with other conferences that the members may be attending. E. Bethell moved to accept Collier County for the 2007 Bi-Annual Social Workers Conference, second by E. Smith, motion passed.

E. Bethell asked if a thank you letter had been sent to Blue Cross Blue Shield for this conference, Marilyn indicated that she would make sure an appropriate letter would be sent directly.

New Business - M. Wesley thanked E. Bethell and E. Smith for all their hard work on pulling together the Health Conference. The group agreed noting that the information sharing was very helpful.

E. Bethell indicated that when she booked Alan Levine he had assured her that if he was unable to attend he would send a representative, however, Evelyn stated that she received a phone call 5 minutes prior to the meeting stating that he was unable to attend. The group expressed that they were disappointed. Evelyn shared that she had requested Heather to introduce herself and speak to the group. Evelyn noted that Heather did a great job and was very pleased with her efforts. Consensus from the group was that the information sharing was very good and they would like more opportunities to interact. Evelyn suggested that the group get together more often for information sharing or to discuss a particular issue. E. Smith echoed the same feelings and thanked Evelyn for all her hard work on the conference. M. Wesley noted that Hillsborough and Polk made presentations that were very informative. E. Smith stated that he was happy to share his presentation on their sales tax issue. Overall, the time was very productive and we need to continue.

E. Bethell noted that we could continue these types of meetings and use the time to discuss programs such as the NACO prescription discount card program, in addition to other programs such as her RFP for prescriptions that would allow the organization to leverage its numbers. Marilyn suggested a meeting every 6 months to discuss new ideas/concepts/problems and challenges. Marilyn suggested that the Hawthorn Suites in Orlando be used as a central location. Evelyn noted that the hotel staff was very helpful and wonderful to work with. Also the room was provided at no charge as was the continental breakfast. There was also free transportation to the airport which was close by as well as free transportation to any place within a 3 mile area. B. Williams informed the group that in order to hold additional meetings the group would need to obtain

corporate sponsors to offset the costs. Marilyn suggested that we market these meetings as Health Conferences and that the next meeting be held in March and to try to set the date during this week's meetings.

E. Bethell requested the membership to complete the survey she had e-mailed and had available today. She had only received approximately 8 surveys back and would like to have more. Her staff will compile the information to be added to the agenda and presented at the March meeting. E. Smith offered to do a presentation at the March meeting showing how they were successful in passing their sales tax issue. K. Roberts motioned for FACSSE to hold such meetings every 6 months related to special issues, second by S. Myers, motion passed.

*****Note – Marilyn Wesley**

Marilyn apologized for not noticing the group of the scheduled lunch at a local restaurant; however, reservations had been made. The cost of lunch is what your per-diem is, the remainder is covered by FACSSE, and if you spend more than your per-diem then you reimburse FACSSE. Directions were provided and everyone agreed to attend.

New Business continued -

M. Wesley noted that the NACHSA Workforce Development Conference was good and that there were a number of representatives from Florida including B. Ryder, E. Bethell, J. Rags and L. Latorre. Marilyn shared information on the mental health court, noting that it does not receive any funding and yet it appeared to work very well for the high number of mental health people on the streets, even meeting one of the clients she saw in court on the street. E. Bethell stated that the court environment was openly supportive and positive. B. Williams indicated that Lee Co has had a mental health court for a while. E. Bethell suggested that the San Francisco video on mental health be shown at the March meeting. Marilyn shared that many of the Hurricane Katrina stories were shared at the NACHSA business meeting in addition to several stories about Florida. Marilyn will plan to scan the handouts from the conference and put them out on the list serve by December for anyone interested in reading them. J. Rags indicated that she has spoken with a Hernando County Judge and he was ready to commit to the establishment of a mental health court and has plans for a December meeting to look further at this program. B. Williams suggested contact be made with Lee Co. on their program, Marilyn stated that she would follow up with them. S. Myers (Alachua) shared that her county has a mental health court program and would be willing to have a representative from their court services to address FACSSE.

Special Report – FACSSE & Aging Affiliate Merger Barry Williams (Collier)

Barry provided the group with a history and overview of the proposed merger between the two agencies. Barry reviewed the handout showing a summary of the 3 committee meetings and the committee's recommendations since the June 2005 conference. The membership reviewed the handout and will further discuss any concerns at the 2:00 p.m. special meeting.

