

EDUCATE *and* EMPOWER

Families often feel they will lose the dream of self-sufficiency for their child when they receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability. However, with proper supports, both families and individuals with developmental disabilities can thrive and achieve their chosen goals.

Caring people, that's what it takes! The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and our state and federal government support the principles of inclusion, self-determination, community living, successful transition to adult life, and integrated employment. Families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and their Waiver Support Coordinators must keep the dream of a full and rich life the goal at all times.

Collaboration is a powerful tool. If this philosophy is to succeed, families must be the driving force. Barriers need to continually be identified and broken down and necessary programs and policies put in place. We must all work together for the benefit of all people with developmental disabilities. Together, we can make this happen. Make time to get involved!



Family Care Council
— educate and empower —

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

A Developmental Disability is a term that refers to a variety of conditions that interfere with a person's ability to function in everyday activities. Chapter 393, Florida Statutes, defines developmental disabilities as:

Autism • Cerebral Palsy • Down Syndrome
Intellectual Disability • Prader-Willi Syndrome
Spina Bifida • High-Risk (3-5 Years)
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome



Family Care Council Florida
www.fccflorida.org
800.470.8101

SERVING FAMILIES *since 1993*



Family Care Council
— educate and empower —



Family Care Council

In 1993, the Florida Legislature passed legislation (Florida Statutes 393.502) establishing an all volunteer Family Care Council (FCC) to be located within each service area of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). Each of the 15 FCCs is made up of Governor-appointed individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for services from APD and the parents, siblings, grandparents, and guardians of individuals who have developmental disabilities. In addition, many councils receive vital support from interested individuals in their local communities.

APD has the responsibility for the health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities. APD supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by helping them identify needs and funding to purchase supports and services.

The purpose of each FCC is to advise APD, develop a plan for the delivery of family support services, and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the services and supports provided under the plan.

FUNCTIONS OF THE FCCs

- Provide education and outreach to families.
- Review and make recommendations as to the effectiveness of the delivery of supports and services.
- Share information with other Family Care Councils



Each FCC represents a geographic area and works closely with the regional APD office to help families receiving services. The FCC also works closely with other local disability organizations and programs to access services and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who may be on the APD Waiting List.

We invite you to become involved in your local area council. Everyone is welcome. It is important that you participate in decisions affecting the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Information about local councils is available on the FCC website, www.fccflorida.org.



AT THE STATE LEVEL

- Representatives from the area FCCs gather together with State Office APD leadership to share information and concerns on behalf of their local councils and families in their vicinity.
- FCC members serve on various state-level committees, initiatives, and task forces concerning Florida's residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

