



Monday, September 25, 2023

CONSUMER AND FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REGULAR MEETING Mecklenburg County

5200 W. Paramount Parkway, Morrisville, NC 27560

5:30-7:00 p.m.

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: ☒ Ron Clark-in-person ☒ Linda Campbell-in-person ☒ Ruth Reynolds-in-person ☐ Randy Sperling, ☒ Beverly Corpening-virtual ☒ Shagun Gaur-virtual ☐ Melida Baldera ☒ Alan McDonald in-person ☒ Michael Flood-in-person ☒ Lois Stickell-virtual ☒ Shari Phillips-Stratton-virtual ☐ Jim Sonda-

GUEST(S): ☒ Suzanne Thompson, NCDHHS, ☒ Kathy Dozier-virtual

STAFF PRESENT: ☒ Aimee Izawa, Director Community & Member Engagement ☒ Lakeisha McCormick, Manager, Member Inclusion ☒ Eileen Bennett Member Inclusion and Outreach Specialist

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – the meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm
- 2. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES** – The minutes from the August 28, 2023, meeting were reviewed; a motion was made by Michael Flood and seconded by Ruth Reynolds to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:	DISCUSSION:	NEXT STEPS:	TIME FRAME:
3. Welcome	Linda Campbell		
4. Review of the Minutes	Linda Campbell		
5. Public Comment	<p>Alan McDonald asked about events that were happening soon. Eileen noted that we are participating in walk for the Down Syndrome Association in Kannapolis. Eileen noted that she would resend out the information to everyone and that the CFAC committee was welcome to come and be at our booth. Linda noted it was not a 5k but rather just a walk around the ball field.</p> <p>Linda asked if we had any visitors tonight. Kathy Dozier introduced herself. She noted she has a son with Autism and Down Syndrome.</p>	Eileen to send email with information about Down Syndrome Association.	
6. State Updates	<p>Suzanne Thompson noted that the budget was approved, and Gov. Cooper made the decision to have it go into law without his signature which will take 10 days. Medicaid expansion will go live on December 1, 2023. About 300k will get Medicaid immediately because they are already in a limited Medicaid already. The other 300k will have to fill out an application.</p> <p>The State to Local CFAC meeting is Weds night and Suzanne will be doing provide the CFAC Roles and Responsibilities presentation during the meeting. Presentation is to explain what CFACs should statutorily be doing.</p>		

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	<p>Suzanne noted that she is working on the RUN flyer and has not forgotten. She hopes to have it finished in the week but will keep us updated.</p> <p>Linda noted that at the CFAC Retreat the budget page 220-230 dealt with the IDD/Behavior Health population and wanted to note that for the group.</p> <p>Suzanne noted there would be more coming out in the budget about healthcare and behavior health.</p>		
7. Reports	<p>Linda Campbell/Shagun Gaur-CFAC Retreat-Shagun and Linda went in person to the CFAC retreat. Beverly and Jim were online. Shagun noted that the meeting began at 10:30 with Sara Wilson. She spoke about stakeholder meetings, and they collected ideas and concerns, and Alliance compiled the concerns under 5 9 areas. The Gov't Relations Alliance rep gave us an update on the State Budget. Shagun noted that 85% of providers are on the TP, and the budget is going through, and that there was a discussion on MCO's being merged. The other discussion about the pay for care workers being increased to 18 an hour. After lunch we had a discussion with Nicolette Adams as well as a brainstorming activity that we participated in with topics that the CFAC felt were the most pressing for NC. Shagun noted that each County CFAC voted on the areas that they felt were the most concerning. The top two were Crisis Intervention and Housing for Mecklenburg County. Finally, Brandon Wilson the Chair from State CFAC came to speak. Beverly noted that she was very impressed with Brandon and noted that he was very knowledgeable. Linda asked some questions regarding opening on State CFAC. Suzanne noted that there are no openings on State CFAC. However, Annette Smith from Alliance CFAC is on the State CFAC board, and can provide updates on the State Level. Suzanne noted that anyone can attend the State CFAC anytime as it is a public meeting. Suzanne noted that they are trying to find a way to open the Subcommittees to the local CFAC Committees. Suzanne noted that the information in the Subcommittee meetings are private and cannot be shared until the State CFAC approves. The Subcommittees provide an update each month at the State CFAC. Suzanne noted that there are recordings that are posted and can listen to the State CFAC meeting reports. Suzanne noted that many of the State CFAC members are on multiple CFAC subcommittees. Lois asked when Meck County joined did they make a space for us. Suzanne noted that the appointments are made by the state and that the people must represent for each disability. Alan asked about who provides how updates from Mecklenburg County make it to the State CFAC? Suzanne noted that the State CFAC allow time for local CFAC</p>		

