



**Suzanne Sewell**  
**President & CEO**

**Shirley A. Balogh**  
**Board Chair**

**Michele Barnes**  
**Chair, Government Relations**



**Government Relations Forum Conference Call**  
**April 3, 2017**  
**11:00 a.m. – 11:37 a.m.**

**Attendees:** Joe Aniello – UCP of South Florida  
Linda Gluck – UCP of South Florida  
Debbie Terenzio – UCP of South Florida  
Marta Morin – UCP of South Florida  
Violet Gonzalez - MACtown  
Sue Mesko - MacDonald Training Center  
Karenne Levy – MacDonald Training Center  
Tina Philips – Palm Beach Habilitation Center  
Scott Greiner – New Horizons Village  
Roger Zhuang – Central Florida Communities  
Phillip Hall – Leon Advocacy and Resource Center  
Michele Barnes – Suncoast New Options  
Jim Weeks – Sunrise Community  
Karen Higgins – PARC  
Andy Vega – Brevard Achievement Center  
Camille Lukow – Florida Mentor  
Dennis Haas – ARC Broward  
Kevin Lundy – ResCare  
Diana Flenard – Monroe ARC  
Sue Kozial – Quest  
Shirley Balogh – Alliance for Independence  
Steve DeVane – Duvall Homes  
Marsha Shankleton – Duvall Homes  
Keith Muniz – ARC of Martin County  
Beverly Williams – Richards, Mitchell & Company  
Lorne Simmons – Moore Stephens Lovelace

**Staff:** Suzanne Sewell – President & CEO  
Courtney Swilley – Member Services Director  
Vicki McCrary – Member Services Specialist  
Patsy Eccles - Consultant

Government Relations Chair Michele Barnes called the meeting to order. Barnes then turned the meeting over to President & CEO Suzanne Sewell who informed members the intent of the call was to update members on the status of Session and recommended advocacy issues.

Sewell provided the following updates:

- The House and Senate have released their budget package which will be presented and voted on Wednesday. Budgets are on target for a floor vote the 2nd week of April. After the floor vote, the budget conference process begins. The Chambers are hoping to send the budget to the Governor while they are still in Session. A summary of the budget proposals are as follows:

Overall Budget	House Proposal	Senate Proposal
	\$81,237,031,627	\$83,164,036,042

**Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**

Budget Issue	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	Comments
Adults with Disabilities Fund (Base Funding)	\$5,176,853 (Projects already funded in the base were not adjusted.)	\$6,448,567  Prior recipients recurring funding: Broward Schools \$800,000 Daytona State College \$70,000 Flagler County \$535,892 Gulf AWD \$35,000 Helping People Succeed \$109,006 Jackson County \$1,019,247 Leon AWD \$225,000 Miami-Dade \$1,125,208 Palm Beach Hab. Ctr. \$225,000 Sumter AWD \$42,500 Taylor AWD \$42,500 Wakulla AWD \$42,500  ITEM \$1,500,000 (\$750,000 nonrecurring and \$750,000 recurring)	Same issue but funding amount must be resolved.
Adults with Disabilities Fund (New Non-Recurring Funding)	Centers Ind. Living \$151,109  Manatee/Sarasota Basic Ed \$137,000  The WOW Center \$250,000  Brevard Achievement Ctr. \$199,714	No mention.  Manatee/Sarasota Basic Ed \$137,000  The WOW Center \$250,000  Brevard Achievement Ctr. \$199,714	Project based on member specific requests.  Funding matches – should pass.  Funding matches – should pass.  Funding matches – should pass.

	No mention.	Pathways to Possibilities \$90,000	Project based on member specific requests.
Contracted Services	\$18,426,724	\$17,876,901	Same issue but funding must be resolved.
Purchased Client Services	\$125,317,727	\$125,317,727	Recommendations agree and should pass.

### Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA)

Budget Issue	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	Comments
Community ICF/IIDs	\$250,791,962	\$254,270,665	Same issue but funding amount must be resolved.
ICF Transition	\$2,860,901 funding from AHCA to APD to transition 25 beneficiaries from ICF/IIDs to community based alternatives.	\$2,860,901 funding from AHCA to APD to transition 25 beneficiaries from ICF/IIDs to community based alternatives.	Recommendations agree – should pass.
Background Screening	\$610,000 Background Screening Clearinghouse.	\$610,000 Background Screening Clearinghouse.	Recommendations agree – should pass.
Personal Needs Allowance	\$21 million in reduction for personal needs allowance from \$105 per month to \$70 per month.	No mention.	Appears to represent nursing homes and ICF/IIDs. Community ICF portion estimated at \$870,000.

### Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)

Budget Issue	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	Comments
Staffing	\$2,336,129 for additional contract staff to augment waiver workload.	24 FTE funded at \$1,004,981 for evaluation forensic liaisons, Supported Living, Medical Case managers. \$300,000 for consultants.	Recommendations do not agree regarding FTE and contract staff although duties overlap.
Fair Hearing Workload	\$681,477 for attorneys to handle fair hearings for iBudget algorithm implementation.	\$681,477 for fair hearings workload increase.	Recommendations agree – should pass.
Client Data Management System	\$2,001,922 for Client Data Management & Electronic Visit Verification and over \$1 million for other IT issues.	\$1.3 million for Client Data Management and Electronic Verification project and \$306,000 computer refresh.	Same issue but funding has to be resolved.
Enhanced Employment	\$500,000 for Employment Internships for 150 waitlist clients.	\$750,000 for Employment and Internships – IFS line.	Same issue but funding has to be resolved.
QSI Assessment Tool	\$208,395 for QSI Validity and Reliability Study.	\$208,395 for QSI Validity and Reliability Study.	Recommendations agree – should pass.
Rate Increase for Nurses	\$3,374,073 for waiver rates for nurses to match state plan rate.	\$3,374,073 for waiver rates for nurses to pay same amount as state plan.	Recommendations agree – should pass.

Enhanced IB Model	\$4,583,885 for Intensive Behavior Models for clients with dual diagnoses.	\$992,384 for Intensive Behavior Waiver Model for clients with dual diagnoses.	Same issue but funding amount has to be resolved.
Waitlist	\$7,488,648 to serve additional clients on the waitlist.	No mention.	Not a Florida ARF platform issue.
Support Coordination Rate Increase	No mention.	\$7,895,806 Support Coordinator rate increase.	Not a Florida ARF platform issue.
DOL / FLSA for Home Care	Funding in Back of the Bill as non-recurring dollars.	\$41,017,246 provider rate increase to address FLSA (DOL) thru recurring dollars.	Florida ARF platform supports recurring funding.
Personal Needs Allowance - ICF/IID	Reduction to the personal needs allowance from \$105 to \$70 per month.	No mention.	Appears to affect APD clients residing in DDCs (Marianna Sunland and Tacachalee).
APD Special Projects	Arc Florida Training \$25,000 Arc Gateway \$2,000,000 Easter Seals Brv. \$50,000 Our Pride Child Care 600,000 Operation Grow \$240,000 ASC Theater \$175,000 Arc Jacksonville \$300,000 JAFCO Child \$500,000 Stirring the Waters \$500,000 Miracle League \$300,000 ARC Broward \$100,000 Arc Nature Coast \$425,000	Arc Tampa Bay \$686,000 Easter Seals Vo/FL \$100,000 MACTown Fitness \$50,000 Our Pride Child Care \$500,000 Operation Grow \$200,000 Brevard Achieve. \$300,000 Arc Jacksonville \$300,000 JAFCO Child Center \$500,000 Loveland Center \$500,000 SW Florida Autism \$42,000 ARC Broward FCO \$50,000 Arc Nature Coast \$425,000 SW Florida Autism FCO \$20,000 DNA Comprehensive \$733,660 Club Challenge \$168,150 Club Challenge FCO \$31,850 Monroe ARC \$100,000 ADE \$100,000 Youth/Family Alt. \$500,000	Projects are based on member specific requests.
Position Cuts	Vacant position reductions: 59.5 with funding reduction of \$2,790,417.	4 vacant positions deleted and 20 taken from Sunland to outsource janitorial services.	Not a Florida ARF platform issue.
FMAP Adjustments	\$6,467,749 federal Medicaid match increase is a funding shift.	\$6,467,749 federal Medicaid match increase is a funding shift.	Federal funding adjustment that releases General Revenue.

- Sewell reported VR would appreciate support for their OJT Workers' Compensation bill. She also mentioned there is an issue with the ICF proviso due to a special project being tagged on but it appears this issue is being cleared up.
- At this point, nothing has been placed in the budget for the rate increase and the 11% request seems unrealistic. Members discussed strategy and agreed to aggressively pursue a 3% rate adjustment
- Sewell reviewed the upcoming Session schedule and let members know that the legislature will only be meeting April 12-13<sup>th</sup> to allow them to be home for Passover and Good Friday.

Florida ARF will keep members updated on Session activity.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.