



Minutes

February 2020 PPAIC Meeting

📅 Tue February 18th, 2020

🕒 11:00am - 12:00pm EST

📍 Teleconference

👥 In Attendance

Thom DeLilla, Janet Good, Karen Hagan, Whitney Harris, Eric Reed, Paul Tobin

I. Opening

The February 2020 PPAIC Meeting was opened by Mr. Thom DeLilla.

a. **Verbal Authorization to Begin Recording**

No member presented an issue with the meeting being recorded.

b. **Call to Order**

Mr. DeLilla called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

c. **Roll Call**

Members in Attendance: Mr. Thom DeLilla, Ms. Janet Good, Ms. Karen Hagan, and Mr. Paul Tobin

Staff in Attendance: Ms. Whitney Harris and Mr. Eric Reed

Members of the Public: None

d. **Establishment of Quorum**

A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. DeLilla presented the agenda for the February 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

a. **Category: Standing Item**

b. **Attachments: February 2020 PPAIC Meeting Agenda**

c. **Public Comment on any Agenda Item**

No public comment was made.

d. **Modifications to Agenda**

1. **The Committee will hear any modifications to the agenda under Agenda Item IX.**

No modifications were made to the agenda.

e. **ACTION NEEDED**

Decision: Ms. Karen Hagan motioned to approve the February 2020 PPAIC Agenda as presented.

Ms. Janet Good seconded the motion.

The motion passed without dissent.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. DeLilla presented the minutes from the January 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

a. **Category: Standing Item**

b. **Attachments**

1. **January 2020 PPAIC Meeting Minutes**

c. **ACTION NEEDED**

Decision: Ms. Good motioned to approve the minutes from the January 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

Ms. Hagan seconded the motion.

The motion passed without dissent.

IV. **Presentations of Staff Reporting**

Mr. DeLilla asked Ms. Whitney Harris to summarize the documents that were provided to the PPAIC.

a. **Category: Old Business**

b. **Attachments**

1. **Medicaid School Concurrence Memo**

2. **Senate Bill 82 Memo**

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **In the January 2020 PPAIC meeting, the Committee requested FFAST staff to research and provide an analysis of FFAST's role in the Medicaid School Concurrence issue. A memo has been drafted by Mr. Eric Reed and Ms. Whitney Harris that provides the results of this reporting.**

Ms. Harris gave a brief overview of the memorandum presented. The findings of Ms. Harris's research was that the Medicaid School Concurrence issue was brought to FFAST by their Regional Demonstration Centers (RDCs). It is unclear at this time where exactly the issue is being cause and by which organization (the local public school system or the local Medicaid provider). FFAST has reached out to their six

RDCs to learn what their opinions were on the situation and only received responses from the University of Miami and Hope Haven in Jacksonville. When all six RDCs have responded, their responses will be sent to the PPAIC. Ms. Harris has not spoken to anyone at AHCA or DOE, but will do so after the RDCs have responded and the PPAIC has revisited this issue. Her analysis shows that this topic would fall under the mission of FFAST and if it is an issue the PPAIC wants to pursue, it would be appropriate.

Mr. DeLilla agrees with the plan moving forward and would like to hear from all the FFAST regional offices before speaking with AHCA and DOE. Mr. Eric Reed stated that since FFAST does not see this issue firsthand at Headquarters, he believes it is best to learn from the RDCs as they have the most experience. Ms. Good stated that she shared the memorandum with Ms. Anne Glass at the DOE.

2. **It was requested by the PPAIC Chair, Mr. Thom DeLilla, that FFAST staff research Senate Bill 82 to provide an analysis on FFAST's potential participation in the legislation.**

Ms. Harris gave a brief overview of the memorandum for Senate Bill 82. In her research, she does not believe that the changes proposed in this bill for the iBudget Waiver would impact the users' ability to access assistive technology. Ms. Harris spoke with Disability Rights Florida to confirm that the legislation would not impact acquisition of or access to assistive technology. Disability Rights Florida concurred with Ms. Harris. Ms. Harris did not speak with anyone from APD.

Ms. Hagan stated that it is most likely that Senate Bill 82 would not pass this session. She felt that there were benefits to this bill, including the increased oversight of waiver support coordinators. These are contract case managers for APD. Ms. Hagan recommended that FFAST be featured on one of APD's upcoming waiver support coordinator calls to share what FFAST does and how assistive technology could help their clients.

Mr. Reed commented to say that he believes the bill would not be moving any more this legislative session. Ms. Hagan said that some items in the bill may be addressed through rules instead of legislation.

Mr. DeLilla agreed that FFAST should develop better relationships with support coordinators across the state. Mr. DeLilla would like to see FFAST working with individuals who are trained to go into peoples' homes and assess their assistive technology needs. These individuals would also provide them with the information on how which assistive technology would be best for them and how to access it. He proposes that there could be a fee attached to this service. This service could be extended to all the waiver programs in Florida.