*****Note – Marilyn Wesley**

Marilyn stated that a nominating committee was needed to establish a slate of officers to be placed on the agenda for a vote by the membership at the June 2006 conference. Marilyn asked E. Bethell to chair the committee and for S. Myers and G. Benischeck to serve as members. All members accepted.

Special Recognitions – Marilyn Wesley

Marilyn announced that there were two members retiring this month, Joyce Johnson-Parson and Rebecca Gregory. Marilyn asked that the membership agree for a gift to be purchased and mailed to each thanking them for their participation and support over the years. B. Williams and J. Rags volunteered to select a gift and mail accordingly. E. Smith motioned for approval of the purchase, second by K. Roberts, motion passed. Marilyn noted that E. Bethell will be retiring in June and Gloria Benischeck will be retiring in July of 2006.

County Updates

M. Wesley asked for anyone to provide the group with any updates.

F. Smith (Lake) asked if the membership could provide him with how they handle extensive health care issues in their jails. The group provided some insight on how this issue is handled in their county.

No other business, meeting adjourned 11:33 a.m.

**Florida Association of Social Service Executives
Special Business Meeting
2:04 p.m. – 3:04 p.m.
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Martin County, Florida**

Present:

Jean Rags	Hernando Co.	Heidi Denis	Osceola Co.
Barry Williams	Collier Co.	Cheryl Bass	Martin Co.
Cathy Pearson	Citrus Co.	Evelyn Bethell	Pinellas Co.
Gloria Benischeck	St. John's Co.	Phil Stalvey	Seminole Co.
Susan Myers	Alachua Co.	Marilyn Wesley	Escambia Co.
Candie Nixon	Alachua Co.	Kevin Roberts	Highland Co.
Stephen Ferrante	Aging Affiliate	Fletcher Smith	Lake Co.
Ed Smith	Polk Co.	Greg Alpers	Polk Co.
Larry Skidmore	Polk Co.	Joe Doncette	Palm Beach

Welcome: Sign in sheet passed around, meeting called to order at 2:04 p.m.

M. Wesley welcomed everyone. B. Williams asked that everyone go around and introduce themselves noting if they provide senior services in their county and to what level.

B. Williams noted that he was surprised at the diversity of programs and services being offered by our counties. S. Ferrante was asked to explain what the Aging Affiliate was and some history of what they do. Steve explained that the affiliate has many of the same issues that FACSSE has, however, has not been very active in last 5-7 years. He supports as such a merger between FACSSE and the Aging Affiliate to join forces on these issues.

Barry asked if there were other questions, none noted at this time. Barry stated that the one question that has yet to be determined aside from the name issue is; should the by-laws be changed? Barry explained that we currently have FACSSE members that already serve in dual roles. Therefore do we want to see the bylaws change, do we need a change? K. Roberts (Highlands) noted that for many years he has supported senior services fall under the umbrella of human services, therefore we should all be going down the same road. Barry asked how we handle counties that have aging affiliates doing senior services so do you have them at this table or as officers. E. Bethell pointed out that FACSSE is county membership driven, but the meetings have been open for others to attend. The group agreed that many times they will bring other county staff from related areas such as seniors to these meetings. Discussion continued with a consensus that the membership should remain county driven and include county aging affiliates.

Barry noted that when he began he was torn as to which meeting he should be attending, FACSSE or Aging. Barry also indicated that one of the reasons that the Aging affiliate stayed separate was that their legislative issues were not being representative. Barry asked if the group felt they could support legislative issues related to Aging. S. Ferrante indicated that he thought if the county aging representatives could come to the table that they would be happy with that.

M. Wesley indicated that the current executive board has two people already serving on the aging affiliate. Marilyn also stated that the membership has always been open to any topics and issues and was determined by what the membership wanted to see or participate in. Barry stated that by having a separate aging affiliate FACSSE has naturally not taken up elder or senior issues. J. Rags noted to the group that at the June 2005 a motion was made and approved to move forward with the merger.

