



agency for  
persons with  
disabilities

*State of Florida*



**FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA**  
**Your United Voice**



# **Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

“Working in partnership with local communities to ensure the safety, well-being and self-sufficiency for the people we serve.”



# What is the Agency for Persons with Disabilities?

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities assists people who have developmental disabilities and their families. It also provides assistance to identify the needs of people with developmental disabilities and funding to purchase supports and services.

Though the Central Office is in Tallahassee, the supports and services for people with developmental disabilities are provided through district offices throughout the state.



# What is a Developmental Disability?

"Developmental Disability" is a broad term that refers to a variety of conditions that interfere with a person's ability to function in everyday activities. Chapter 393, Florida Statutes, define developmental disabilities as spina bifida, autism, cerebral palsy, Prader-Willi syndrome and mental retardation.


All the causes of developmental disabilities are not known. Most developmental disabilities are present at birth, but others may not be recognized and identified for several months or years.

Disabilities challenge the people who have them because they can change the way people grow, learn and function.



# The developmental disabilities identified in Florida law are:

- **SPINA BIFIDA:** means divided backbone or spine. When a person has spina bifida, the spine and the cord inside the spine do not grow the way most spines grow. Normally, the spinal cord carries messages from the brain to other parts of the body, but when a person has spina bifida, the spinal cord does not carry all of the messages to the rest of the body.
- **AUTISM:** is a condition characterized by impairment in social interactions and communication abilities and unusual or restricted ranges of play and interest. Autism results in social isolation and varying degrees of unusual behaviors.
- **CEREBRAL PALSY (CP):** "Cerebral" means the brain. "Palsy" means moving of the muscles in a way that the person can't control. It refers to a group of motor disabilities that arise because of injury to the developing brain before or during birth or during the first year of life. These motor disabilities do not get worse over time. Cerebral palsy keeps the brain from telling the rest of the body some of the things it is supposed to do. It might be hard for a person with cerebral palsy to talk, walk, see, hear, sit, or swallow. A person with cerebral palsy might have a combination of these things. Despite significant motor impairment, many people with CP have normal intelligence.
- **MENTAL RETARDATION:** refers to significant limitations in functioning related to subaverage intelligence. Mental retardation is caused by an injury, disease or abnormality of the brain that happens before the person is 18 years old. People who have mental retardation learn more slowly than other people and might need assistance in other areas like communication, self-care, self-direction, health and safety, leisure, work and functional academics.

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- **PRADER-WILLI syndrome:** is an inherited condition. A severe lack of muscle tone and failure to thrive are present in early infancy. Later on, excessive drive to eat usually leads to significant weight problems. Obsessive-compulsive behaviors and difficulty with social interactions are often present. People with Prader-Willi syndrome are usually short with small hands and feet. They typically are mildly mentally retarded.
  - **HIGH RISK OF DEVELOPING A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY:** It is not always easy to tell if a baby has a developmental disability. However, a child who does not crawl, walk, or talk at the same age as most other children may be considered a child with a developmental disability. In Florida, children from birth to five years of age who are at high risk of developing a developmental disability may receive services from the following agencies: The Department of Health, Division of Children's Medical Services serves children from birth through three years of age. The Department of Children and Families, Developmental Disabilities Program serves children in the high risk category who are ages four and five.



# **What services can a person receive from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities?**

The services children and adults can receive are called supports and services that make it easier for people to live, work and play in places they choose.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities can arrange for a support coordinator to assist individuals in identifying the supports and services they need.

Together a plan of supports and services will be developed to assist people with developmental disabilities.



# Medical Necessity Conditions

## Medicaid Waiver funded services must be:

- Necessary to protect life, to prevent significant illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain
- Individualized, specific and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment and not in excess of the person's needs;
- Consistent with generally accepted professional medical standards as defined by the Medicaid program and not be experimental or investigational;
- Reflective of the level of service that can safely be furnished, for which no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- Furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker or the provider.



# When & where can a person apply for services?

People who have or might have a developmental disability may apply for services at any time by completing the [Application for Services](#) (available online) and forwarding it to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in the [district/region](#) where the potential applicant lives.

**Concerned relatives, friends or others may apply on behalf of a person that they believe has a developmental disability.**



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What exactly is the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Home and Community-based Waiver program (also called the Medicaid Waiver)?

**A:** The Medicaid Waiver is a mechanism to provide care in community-based settings, as an alternative to institutional care.