Ms. Hagan believes there are two next steps: FFAST giving a one hour training to waiver support coordinators and to connect the RDCs with waiver support coordinator regionals across the state. Mr. Reed is in agreement that FFAST should connect with other organizations to make sure they are aware of what FFAST does. Mr. DeLilla feels that it goes both ways, that agencies may not know about FFAST, but that FFAST doesn't know what they do or why they do it either. Mr. DeLilla thinks FFAST should consider reaching out to other organizations and inviting them to present at a FFAST board meeting. Mr. Reed agrees with Mr. DeLilla's that learning more is a must. Ms. Hagan will reach out to her organization about getting FFAST on a waiver support coordinator call. Mr. Reed believes that this conversation

fits into the upcoming service delivery discussion at the FAAST board meeting.

Mr. DeLilla would like FAAST to further explore the opportunities for state agencies to present what they are doing to FAAST. Ms. Harris recommended adding that to the next PPAIC agenda. Ms. Good agrees that it is the role of this committee with the Interagency piece to present what their organizations are doing. Ms. Hagan agrees as well and believes that as organization get in front of each other, the clients win. Mr. Paul Tobin recommended that the Service Delivery Committee join in that conversation in order for those members to learn as well.

Mr. DeLilla isn't sure of the exact services that are given to an individual when they visit a FAAST RDCs. He believes that FAAST should be serving the community in the best way possible, which could tie into a long term plan. A long term vision would help PPAIC to determine legislative priorities. Mr. Tobin believes that this is a conversation for the full board to create a strategic plan for FAAST in order to determine those end goals. This plan would involve addresses the weaknesses of FAAST, such as some RDCs only serving particular populations who would not necessarily go out into the community to give full assistive technology evaluations. Mr. DeLilla doesn't believe that FAAST is currently getting the message across to Floridians on assistive technology and the benefits that FAAST can give the community.

Ms. Hagan believes that at some point there must of been research done on the cost benefits of using assistive technology. Mr. Tobin knows that the federal government is limited to cost benefits in the current year. Mr. Reed is not aware of Florida's policies with completing a cost benefit analysis.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

Task: Mr. DeLilla would like FAAST to further explore the opportunities for state agencies to present what they are doing to FAAST.  Whitney Harris 03/17/2020

V. **Potential 2021 Legislative Priority: Update FAAST Statute 413.407**

Mr. DeLilla asked Ms. Harris to give the PPAIC background information on the FAAST Statute discussion.

a. **Category: Old Business**

b. **Attachments**

1. **413.407 July 2019 Draft Revision**

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **This agenda item is to begin reviewing potential 2021 Legislative Priority Items. This item was a 2020 Legislative Priority and was voted on the January 2020 PPAIC Meeting to further research this item to be on next year's priorities list.**

Ms. Harris shared that the document that was included on this agenda item is the most recent copy of the statute with Mr. Michael Daniels' edits. She and Mr. Reed have not recently reviewed this document. Mr. Tobin recalls that Mr. Daniels began working on this without engaging DOE. Mr. Tobin believes that changing the statute

should be part of a bigger discussion, but should also be brought before DOE or VR before the PPAIC begins working on it to ensure their efforts are not wasted. Mr. Reed stated that in the last meeting with VR, they seemed open to supporting changes to the statute but it's a matter of what they would feel is necessary to be changed. He believes that VR agrees that changes need to be made to 413.407 and that they would support changes that would positively impact the organization.

Mr. DeLilla asked what their process is for moving forward on this topic. Mr. Reed believes that the first step is to ask VR what the process should be for moving forward. Mr. DeLilla asked if these issues are the same that has been brought to VR in the past. Mr. Reed is not sure if these exact changes to the statute were ever brought directly to VR. Mr. DeLilla encourages FFAST to sit down with VR to address the issue together, versus moving along without their support. Mr. Tobin believes that this conversation should also flow from a strategic plan. This would be a systematic approach to avoid having to change the statute again in the future.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

Task: FFAST will ask VR what the next steps are for changing the statute.

Eric Reed 03/17/2020

VI. **Potential 2021 Legislative Priority: Update FTRI Statute 427.704**

Mr. DeLilla asked Ms. Harris to give the PPAIC background information on the FTRI Statute discussion.

a. **Category: Old Business**

b. **Attachments**

1. **FTRI Statute 427.704**

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **This agenda item is to begin reviewing potential 2021 Legislative Priority Items. This item was presented to the PPAIC in September 2019 and was voted on the January 2020 PPAIC Meeting to further research this item to be on next year's priorities list. Since PPAIC last addressed this issue, the previous Executive Director of FTRI has since retired, Mr. James Forstall. A new Executive Director, Mr. Sean Bankston, began at FTRI in late 2019. FFAST staff has not contacted Mr. Bankston since he has been in his current position.**

Ms. Harris stated that this conversation stemmed from the September 2019 PPAIC meeting. The PPAIC had voted to help change FTRI's statute to include new technologies for mobile devices instead of only landlines. FTRI has a new executive director and Ms. Harris does not believe that FFAST has reached out to him up to this point.

