

Legislative Talking Template 6/28/2009

Senator/Representative _____,

My name is _____ and I am the parent of a developmentally disabled child named _____ who is _____ years old. His/her disability is _____ and it impacts our family by _____.

I also serve on our Family Care Council of area _____ which includes _____, _____, _____ and _____ counties.

The Family Care Council is a Governor appointed committee of DD individuals and/or family members whose job it is to advocate for the developmentally disabled. We hold periodic meetings where we review policies of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, plan strategies for advocating and decide how we want to influence the legislature. (See FCCF description attachment). The Family Care Council is the **ONLY** organization that represents the views of the families. To get the input from the families you must be talking with the FCCs.

The Family Care Council Legislative Platform for this year is: – see attached platform.

- We must end the wait list.
 - Elder families are concerned about how their DD children will be taken care of when they die
 - Middle aged families are struggling with young DD adults who are stuck at home with little to do but get in trouble while the parents struggle to balance caring for their DD child and making a living.
 - Younger Families are struggling to “fight the school systems” for the the services that they need to survive.
- We can't endanger the health & safety of those receiving services by cutting the services beyond what the family can stand
- We must maintain the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) – without them, we are a lone voice in the wilderness.

Ask for commitment to help our agenda. Look them in the eye!

Leave handout with legislator and get a picture if possible.

Attachment 1 - FCC



Family Care Council Florida

Betty Kay Clements, Chairperson
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Vice Chairperson:
Frank Carroll

Past Chairperson:
Patty Houghland

Area Chairs:
Area 1
Lynn Carper, Secretary

Area 2
Vacant

Area 3
Susan Creek

Area 4
Maria Quimones
Sherri Vardas

SunCoast Region
East
Pauline Lipps

West
Virginia Ruf
Margaret Watkins

Area 7
Donna Rauber

Area 8
Sharon Berry

Area 9
Faith Jones
Kristen Kovach Zompa

Area 10
Jean Sherman

Area 11
Margarita Montalvo

Area 12
Phil Pearson, Treasurer

Area 13
Isabel S de Martinez

Area 14
Wayne Carter
Manyvone Champavannarath

Area 15
Nancy Moody

Florida Statute 393.502 Family Care Councils.--

CREATION.--There shall be established and located within each service area of the agency a family care council.

MEMBERSHIP.--

(a) Each local family care council shall consist of at least 10 and no more than 15 members recommended by a majority vote of the local family care council and appointed by the Governor.

(b) At least three of the members of the council must be consumers. One such member shall be a consumer who received services within the 4 years prior to the date of recommendation, or the legal guardian of such a consumer. The remainder of the council members shall be parents, guardians, or siblings of persons with developmental disabilities who qualify for services pursuant to this chapter.

PURPOSE. --The purpose of the local family care councils shall be to advise the agency, to develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area, and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and support provided under the plan. The primary functions of the local family care councils shall be to:

(a) Assist in providing information and outreach to families.

(b) Review the effectiveness of service programs and make recommendations with respect to program implementation.

(c) Advise the agency with respect to policy issues relevant to the community and family support system in the local area.

(d) Meet and share information with other local family care councils.

**We are the
Families!**

The mission of the Family Care Council Florida is to advocate, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Agency, to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.

Attachment 2 – Legislative Platform



Family Care Council Florida

Chairperson: Betty Kay Clements
Email: cbettykay@acl.com
Website: www.fccflorida.org

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2009-2010

Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We do not have paid lobbyists.

We are committed to educating, advocating, and empowering all Floridians with developmental disabilities, and have pledged to continue working closely with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to stabilize the existing system. We want to be part of the solution to strengthen the developmental disability system, therefore ensuring the protection of Floridians with developmental disabilities.

Viewed through the prism of our collective experiences, we identify the following priorities:

- ◆ **End the Wait List.** We recommend the creation of a strategic plan that will reduce and eliminate the waiting list for services for Floridians with developmental disabilities. The Plan will include but is not limited to:
 - ◆ Effective assessment and reprioritization of those on the waitlist;
 - ◆ Development of projected budgets and timelines for individuals based on need;
 - ◆ Identification of stable and dedicated sources of revenue streams.

- ◆ **Protect Health and Safety.** We recommend the identification of alternative and dedicated revenue and funding sources to support Human Services Programs that are charged with protecting the health and safety of all Floridians with developmental disabilities:
 - ◆ Ensure that all State entities that have statutory requirements for serving Floridians with developmental disabilities (i.e., DOE, AHCA, DCF/APS) honor those responsibilities;
 - ◆ Maximize the use of state dollars to increase Medicaid matching funds;
 - ◆ Prevent future cuts to the programs and services offered through APD.

- ◆ **Maintain APD.** We support the continuation of APD as a stand-alone agency moving towards stabilizing programs and services to all Floridians with developmental disabilities:
 - ◆ Reinforce the mission of APD to serve the unique needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities;
 - ◆ Promote good stewardship and utilization of funding streams through a systemic review of policies and procedures to increase fiscal responsibility and efficiency;
 - ◆ Promote grassroots efforts on behalf of Floridians with developmental disabilities that focus on individual needs and community supports.

Date: January 17, 2009