



# Family Care Council Area 1

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Thursday, August 19, 2021

Minutes

Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Dina Justice  
Patty Houghland

Jim Howard

Members Absent:

Mary Thomas  
Debbie Moore

Katie Chapman  
John Collins

Nancy Cherry  
Danny Parker

Guests:

Annette Zeeb, APD  
Lisa Tyler

Octavius Jackson, APD  
Lyn Harris

The meeting was convened at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Patty Houghland. Patty welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Lisa Tyler is a parent in Escambia County. Lyn Harris is with Fiddlers Emerald Coast.

Patty reviewed the minutes from the July 2021 meeting. Dina Justice motioned to approve minutes. Jim Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Patty reviewed the budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 year. Dina Justice motioned to approve budget. Patty seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion on slate for 2021-2022. Dina Justice motioned to keep existing officers. Jim Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Patty touched on a few things: according to FARE, 90 groups homes were either closed or consolidated; there are only 125 ICF beds empty; EPRC will be closing in September since a grant was not awarded. They are working on how to pass on items and programs on that have been developed. She asked that if anyone had thoughts about the transition to let her know.

There is a shortage of Direct Support Professionals. We need to remember to refer to these individuals as support and not caregivers. Our I/DD individuals have skills and abilities and these workers provide support not just care. The FMAP funds are only available one time (not reoccurring); wage increase is important and necessary. There are concerns regarding Waiver Support Coordinators (WSCs) changes in services and loss of funds.

Octavius Jackson went over the APD Update from Linda Donar. The Northwest Region weathered the TS Fred without any major problems or concerns. The Panama City office was closed along with most businesses in the city, there were reports of flooding, loss of power for a short time in



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the area but all is well. The positivity rate for COVID-19 is way up throughout the region. July 12 – 8/19 NWR has received 103 reports of positive cases of those 18 were hospitalized and sadly 3 individuals passed away. There is no executive order at this time regarding teleworking. The agency is providing PPE for office staff and encouraging all to adhere to the CDC guidelines in the office, group homes and ADTs. There are 33 ADTs open; 2 ADTs temporary closed due to quarantine required due to COVID cases. Many clients, advocates, and providers have alerted us to the need for provider rate increases. We understand that in order for our clients in the community to receive services that providers must be adequately compensated. While it will take legislative action during the upcoming session to authorize a provider rate increase, we are requesting that available COVID-19 relief funding be used as a supplement to providers in the interim. Hopefully the COVID-19 relief funding will be available to providers in the early fall.

Next meeting will also be virtual; link will be sent via email - Thursday, September 23 at 6 p.m.

Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Dina Justice, Vice Chair  
FCC Area 1