

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
SOCIAL SERVICES EXECUTIVES (FACSSE)
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
12/1/2004 – 12/3/04 - Sarasota, Florida

The following persons were in attendance:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Frederick J. Murry	Broward	Evelyn Bethell	Pinellas
Jean Vleming	Pinellas	Susan L. MacLean	St. Johns
Glorida Benischeck	St. Johns	George Grazier	Pinellas
Susan Myers	Alachua	Kevin Roberts	Highlands
Bonnie Hinson	Alachua	Candice Franco	Collier
Beth Ryder	St. Lucie	Louis Latorre	Monroe
Susan Earl	Polk	Ann Arnall	Le e
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota	Cliff Smith	Pinellas
Marion Henson	Clay	Heidi Denis	Osceola
Joanne Hart	FAC	Cheryl Bass	Martin
Phillip Stalvoy	Seminole	Royetta Runyon	Pasco

Fred Murry called the FACSSE Business Meeting to order. The members gave brief overviews of new programs, and many counties are revisiting and/or updating their emergency response procedures after the .2004 Hurricane Season.

In the absence of the FACSSE treasurer, Fred distributed the treasurer's report showing an ending balance of \$4,311.76. (This does not include the \$5,000 CD)

Joanne gave an overview of several important legislative issues. She stated that Medicaid Reform would be at the top of the agenda for discussion during the legislative session and the Florida Association of Counties supports a "no cost shift to counties" policy, as it relates to Medicaid Reform. Fred stated that counties should have input at the state level as it relates to federal changes in Medicaid. The group was in agreement to preserve and maintain the medically needy program, and don't eliminate important health programs and/or services.

The next discussion was on Managed Care. FAC opposes any reduction in the Medicaid federal share to Florida. Mandated managed care could potentially impact Upper Payment Limit Program and the concern is that if Florida pushes people into managed care, it could jeopardize participation in the UPL Program. Beth stated NACO is also concerned about the impact mandated managed care could have on upper payment limits payments to local hospitals.

Joanne also stated some counties took a huge decrease in transportation funding and the amount of funding for Transportation Disadvantaged was inadequate. New contracts were recently mailed out, but some counties have yet to sign the contracts.

Joanne also discussed the impact of the Department of Juvenile Justice decision, the \$92 million to pay for the costs and the ramifications if winning the lawsuit

The next item for discussion was the Medicaid County Billing Work Group. This group was created last year to look at alternative ways to address the possible increase in nursing home costs to counties and the Certificate of Residency (COR) issue. This group was to review, analyze and make recommendations on how to make the system work. Ideas included: (1) Change COR process by process by moving responsibility from DCF to counties or DOEA by having nursing home staff determine residency; (2) Eliminate COR process but not the billing process or (3) Develop a formula for expenditures by establishing a base line agreed upon by counties; (must also look at inflation costs) and (4) Look at the role of Area Agencies on Agencies in the process. The next task force meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2004.

Joanne suggested looking at administrative cost to determine how much it actually costs counties to do the billing, i.e. time spent doing Medicaid, running reports, etc. for the past five years. Counties pay over \$32 million toward Medicaid nursing home costs. The consensus is to keep the money at the local level for home and community based-care operations and keep residents in their homes and out of nursing homes. Joanne stated that at this time the prospect looks dim, but FAC would continue to support this theory.

Fred suggested that Evelyn and Beth work with Joanne to come up with recommendations for the group. Kevin Roberts, Highland County, made a motion to have Evelyn Bethel and Beth Ryder, work with Joanne Hart to come up with a statement to bring to FACSSE for the group to vote on. The motion was seconded by Heidi Denis, Osceola County.

The 2005 Social Worker Conference was initially scheduled for Escambia County, but will be held at Fort Myers, in Lee County. Fred will contact Marilyn to see if Escambia County would host the next conference. Karen and Ann were kind enough to volunteer for this project. FACSSE generally allocates \$2,000 to the host county to help with costs. Louis Latorre, Monroe County, made the motion to provide the \$2,000 allocation to Lee County for Social Worker Conference. The motion was seconded by Gloria Benischeck. Ann Arnall said they were expecting from 170 to 200 people and to please email her with any topics for the workshops. Everyone thanked the Brevard County staff for the great conference in Cocoa Beach.

Under old business, Jane Vleming, Pinellas County, stated that Clark had been trying to coordinate the use of the same form for all counties to use for reimbursement purposes. (All counties do not participate in this program) Staff would like to see the 4 or 5 page forms replaced with a 1 page form. There could be problems because some counties process the reimbursement manually. She would like the appropriate county staff to get in touch with Clark or Kathy regarding the form.

Beth Ryder attended the NACO conference in Las Vegas this year. She said there appears to be more representation from Florida. Jean Raggs was the FACSSE representative at the conference and Heidi Denis also attended the NACO conference. The St. Pete area may be considered as the site for a future conference.

Nominations for the Sutton Award will be presented at the June conference in Tampa and all nominations should be directed to the FACSSE president by email or other correspondence. Evelyn Bethell, Louie Latorre, Karen Hawes and Martha Skinner were previous recipients of this award. A second award given to a person outside the FACSSE affiliate was presented to Commissioner James, Lee County, for his dedication and hard work with the Florida Association of Counties and his participation in the FACSSE affiliate.

Under new business, Fred discussed the new process for coordinating workshops at the annual conferences. FAC is asking for papers on workshops in advance, thus eliminating conflicts on workshops with FAC and the affiliates.

Louie Latorre, Monroe County, asked what each county does regarding storms and disaster related issues, such as special needs registry, transportation of medical patients, and pet friendly shelters, etc. Louie mentioned that pet shelters were a problem in all counties. There continued to be discussion on these and other topics.

The meeting was adjourned.