Mr. DeLilla is trying to clarify how FFAST gets involved with situations such as this. He believes that it might be best for FFAST to coordinate a conversation with other groups that FTRI serves as that may be a better role for FFAST than what is presented. Mr. Tobin does not believe that FFAST should be the leading agency on this topic. He thinks that FFAST should reach out to the new executive director and that PPAIC should be aware of FFAST's current bandwidth. At a minimum, FFAST

should reach out to Mr. Sean Bankston.

Mr. Reed gave background information on what he knows of FFAST's relationship with FTRI. Mr. Tobin suggests tabling this discussion for now and in the meantime, reaching out to FTRI to figure out with the two organizations can harmonize.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

Task: FFAST to reach out to FTRI to introduce ourselves to the new Executive Director.  Eric Reed 03/17/2020

VII. **Potential 2021 Legislative Priority: Assistive Technology Trust Fund**

Before the next agenda item was asked, Mr. Tobin asked Mr. Reed and Ms. Harris if members of the Committee could assist with any of the work load on this Committee. Mr. Tobin wanted to ensure that with Mr. Reed and Ms. Harris filling in for the tasks of the Executive Director, that their work load was manageable. Mr. Reed responded that staff will heed Mr. Tobin's words and ask for assistance if it is needed. Mr. DeLilla concurred and stated that his goal is to reduce the work of this Committee by addressing the older items that have been carried over from past agendas.

Mr. DeLilla moved the PPAIC onto the Assistive Technology Trust Fund.

a. **Category: Old Business**

b. **Attachments**

1. **September 9, 2019 Executive Committee Minutes**

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **This agenda item is to begin reviewing potential 2021 Legislative Priority Items. This item was originally a 2020 Legislative Priority in July 2019, then was removed in September 2019 following a meeting between the FFAST Executive Director and VR. On the January 2020 PPAIC Meeting, the Committee to further research the feasibility of this item to be on next year's priorities list.**

2. **The first action requested by FFAST staff, is for PPAIC to give justification on why a trust fund is needed by FFAST. This will help staff as they move forward with researching feasibility on this item.**

Ms. Harris stated that this topic was added to the agenda so the PPAIC could have a discussion on why a trust fund is needed for FFAST. Mr. Tobin believes that this topic should also stem from a strategic planning, instead of looking for funding without knowing what to do with it. Mr. Tobin suggested that this item be tabled as well.

Mr. Reed shared that FFAST's attorney sent a letter to him that concludes that FFAST should not fundraise. FFAST's attorney met with the Department of Education's attorney and they both came to the conclusion that if FFAST has a really need to fundraise, the Department of Education would consider allowing them the opportunity but they currently believe that any fundraising for FFAST should be done by The Able Trust. As the Department of Education's attorney stated that The Able Trust is the fundraising arm of Chapter 413. Mr. Reed will forward the letter

from the attorney to the PPAIC members.

Mr. DeLilla agreed with Mr. Tobin, that FAAST should postpone discussions of additional funding until there is a plan in place on how to use them.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

No actions were assigned.

VIII. **Task Report**

Mr. DeLilla asked Ms. Harris to update PPAIC on the action item reports.

a. **Category: Standing Item**

b. **Attachments**

1. **Task Report**

c. **Purpose/Statement**

1. **This agenda item is to inform the Committee of actions taken to complete items on the Task Report.**

Ms. Harris presented the list titled "January 2020" task list and stated that these items were from the September 2019. She recommends voiding these items since staff is unsure of the direction Mr. Michael Daniels was going. Mr. DeLilla and Mr. Tobin agreed that the items of the from the September 2019 PPAIC meeting should be marked completed.

The second list has one item that has been completed. Ms. Harris will mark both task lists as complete.

d. **Assign Actions as Needed**

IX. **Agenda Modifications**

a. **From Agenda II d.**

No modifications were made to the agenda.

X. **Closing**

Mr. DeLilla closed the February 2020 PPAIC Meeting.

a. **Last Call for Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

b. **Next Meeting**

1. **Date and Time**

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

2. **GoToMeeting Information**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/397169565>

3. **Toll-free number and Access Code**

United States: +1 (312) 757-3117

Access Code: 397-169-565

c. **Adjourn**

The February PPAIC Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 PM.

No motion was made, as the PPAIC no longer had quorum.