



Family Care Council Florida

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2009-2010

Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We do not have paid lobbyists.

We are committed to educating, advocating, and empowering all Floridians with developmental disabilities, and have pledged to continue working closely with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to stabilize the existing system. We want to be part of the solution to strengthen the developmental disability system, therefore ensuring the protection of Floridians with developmental disabilities. Viewed through the prism of our collective experiences, we identify the following priorities:

End the Wait List (about 18,000 waiting for services)

We recommend the creation of a strategic plan that will reduce and eliminate the waiting list for services for Floridians with developmental disabilities. The Plan will include but is not limited to:

- Effective assessment and reprioritization of those on the waitlist;
- Development of projected budgets and timelines for individuals based on need;
- Identification of stable and dedicated sources of revenue streams.

Protect Health and Safety

We recommend the identification of alternative and dedicated revenue and funding sources to support Human Services Programs that are charged with protecting the health and safety of all Floridians with developmental disabilities:

- Ensure that all State entities that have statutory requirements for serving Floridians with developmental disabilities (i.e., DOE, AHCA, DCF/APS) honor those responsibilities;
- Maximize the use of state dollars to increase Medicaid matching funds;
- Prevent future cuts to the programs and services offered through APD.

Maintain APD

We support the continuation of APD as a stand-alone agency moving towards stabilizing programs and services to all Floridians with developmental disabilities:

- Reinforce the mission of APD to serve the unique needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities;
- Promote good stewardship and utilization of funding streams through a systemic review of policies and procedures to increase fiscal responsibility and efficiency;
- Promote grassroots efforts on behalf of Floridians with developmental disabilities that focus on individual needs and community supports.



Specific Requests

- Support legislation creating a special lottery scratch ticket specifically for developmentally disabled people on the wait list
- Support the Adults With Disabilities Grant Program (Administered Through Vocational Rehabilitation) – 2010 General Appropriations Act
- Amend 393.065 (enacted via SB1660) to eliminate category 5
- Support HB81 relating to the use, prevention and reduction of seclusion and restraints on students with disabilities in public schools



Family Care Council Florida

FCCF Supports SB1660's provision to re-prioritize the Wait List (with some changes)

Category 1 - which includes clients deemed to be in crisis as described in rule.

Category 2 - which includes children on the wait list who are from the child welfare system with an open case in the Department of Children and Family Services' statewide automated child welfare information system.

Category 3 - which includes, but is not required to be limited to, clients:

- Whose caregiver has a documented condition that is expected to render the caregiver unable to provide care within the next 12 months and for whom a caregiver is required but no alternate caregiver is available;
- At substantial risk of incarceration or court commitment without supports;
- Whose documented behaviors or physical needs place them or their caregiver at risk of serious harm and other supports are not currently available to alleviate the situation; or
- Who are identified as ready for discharge within the next year from a state mental health hospital or skilled nursing facility and who require a caregiver but for whom no caregiver is available.

Category 4 - which includes, but is not required to be limited to, clients whose caregivers are 70 years of age or older and for whom a caregiver is required but no alternate caregiver is available.

Category 5 - which includes, but is not required to be limited to, clients who are expected to graduate within the next 12 months from secondary school and need support to obtain or maintain competitive employment, or to pursue an accredited program of postsecondary education to which they have been accepted.

Category 6 - which includes clients 21 years of age or older who do not meet the criteria for category 1, category 2, category 3, category 4, or category 5.

Category 7 - which includes clients younger than 21 years of age who do not meet the criteria for category 1, category 2, category 3, or category 4.

Setting Wait List Priority Procedure

Within categories 3-7 the agency shall maintain a wait list of clients in the order of the categories first and the order of the date that the client is determined eligible for waiver services second.



Family Care Council Florida

Why Remove Category 5?

- It is fundamentally unfair to give preference of graduating seniors over those that have already graduated
- Funding to support graduating seniors does not have to come from the Medicaid Waiver
- Once category 5 is eliminated, those people are automatically covered by existing categories