

**Florida Association of County Human Service Administrators
FAC Legislative Conference
FACHSA Business Meeting – St. Augustine
November 14, 2007**

Members Present:

Marcy Krumbine, Collier County
David Medley, Seminole County
Manus O'Donnell, Hillsborough County
Cathy Pearson, Citrus County
Jean Rags, Hernando County
Dave Rogoff, Hillsborough County
Beth Ryder, St. Lucie County
Ed Smith, Polk County
Chip Taylor, Sarasota County
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County
Claudia Tuck, Palm Beach County
Elmira Warren, Alachua County

Others Present:

Heather Youmans, FAC
Laurie Revel, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
Amanda Ghafferi, FAC

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 8:45a.m. by Jean Rags.

Introductions

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Legislative Issues

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) - Laurie Revell, Florida Commission on TD

Chart distributed reflecting reductions for enrollees who have signed-up for an HMO.

Concern related to this reduction discussed. FAC requested lists to compare and ensure that counties are not transporting individuals who are no longer eligible.

Chapter 427- Reviewed the Legislative Platform. Heather noted concerns about AHCA not giving the full legislated allocation. David R. questioned whether the position should be broadened to express concern about Medicaid reductions in general.

It was noted that HMO's have always been able to provide transportation. They just have not done so in the past. A question was raised regarding the potential termination of transportation. Noted that it is Federal mandate; AHCA will be putting the contract out for bid again. Laurie is hoping the Legislative session will help this. She discussed pending bills.

Action: Heather will send this bill out to members by email.

David R. expressed concern about requesting an approved rate, as that could cause a reduction. Heather noted that this is an award winning program, yet they are being cut. Cathy P. suggested rallying the riders to attend Transportation Disadvantaged Day which will be on March 6, 2008. There is a federal rule pending; Heather noted that TD is an unfunded mandate. She is hoping that FACHSA will vote for TD to be a priority in this session. TD is the coordinated system – Counties have had to make the system work on a fixed budget. Heather noted that each county has the right to decide to sign a contract. With no contract, the Counties would be Fee-for-Service. David R. expressed a concern that the funding formula leaves out bus tickets. Concern also was raised regarding the number of trips that will potentially be denied.

Policy Statements - Heather Youmans, FAC

Expansion of Medicaid Reform

Heather discussed the Inspector General's report that was provided by email to members. In summary, it noted that agency staffing levels are inadequate; costs are not determined; drug information is not on line; potential to negatively impact County Health Departments; and there is a negative impact on the treatment of severely mentally ill individuals.

FACHSA is clear on our policy statement to protest the expansion prior to evaluating the pilot.

The IG review was requested by the Governor. Chip recommended rewording the Policy Statement and noting that we oppose expansion. David M. suggested adding wording to include opposition based on the IG report. Heather noted that forms will be available at the meeting this afternoon to request Amendments to the current Policy Statements.

Chip recommended the following revision to the Policy Statement:

In light of the unfavorable findings regarding the implementation of the Medicaid reform pilots as reflected in the independent Georgetown Analysis and the IG's report, oppose any additional expansion of Medicaid reform to additional Counties until the issues identified have been satisfactorily resolved.

Motion: Beth moved approval of the Policy Statement revision; David M. seconded.

Motion passed. Jean will submit the Amendment request on behalf of FACHSA today.

Post Note: Jean presented the recommended language change to the policy committee

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)

Heather reviewed the Human Services Section Policy Statements in light of actions taken last year. David R. suggested a statement to oppose in general passing costs on to Counties. Discussion ensued regarding the attempt by AHCA to pass on a larger share of the Nursing Home costs. Jean recommended against drawing attention to this as others are not currently discussing it.

Suspension of Medicaid Benefits to Inmates as Opposed to Termination

Heather noted that this is a new policy statement that will be voted on today. This legislation would allow for the suspension rather than the termination of Medicaid benefits for individuals, including juveniles, who are convicted of a crime and incarcerated for less than one year. This legislation would amend federal law (U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 435.1009) to allow Federal Financial Participation for individuals, including juveniles, who are accused of committing a crime and are awaiting trial, even if incarcerated, until they are convicted of a crime. Additionally, once the inmates are released, benefits would be reinstated with no need to reapply.

DJJ - Amanda Ghaffari, FAC

Amanda handed out a line item description of the breakdown of the DJJ 80/20 payments across the state. She noted that upon reviewing the document, there appears to be inconsistencies in payments across the state.

Another document distributed details a new electronic billing process which will allow counties to review and ensure accurate billing. This is supposed to be in place by July 2007. Jean noted a need to be sure that adequate time is allowed for county review before closing.

Amanda distributed a document detailing the proposed fiscal process. She expressed concern about the inconsistencies in billing as well as the per diem calculation versus actual cost. This is not costing the state any more money; it is really just a logistical issue. The DJJ requirement for all staff to be specialists has increased costs.

Action: Amanda to schedule a meeting with DJJ regarding electronic billing and other concerns. Jean requested that if possible, the meeting be coordinated with the Substance Abuse Medicaid training.

