



Family Care Council



Florida ARF

Community Agencies Making a Meaningful
Difference in the Lives of Individuals with Disabilities

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*Florida Association of
Support Coordinators*

May 5, 2006

The Honorable Jeb Bush
Governor, State of Florida
PL 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Bush:

In the final year of your administration, we want to once again acknowledge and thank you for your leadership and success in helping people with developmental disabilities. Your leadership has helped many families get off the wait list and has improved the quality of thousands of lives. We truly appreciate your efforts.

The Developmental Services System Reform initiated under your watch has led to much progress. However, we acknowledge issues remain to be addressed especially in view of the fiscal realities faced by policy makers to balance Florida's needs and limited resources. Therefore, we would like to work with your staff and the legislature to improve the system so it will meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities and maximize available resources.

In response to the above, we recommend that you direct the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to form a work group to include key stake holders charged with the task of developing a service system that addresses the health and social service supports needed to serve people with developmental disabilities. While there is a great deal of expertise in Florida about Medicaid acute and long term health care, there is virtually no expertise on how to do this for the other Medicaid funded services for people with developmental disabilities. Collectively, we feel we can identify problem areas and develop solutions; however, it may be necessary that experiments in other states be examined along with considering the advice of experts outside our state.

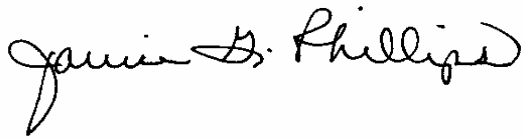
We hope you will act on this recommendation as soon as possible so we can develop a report and recommendations before the end of your term that can be submitted for legislative consideration during the next session. Assistance from the administration to cover expenses associated with this initiative would enhance the scope and feasibility of our effort and would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ann Millan
Chairperson
Family Care Council Florida



Janice G. Phillips
Florida Association of Support Coordinators



John C. Hall
Executive Director
ARC Florida



Terry R. Farmer
President & CEO
Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities

Cc: Debra Dowds
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council

Gary Weston
Florida Advocacy Center