



Family Care Council Florida

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

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Area 15

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LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2008-2009

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Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) is committed to educating, advocating, with and for, and empowering all individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) in the state of Florida, including those on the wait list. FCCF is continuing to work with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to stabilize the current system. We do not have lobbyists. As individuals with DD and their families, we believe that our years of personal experience give us the knowledge and credibility for our voice to be heard without someone else speaking on our behalf.

- FCCF requests a Legislative Order that no services be provided by the HCBS waiver, FSL waiver, or General Revenue funds that are available by law through other agencies, such as the Department of Education, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, AHCA Medicaid State Plan and Department of Transportation. A contributing factor to APD being over budget is that sister agencies neglect or are not held accountable to cover services under their program which thereby “passes the buck” to APD to cover necessary services and funding. This is a systemic flaw that needs to be addressed.
 - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) continually determines that DD individuals are unemployable.
 - School System frequently does not provide appropriate and necessary supports and services.
 - Medicaid State Plan has not been providing PCA to children and there are delays in transferring that service from APD waivers, delaying cost savings projected for FY 2007-2008.
 - The Department of Transportation does not meet their mandate.
- FCCF requests legislation that stipulates qualifying individuals on the APD wait list who do not receive any waiver services be allotted up to \$2,000 maximum for specified needs in FY 2008-2009 from the GR allotment.

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.

- FCCF supports the Consumer Directed Care + (CDC+) program and its expansion to more people.
 - Participating in CDC+ is a choice that strengthens the person's ability to exercise their civil rights.
 - Participants in CDC+ are very satisfied with the program and it allows participants to construct their own life style.
 - CDC+ has proven to be a cost benefit and meets its mandate to be cost neutral.
 - CDC+ provider selection is based on individual needs and the quality of the services purchased.

- FCCF opposes any proposal that moves APD and the waiver services into a managed care program, including people on the wait list. The purpose of Medicaid waivers is to assist individuals with DD to be able to live, work and take part in their community.
 - HMOs are a medical model and their primary focus will be cost reductions to fix an illness and not services. Individuals with DD are not ill. They have life long needs for supports and services that will maximize their abilities to function in the community. There is no quick fix.

- FCCF opposes any proposal that moves APD into AHCA or another similar agency. Floridians with DD have life long, complex needs, which require an agency to focus on the individual, family and circle of supports. This complex population must be their only focus.
 - AHCA is a medical model and persons with DD require a human services model that addresses the individuals' abilities to be a contributing force in the community to live, work, and realize their potential.
 - AHCA has multifaceted responsibilities, which may have impeded the transfer of waiver services for PCA to the Medicaid State Plan, the appropriate funding source. This is a factor in holding up the stabilization of APD funding streams FY 2007-2008.

The need for an Agency for Persons with Disabilities was recognized for these reasons, and established as a stand-alone agency to meet specific goals and enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. There have been many accomplishments that APD can continue to build on. We believe they will meet their fiscal responsibilities given the opportunity. The APD has been rebuilt. The affects from previous APD fiduciary administration should not be put upon the new agency which continues to support and respond aptly to the Legislature's mandates.

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