



# Family Care Council Florida

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Ann Millan, Chairperson  
[amnvic@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:amnvic@tampabay.rr.com)  
[www.fccflorida.org](http://www.fccflorida.org)

Vice Chairperson:

Bob Wessels

Past Chairperson:

Frank Carroll

July 30, 2005

District Chairs:

District 1

Joy Frazier  
Lynn Carper

Senate President Tom Lee

Speaker Allan G. Bense

The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL

District 2

John Stone

Dear Senate President Lee and Speaker Bense,

District 3

Frank Carroll

Enclosed please find a chart of accomplishments of each district Family Care Council (FCC) for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as our Year End Report. The local FCC's are very proud of their accomplishments. As volunteers, we are often stretched to the maximum because we believe in the importance of family involvement. District chairpersons meet bi-monthly to share information and return to their districts with enthusiasm to work within the system for individuals and families with developmental disabilities. We are supportive of Governor Bush and the developmental disabilities program. The enclosed chart gives you an idea of our community involvement and how we help individuals and families.

District 4

Vacant

SunCoast Region

Beverly DeStories  
Rhonda Sloan

District 7

Donna Rauber

The leadership of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) has been pro active this year in allowing the statewide Family Care Council Florida (FCCF), comprised of local district FCC chairpersons, access to the central office and staff. We have a central office liaison and each local FCC has a liaison in their district. The FCCF chairperson has been invited on many of the Program Administrator weekly conference calls and FCC members are on numerous committees representing individuals and families. The philosophy of self-determination, "nothing about me without me" has new meanings for the development of programs and visions in the future.

District 8

Sheryl Soukup

District 9

Maryellen Jones

District 10

Bob Wessels

District 11

Margarita Montalvo

District 12

Edith Kegle

District 13

Betty Clements

District 14

Jack Kosik

District 15

Todd Decker

Our involvement has been productive within APD; however, we are not fully meeting the intent of the legislature (Florida Statute 393.502). Our involvement and support is difficult because information shared with FCCF continues to be selective. There are times when our requests for information go unanswered, ignored or seem to become indefinitely stalled. While FCCF involvement should be a given, we are usually involved only when they agree to our involvement. It naturally follows that we can only request to be involved when we receive information on subjects, issues and concerns. It is this selectivity that has us so frustrated. All the recent crises further justify the need for involvement of the FCCF. We want and need to be a part of all the processes.

*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.*

We firmly believe an open door Sunshine supportive relationship between the FCCF, APD and the Florida legislators will greatly improve the morale and direction of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, individuals receiving services, families, providers, and legislators. Honesty is the best policy. This is an exciting program and everyone involved should be proud. However, we all need to be working together as a team, and we need to be listening and trusting each other.

Please include the FCCF in legislative committee meetings affecting individuals and families with developmental disabilities. We have the commitments to stand ready and be part of the ongoing process and solutions. What better resource could you ask for?

Sincerely,



Ann Millan

Enclosure

Cc: Governor Bush  
Shelly Brantley  
Legislators

F.S. 393.502:

(7) 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.

*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.*