Health Insurance/Direct Payment

Heather noted that a survey was distributed and responded to by twenty-five counties indicating there has been a 25% reduction in BC/BS reimbursement. This amounts to \$110 million. This occurred as counties did not apply to be providers; therefore, reimbursement was sent to the insured. Insurance companies do not want it in statute that they have to reimburse non-contracted providers. Heather indicated that this Policy Statement has been continued and she will monitor it again this year.

Medicaid Nursing Home

Heather discussed Medicaid Nursing Home Services related to the methodology of county payment. Heather expressed concern about bringing it forward this year due to discussion related to increasing county share. Members expressed concern related to the \$55 rate being the same for 35 years. Heather noted that this is an unfunded mandate and our hospital day share has risen. This methodology just addresses how it is paid - amount versus cash flow.

Medicaid Substance Abuse Local Match

Jean thanked Cathy P. for following the Medicaid Substance Abuse Waiver implementation process. She noted Lucia Maxwell has distributed information on training for the Medicaid Substance Abuse Waiver on 12-11-07 in Tallahassee. Jean reviewed the proposed training agenda.

Secretary's Report – Claudia Tuck

Minutes of the June 13, 2007 distributed in advance by email and reviewed briefly.

Action: Motion to approve minutes made by David Medley; seconded by Beth Ryder. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report – Pauline Tracey

Pauline Tracy reviewed the Treasurer's Report in detail noting an ending checking account balance of \$8,900.50 and a CD for \$5,000. Discussion ensued regarding moving more funds into the CD. Jean noted that on the Executive Conference Call there was discussion regarding giving a stipend for county staff to attend an Annual Conference from our funds.

Members discussed the potential of merging with other affiliates or adding committees such as Criminal Justice/DJJ. Also discussed meeting with the Health Affiliate.

Old Business

State Mandate Survey

Jean set a letter on behalf of FACHSA thanking Bill Lawyer for his efforts on this survey. Jean will ask Karen to present the survey results at the annual meeting.

Indigent Burial Survey

Jean noted Evelyn initiated the survey but resigned and her staff completed the process. Discussion ensued regarding the results of the survey. The survey showed that counties are all very different in their approach to this service. Members discussed issues related to cremation; location of death; county responsibility; and seeking repayment.

Strategic Work Group

David discussed the work that he is to do regarding the Strategic Work Group; he needs to get information from Heather to proceed.

Cathy reported on the process to apply for the mental health/substance abuse/criminal justice grant. Citrus County expanded their Public Safety Committee and is initiating a Mental Health Court.

Accomplishments and Successes

David M. presented a summary document that he and David R. developed on building and maintaining membership. Currently, between 50 and 60 percent of potential members have joined FACHSA. Discussed looking at value of membership. Jean noted that some counties are cutting membership and training budgets. David noted that this has happened in the past with AHA. He noted that it is important now to justify the membership gains. Marcy noted that now is the critical time for membership to be informed and be on the same page. Ed added that he has seen membership ebb and flow; this membership offers the best value – we exchange ideas and learn new things to apply in our own County.

Discussion continued related to benefits of FAC as well as changes in FAC guidelines. Jean noted that Affiliate Meeting Agendas are no longer publicized which limits potential attendance. Marilyn suggested accessing the FAC email list to apprise other non-FACHSA participating counties of what we are doing. Discussed dividing the session into business meeting and training to allow for attendance of those who could not commit a full day.

Action: Jean will contact FAC (Chris or Heather) to request:

- 1. Access to the FAC email list and/or*
- 2. Placement of the Affiliate Meeting Agenda in the Conference Program*

Other suggestions included: members communicating meeting information to their Commissioners; adding small workshops to the FACHSA Agenda; adding the Meeting Agenda to the FACHSA web site; meet with other Affiliate Presidents and then with the FAC Executive Director to address issues.

Consensus: plan to schedule a mini-workshop with other Affiliates before the Annual Conference.

New Business

Nomination Committee for Officers

Jean asked Beth to chair the committee and Marilyn agreed to serve on the Committee.

*Action: Pauline will send out the FY 07/08 dues statements.
David M. and David R. will compile a Membership Benefits Summary and forward to Jean for approval to send with the dues statements.*

Presidents Report

- Jean asked for input in response to Cheryl's email requesting creative ideas to deal with the budget cuts.
 - Marcy noted that Collier County implemented co-pays for services.
 - Beth mentioned discussion of privatizing healthcare, transportation, libraries, LIHEAP, and childcare.
- Jean announced that Steve Ferrante sent an email regarding the meeting at AHCA on the 1915 C Waiver (Florida Senior Care) and FS409.912 which authorizes AHCA in partnership with DOEA to implement a fixed payment delivery system. Also discussed Aging Resource Centers and other aging initiative including CCE.
- As the Affiliate President, Jean has been asked to serve as a Board Member of the Florida Association of Service Providers.
- Job opening announced for a Social Services Department Director in Mecklenburg, NC.

County Updates/Announcements

- Claudia thanked Jean for her help with Palm Beach County's implementation of the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card. More than 2,000 residents saved \$53,000 in the first month of implementation.
- David R. announced that the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card program is going to their Commission for approval in December.

*Motion to adjourn made David M.; seconded by Pauline Tracey.
Meeting adjourned at 2:00PM.*

Members were encouraged to attend the Health & Human Services Committee Meeting to be held today at 2:30p.m.