M. Wesley informed the group that there is a process that needed to be followed before any decisions are made related to name changes or bylaws. M. Wesley stated that she was waiting for comments from FAC on their concerns related to the name change and by laws. S. Ferrante stated that one of the requests from the Aging affiliate was that 50% of their funds that they bring to FACSSE go to aging related activities. J. Rags stated that according to the June 23, 2005 special meeting minutes that the group was tasked with addressing all concerns and issues and submitting a timeline at the December meeting, which means that we are behind schedule already, so the two issues of bylaws and the name change can be settled with FAC and then brought to the membership at the March or April meeting. J. Rags was asked if that was a motion, she indicated that it was, second by K. Roberts (Highland) under discussion the final motion was made for the committee to research with FAC the bylaws and name change issues and bring back to the membership for a vote on the FAC Annual Conference agenda in June 2006, noting that the financial concern Steve raised about the 50% was agreed upon by this group and should not present any problems other than it needed to be documented.

No other business, meeting adjourned 3:04 p.m.

**Florida Association of Social Service Executives
Business Meeting Afternoon Session
3:47 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Martin County, Florida**

Present:

Jean Rags	Hernando Co.	Heidi Denis	Osceola Co.
Barry Williams	Collier Co.	Cathy Pearson	Citrus Co.
Evelyn Bethell	Pinellas Co.	Greg Alpers	Polk Co.
Gloria Benischeck	St. John's Co.	Phil Stalvey	Seminole Co.
Susan Myers	Alachua Co.	Marilyn Wesley	Escambia Co.
Candie Nixon	Alachua Co.	Kevin Roberts	Highland Co.
Fletcher Smith	Lake Co.	Beth Ryder	St. Lucie Co.
Ed Smith	Polk Co.		
Larry Skidmore	Polk Co.		

Welcome: J. Rags asked for roll call for attendance purposes, meeting called to order at 3:47 p.m.

M. Wesley welcomed everyone back and explained that this meeting was scheduled to give time to further discuss the merge issue. Marilyn stated that she felt that everything was covered in the special meeting and asked Barry to convey the membership's comments and recommendations with the committee members not present, he agreed.

M. Wesley stated that the other reason this meeting was scheduled was due to a request made by K. Roberts (Highlands) made at the morning meeting to further discuss legislative priorities so we are better prepared to share recommendations with our commissioners. Marilyn stated that many of these issues are decided at the policy committee meeting in September, and that she sends out the draft of those policies prior to that meeting. J. Rags (Hernando) stated that in the past we had spent the day reviewing the HHS priorities before the Commissioners went to vote, so they could be better educated. K. Roberts asked that in the future this organization review the legislative issues prior to their vote and maybe come up with a consensus on the top legislative items. Others indicated that they agreed that this group should be knowledgeable enough to make recommendations to the Commissioners so that they can make an appropriate vote, suggesting that this group follow the same process of reviewing policies and making recommendations.

The group suggested getting ahead of the curve by encouraging better attendance at the policy meetings and combine with one of the four FACSSE meetings. A suggestion was made that maybe this could be done via conference call. K. Roberts noted that conference calling is difficult at best and members miss much of the conversation due to interruptions. M. Wesley stated that we have better attendance at the policy meeting since

we know ahead of time when it is. Ed Smith (Polk) suggested that we hold a half day meeting prior to the day of the policy meeting to discuss these issues to be better prepared for the meeting. The group decided that if we would meet during this time that this would take the place of one of the four new meetings. K. Roberts asked if action could be made at this meeting, M. Wesley responded in the affirmative as long as seconded. K. Roberts moved for FACSSE to plan to meet the day prior to the policy committee meeting in order to discuss the HHS legislative issues, second by Ed Smith. J. Rags asked to amend that motion to include that the group further review the legislative issues at the legislative conference for any changes, amended approved. Further discussion, M. Wesley stated that she would communicate with Heather and FAC immediately the vote related to this issue to include scheduling on the policy committee meeting and a formal written recommendation to be included in the FAC packet and to the Chair of the HHS committee. Motion approved.

M. Wesley recognized B. Ryder (St. Lucie-Past President) and asked if she had any items to share. Beth supported the last motion noting that the same motion had been made 2 years ago but hurricanes had gotten in the way.

G. Benischeck (St. John's Co) asked if this membership would consider an associate membership in light of the fact that there are so many members retiring. G. Benischeck (St. John's Co) moved, second by B. Ryder. Motion approved.

No other business, meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.