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	<p>updates but the State to Local call does. Suzanne noted that whoever is the representative for Alliance should be giving an update for all of Alliance. Suzanne noted that the State to Local CFAC is every 4th Weds and anyone can attend those meetings as well. Lakeisha noted that Marie Dodson represents Alliance and gives the report. Lakeisha noted that Ramona and herself create a report for Marie so that she has something to report out on. Ron asked a question regarding the State CFAC Board Makeup. Suzanne noted that at the State Level, the applications go directly to the people responsible for the appointments. It is not something Suzanne's department has control over who is appointed. There are only minimal requirements that are screened before they are submitted to State CFAC where the applications are ranked and then sent to the Secretary of State Office for approval. The Secretary of State office makes their own decisions and may take the State CFAC's ranking into consideration but can make their own decisions. Aimee noted that there are State CFAC members who are part of our Mecklenburg County catchment but not necessarily an Alliance CFAC member. Suzanne noted that currently there is a person from Mecklenburg County and their information is located on the State CFAC page. Suzanne noted that she would provide the State CFAC Board Information to us. Linda asked how we can follow up on the priorities from the Brainstorming situation during the retreat? Lakeisha noted that she and Ramona were going to compile each of the concerns and topics and provide goals for each County to focus on. Lakeisha noted that they hope to have the results ready by the October steering committee meeting. Linda noted that since it is an election year another issue mentioned at the Retreat is to reach out to your county commissioners and let them know your concerns for the County as a whole. Ron said that he felt like there was a lot of discussion and fact finding about what the concerns and needs were. Alan asked how we know what each county's concerns were and how we narrowed it down to the 4 top areas to focus on. Lakeisha noted we had the colored dots for each county and that Mecklenburg had chosen Crisis and Supports and Housing for their top two concerns. Michael noted that he would be interested in understanding what the other counties had chosen. There was some brief discussion on the difficulty of transportation within Alliance's rural counties as well as practitioners within that area.</p>		
8. Statutory Requirements and Recommendations:	<p>Linda noted that there is an upcoming webinar on 1915i and Appendix K. Shagun noted that Autism Society is not doing any 1915i waiver trainings, but she believes it is going to be better services than the B3 services. Linda asked when 1915i waiver services began. Eileen noted it began July 1. Linda noted that Schedule K is ending. Kathy noted that parents can have 56 hours per week in approved care.</p>		

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	<p>Kathy noted that she doesn't have any care help. She noted that Schedule K has been a big discussion with parents because the hours that their children have cannot be provided by outside people. Kathy wanted to know when Schedule K ends, will they continue to pay parents to offer that care since there are no care professionals to give the care. Aimee noted that relatives as provider will need to fill out an application for approval once Schedule K provided and that those hours are not set by the MCO but rather the state. Alan noted that the Innovations Waiver Schedule K will end November 11. Alan noted that there is more discussion at the state level going around about the Schedule K and what will happen going forward. Kathy noted that they need to supply assistance or pay the parents to offer the care. Kathy noted we need to help our legislators understand that parents need financial support. Kathy noted that many people are not getting paid a fair pay and that the pay is not equal across the providers and that this it-effects supports. Linda noted Abound is doing a town hall on Appendix K and that she will send to the CFAC Board Members. Michael wanted to know where the application for the parents to apply for the hours is located? Aimee noted the care manager is usually the person who completes the application for that member. The providers should have it and if someone needs it Aimee noted she could send it to them. Aimee noted that it would be great if the families have more input on what is being put on the application because the justifications that the care managers put down can be vague and more detail would be beneficial. Shagun noted that some of the care managers are not educated or trained enough to help families who need Appendix K clarity or resources. Aimee noted that it is not always the care manager writing it but rather your provider that may be filling out the forms and ultimately submits the request. Aimee also noted that the provider must identify a back up staffing. Kathy noted she hasn't had back up staff in years. Aimee noted that her provider should be giving her back up. Aimee noted that you can reach out to provider's Supervisors or a Member Inclusion Outreach Specialist to help. Alan asked if a provider spells out a recommendation for services will the family have a chance to look at the document? Aimee noted the document does not require the family signature, but she did share that the Provider would probably like for a family member to help fill that out. Linda asked some questions about Peer Support. Ron gave some information about his 40-hour peer support training, and how the classes are offered, and where to find info about them.</p>		
9. Announcements			
10. Adjournment	<p>Linda asked for an adjournment with Michael Flood making the motion and Ron Clark seconding. Motion carried unanimously.</p>		

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11. **ADJOURNMENT:** the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm; the next meeting will be October 23, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.