**Q:** How many Floridians with developmental disabilities are being served by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities?

**A:** More than 30,800

**Q:** What is the average annual expenditure for people with developmental disabilities who are served on the Medicaid Waiver?

**A:** The average annual expenditure is about \$20,000



# How can you learn more about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities?

Write or call the [local district/region](#) Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

## District 1

Dave Robinson, Ed.D.  
160 Governmental Ctr.  
Pensacola, FL 32501  
(850)595-8344

## District 3

Jim Smith  
1000 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Gainesville, FL 32602  
(352)955-5793

## District 2

Mac McCoy  
2639 N. Monroe, Suite 140-A  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850)487-1997

## District 4

Jerry Martin, PH.D.  
3631-B Hodges Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
(904)992-2440



Write or call the [local district/region](#) Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

Suncoast Region

Carl Littlefield  
9393 N. Florida Ave  
Tampa, FL 33612  
(813)932-5540

District7

H. David Johnston  
400 W. Robinson, Suite 930  
Orlando, FL 32801  
(405)245-0440

District 8

Marsha Vollmar  
P.O. Box 33906  
Ft. Myers, FL 33906  
(239)338-1572

District 9

Gerry Driscoll  
111 South Sapodilla Ave  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561)837-5564

District 10

Martha Keim  
201 W. Broward Blvd. Suite 403  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301  
(954)467-4218

District 11

Orlando Garcia  
401 N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Suite N812  
Miami, FL 33128  
(305)377-5029



Write or call the [local district/region](#) Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

District 12

Ed DeBardeleben  
210 N. Palmetto, Suite 220  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
(386)238-4607

District 13

Pat Crosthwaith and Frances W  
Chambers, Acting  
1601 W. Gulf Atlantic Highway  
Wildwood, FL 34785  
(352)330-2162 ext.6287

District 14

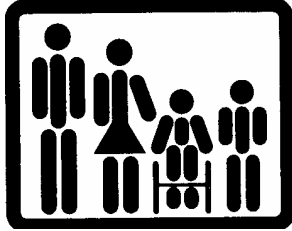
Eric Olsen  
4720 Old Highway 37  
Lakeland, FL 33813  
(863)619-4100

District 15

Steve Stoltz  
337 N 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite A  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34956  
(772)467-3792



Attend meetings of your local Family Care Council where people with developmental disabilities and their family members discuss issues important to them.



# Family Care Council Florida

## **History of the Creation and Appointment of local Family Care Councils**

In 1993 the Florida State Legislature established the Family Care Council (FCC) (Section [393.502](#)). The Family Care Council (FCC) advises the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities Program, on the needs of self-advocates and their families.

**Family Care Council Florida** was created by the local FCC's to fulfill one of the primary functions mandated by the Legislature, **TO MEET AND SHARE INFORMATION**. Each local FCC is represented at a meeting held every other month.

**Website:** <http://www.fccflorida.org>

This web site is for people in the developmental disabilities community. It provides information for individuals and their families about requirements, procedures, and services affecting their lives. Our goal is to inform and educate; helping families and consumers to be better self advocates.




## **at the State level:**

The local Councils work closely with other Districts/Region in Florida to be a united voice in representing individuals and their families. In addition to supporting continued funding, the State FCC is very actively involved in representing the self-advocates and families at state meetings and researching and reviewing program improvements and changes.



# Continuation of Programs:

Because of increased funding for the Developmental Disabilities programs over the last several years, many families and self-advocates have been able to obtain services for the first time. Others, however, are having difficulty. The FCC has been given the authority by the Florida State Legislature to make a difference, and we encourage you to support, attend, and participate.



This is your avenue within the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities Program to have a voice and keep informed. **Take advantage of it!**

It is important the FCCF speak for everyone and not just a few when advising on important decisions that will affect your family.



