



# Family Care Council Florida

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## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2012

*Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We are committed to educating, advocating for, and empowering all Floridian families that have a member with developmental disabilities. We have pledged to continue working closely with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to strengthen our existing system. Viewed through the prism of our collective experiences, we identify the following priorities:*

- ◆ **Serve Families on the Wait List.** We recommend that the Legislature provide funding for the top four categories as identified in 393.065. This will serve the individuals most at risk and allow aging caregivers to know that the needs of their loved ones will be met, when they no longer can do so. These four categories include:
  - a) Category 1, which includes clients deemed to be in crisis ...
  - b) Category 2, which includes children on the wait list who are from the child welfare system ...
  - c) Category 3, which includes, but is not required to be limited to, clients:
    - 1. Whose caregiver has a documented condition ...
    - 2. At substantial risk of incarceration ...
    - 3. Whose documented behaviors or physical needs place them or their caregiver at risk of serious harm ...
    - 4. Who are identified as ready for discharge within the next year from a state mental health hospital ...
  - d) Category 4, which includes, but is not required to be limited to, clients whose caregivers are 70 years of age or older ...
  
- ◆ **Protect Health and Safety.** We believe it is imperative to protect the rights of all individuals with developmental disabilities (detailed in F.S., Section 393) to participate in the community while living a healthy and safe life through ensuring access to:
  - a) The least restrictive residence of choice, with appropriate supports and supervision
  - b) Ongoing individualized habilitation and training e.g., (Respite, Companion, meaningful day activity)
  - c) Social interactions, including community and religious activities of choice
  - d) A healthy lifestyle, adequate diet, exercise and recreational opportunities
  - e) Preventive mental, physical and oral health interventions throughout life
  - f) Freedom from abuse, neglect, exploitation, restraints and isolation
  - g) Choosing the most appropriate mix of HCBS Waiver services, as determined by the individual and/or family to meet his/her unique needs
  
- ◆ **Support Florida Senate Bill 460 to strike the term "mental retardation" in state statutes and replace it with "intellectual disabilities."** The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has changed the diagnosis of "mental retardation" to that of "intellectual disability".

*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.*