

FACHSA Executive Committee minutes

September 13, 2013 3:30 p.m. conference call

Members present: Claudia Tuck, Pauline Tracy, Amy Engelken, Ann Arnall, Susan Harbin

Susan mentioned that the Public Safety item on DJJ will be discussed at the policy statement meeting on Thursday at 10:15 a.m. It may be discussed again at the Health and Human Services policy meeting. A request has been made by DJJ for a special appropriation to bridge the existing budget gap. A substantial bill will most likely be filed during the upcoming session to address the cost share and react to the implications from the court case.

The Medicaid workgroup is Thursday at 3:15 p.m.

The Health and Human Services policy discussion is on Friday at 8:30 a.m. This session will include a discussion on Homeless funding by Representative Peters (Pinellas County). She will discuss the bill that will be proposed with Senator Latvala. Representative Peters will also discuss the initiative in Tampa with local art students to produce marketing materials to raise awareness on the issue of homelessness. Senator Latvala will speak at the Thursday luncheon regarding a dedicate funding source for homeless programs. Claudia will speak on Friday about the State Council on Homelessness.

A new statement will be discussed about Medicaid expansion or an alternative means to increase insurance coverage for low income Floridians. Some Counties are adopting resolutions in support of the Medicaid expansion.

The Sober Home regulation issues will also be addressed. Palm Beach County was the center of litigation regarding sober homes. Approximately 2,000 sober homes exist in Florida and they are unregulated. Some are solely residential while others provide a level of care. A DCF report is due on this issue October 1, 2013.

Meetings have taken place with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to do an awareness campaign regarding options for healthcare coverage available to Veterans. Many eligible Veterans can get medical benefits through the VA but remain uninsured or on Medicaid.

The Health Departments are being renamed. Some are now referred to as The Florida Department of Health in X County. If anyone has any unique examples of services provided by the Health Departments please let Susan know. The recent press coverage about the statement released by the Florida Department of Health not allowing Affordable Care Act Navigators on site to enroll people was discussed. Pinellas County received a grant to hire Navigators and also owns the Health Department buildings. County staff took issue with the fact that the Department of Health was attempting to regulate what activities could take place in a County building. The issue was resolved. Some Counties own the Health Department buildings while others do not.

No Secretary's report was made.

Treasurers report is as follows:

Account balance \$12,217.93

FAC meeting expense \$906.88

Travel to NACO \$1,200

Cathy Pearson is now the only Assistant County Administrator in Citrus County.

Amy Engelken is now the Community Services Director. Congratulations and much success to both ladies.

The Sutton Award was discussed. It was mentioned that when the plaque is passed on the former recipient has no keepsake of the award. It was discussed that certificates will be made to replace the plaque. Also, it was discussed that the plaque only has space for one more name so in the future we may want to do a stand alone plaque rather than one that get names added to it for ease of issuance.

The tour of the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center is planned for Friday after the Health and Human Services policy meeting. Anyone who is interested can attend. Susan invited the Palm Beach Legislative delegation along with the Health and Human Services committee chairs, vice chairs and the executive committee. It would be helpful to get commitments so that adequate transportation and tour guides can be arranged.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Ann Arnall