# Family Care Council-State Chairs

**State Chairperson: Ann Millan** E-mail: [amnvic@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:amnvic@tampabay.rr.com)

**District 1 Co-Chairpersons:**

Joy Frazier (850) 433-4133

E-mail: [Buddysjoy2@juno.com](mailto:Buddysjoy2@juno.com)

Lynn Carper (850) 475-8879 (home)

E-mail: [lcarper@cox.net](mailto:lcarper@cox.net)

**Escambia**

**Santa Rosa**

**Okaloosa**

**Walton**

**District 2 Chairperson:**

Janet Graham (850) 413-9115

E-mail: [jgraham@nettally.com](mailto:jgraham@nettally.com)

[FCCdistrict2@yahoo.com](mailto:FCCdistrict2@yahoo.com)

**Bay Jackson Calhoun**

**Jefferson Franklin Leon**

**Gadsden Liberty Gulf**

**Madison Holmes Taylor**

**Washington Wakulla**

**District 3 Chairperson:**

Melinda Morrison

E-mail: [morrison@ufbi.ufl.edu](mailto:morrison@ufbi.ufl.edu)

**Alachua Bradford Columbia**

**Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton**

**Lafayette Levy Putnam**

**Suwannee Union**



# Family Care Council-State Chairs

**District 4 Chairperson: Vacant**

For Information Contact:

Carol Stamper

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

3631 Hodges Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32224

(904) 992-2440 Fax: (904) 992-2442

E-Mail: [carol\\_stamper@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:carol_stamper@dcf.state.fl.us)

**Baker Clay Duval**

**Nassau St. John**

**Suncoast Region – West Chairperson**

Rob Mochrie (727)- 556-0194 (home)

E-mail: [POETMOC@aol.com](mailto:POETMOC@aol.com)

**Pinellas**

**Pasco**



# Family Care Council-State Chairs

## **Suncoast Region – East Chairperson**

Rhonda Sloan (813)237-3034 (home)

E-mail: [sloans\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sloans_2000@yahoo.com)

Toll free voice mail: 1-800-201-0530

## **District 7 Chairperson:**

Chris Drummond**Contact:**

Donna Rauber (407) 834-8643 (home)

E-mail: [drauber@earthlink.net](mailto:drauber@earthlink.net)

## **District 8 Chairperson:**

Sheryl Soukup (239)-334-CARE (2273)

Email: [chairfcc8@earthlink.net](mailto:chairfcc8@earthlink.net)

DeSoto Hillsborough

Manatee Sarasota

Brevard Seminole

Orange Osceola

Charlotte Collier Glades

Hendry Lee



# Family Care Council-State Chairs

## **District 9 Chairperson:**

Maryellen Jones (561)-756-3576

E-mail: [WESTORTH@aol.com](mailto:WESTORTH@aol.com)

**Palm Beach**

## **District 10 Chairperson:**

Bob Wessels (954) 491-2180

Email: [FCC-10@earthlink.net](mailto:FCC-10@earthlink.net)

**Broward**

## **District 11 (A) Chairperson:**

Margarita Montalvo (305) 378-1336 or (305) 234-8382

Email: [jotrek9@bellsouth.net](mailto:jotrek9@bellsouth.net)

**Dade**



# Family Care Council-State Chairs

## **District 11 (B) Chairperson:**

Gail Martell (305) 517-9980 (home)

E-mail: [Gmart58154@aol.com](mailto:Gmart58154@aol.com)

Monroe

## **District 12 Chairperson:**

Kamal K. Samar (386)-676-2939

[kamalhelen@yahoo.com](mailto:kamalhelen@yahoo.com)

Flagler  
Volusia

## **District 13 Co-Chairpersons:**

Betty Kay Clemens (352)-753-1163

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Citrus Hernando Lake  
Marion Sumter

PeterDubroff

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# Family Care Council-State Chairs

## **District 14 Chairperson:**

Brandy Hewett (863)-537-2222  
[Brandy\\_Hewett@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Brandy_Hewett@doh.state.fl.us) (work)  
[HewFL\\_MOM@aol.com](mailto:HewFL_MOM@aol.com) (home)

Hardee Highlands  
Polk

## **District 15 Chairperson:**

Diane Ciccarelli (772) 708-4883 (home)  
E-mail: [ciccarelli@adelphia.net](mailto:ciccarelli@adelphia.net)

Indian River Martin  
Okeechobee St Lucie

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## **Vice Chairperson FCCF:**

Patty Houghland (850) 944-3217 (home)  
E-mail: [pattyhoughland@cox.net](mailto:pattyhoughland@cox.net)  
[p.houghland@advocacycenter.org](mailto:p.houghland@advocacycenter.org)

## **Past Chairperson FCCF:**

Frank Carroll  
E-mail: [fccd3@netscape.net](mailto:fccd3@netscape.net)



# Family Care Council Florida Mission Statement

To **A**dvocate, **E**ducate, and **E**mpower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.



**Contact your local Family Care Council and become part of this very important united voice of families and self-advocates in our state.**