



# Family Care Council Florida

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March 2011

## ELECTION 2010

Well, we have had our elections and are now reaping the rewards (?) Scott is the Governor and is really driving towards good business decisions for all agencies, Well, we'll see what happens.

So far we have lost a good friend, Jim DeBeaugrine from the agency and, as far as I know now, we don't have another one.

The political appointee, Carl Littlefield, resigned just after being appointed.

### What a mess!

On top of that, the legislature is pushing for managed care for all Medicaid recipients, including our people on the Med Waiver.

Then there is legislation being introduced to consolidate all agencies into one. Well, I guess that we already know how that works.

So we give a sad farewell to Jim. He was a real asset and a real friend. In my opinion, he really helped us and honestly took our input. Let's hope the next director will be as good as Jim was and let's also hope that Jim lands himself a good job.

Now what?

Well, we certainly need to stay on top of what is going on with the legislature but, to be honest, I am overwhelmed! So much is happening that I feel a bit helpless.

Our friend, representative

Proctor has been put into a position of leadership on the education committee so he is not nearly as accessible as he once was. So, I guess that we need to let our lobbyist, Dixie Sansom, work her magic in making sure that our people are fairly represented.

Speaking of Dixie, she is now our official lobbyist. You will find her name under the lobbyist info for FCCF on Online Sunshine for Florida. Now we need to figure out how to pay her so we may be soliciting donations to cover her fee. Watch your email. She is going to try and make sure that we get a legislative waitlist study committee.

### Inside this issue:

Election 2010	1
DD Awareness day	1
CARD conference	3
Waiverprovider.com & Area 13	4
Future events	4

### Attention!

- We all need to stay involved with the legislature
- We all need to stay involved with each other.
- United we Stand and divided we fall—big time!
- Attend your local FCC
- Support your local ARC

## DD AWARENESS DAY

Well, DD awareness day is coming up next week at the capitol. March 23, 2011 to be exact. Activities are scheduled from 8:30 to 3:30 with a press conference at noon. This effort is sponsored by FDDC and the Florida Arc and represents a great effort by both. A per-

fect example of the teamwork that we need between all of our advocate organizations.

FYI, I will be representing wait list folks at the press conference and am scheduled to deliver a short message. I am basically giving a

message to 5 groups:

- Families already receiving services
- Families on the Wait List
- DD organizations
- Legislators &

(Continued on page 2)

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY



Florida  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
Council, Inc.



FLORIDA CAPITOL \* 2ND FLOOR ROTUNDA  
& CAPITOL COURTYARD  
MARCH 23, 2011 \* 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

For More Information contact:

John Finch \* 850-921-0460 \* [arcflorida@gmail.com](mailto:arcflorida@gmail.com)

Vanda Brown \* 850-488-4180 \* [vandab@fddc.org](mailto:vandab@fddc.org)

MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS  
PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON  
VISIT EXHIBITORS  
LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED

FDDC will provide shuttles from Homewood suite, Hampton Inn, and Capitol  
The Arc of Florida will provide a Shuttle from Cabot Lodge and the Capitol

*(Continued from page 1)*

- the Governor

For **families already receiving services**, the message is not to get too comfortable with what you have, to join the FCC and help those who aren't receiving services.

For **families on the wait list**, the message is to not give up, to not get sidetracked by your own special problems and to work with the advocacy organi-

zations to help **ALL** people on the wait list.

For **DD advocacy organizations**, the message is to work together.

For the **legislature** the messages is to step up to the plate and help those that need it—the problem is not insurmountable.

And finally, for the **Governor**, the message is that we elected you, now provide some leadership!  
**WE VOTE!!!!**

*We **ALL** need to work together in order to get the services that we **ALL** need!*

## 8TH ANNUAL CARD CONFERENCE

BY RUTH WINGATE

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual conference from January 13-16 at Lake Mary, Florida.

Friday sessions of the event were offered at no charge and focused on educators. Topics included dealing with bullies and exclusion, the national standards project, bringing school buddies into the community, inclusion, assessing and treating challenging behaviors of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other session options. The Friday session ran from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. and was presented by CARD staff from across the state.

The Saturday and Sunday portions of the conference were attended by both teachers and families. Sessions were held from 8:30 a.m. through 5:15 on Saturday, and included information on pseudoscientific treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders, safety and unintentional injury for people with ASD, transitioning young adults with behavioral, social and employment considerations, instructional strategies for parents/educators to discuss sexuality with persons with ASD, financial and estate planning, teaching imitation skills to individuals with autism in a social context and others. Evening events included the Autism Society of Florida Statewide Meeting, and a networking dinner with entertainment.



Sunday's classes began at 8:30 a.m. and wrapped up around 1 p.m. with a presentation by James Williams. He discussed "High School Life and After" through the perspective of a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

*Pictured above from left to right: Linda Peirce, Clinical Support Specialist from CARD Florida Atlantic University Treasure Coast Campus in Port St. Lucie, Cameron Wingate, first time CARD conference participant, and constituent of CARD FAU from Sebastian, and Cathy Allore, Clinical Support Specialist from CARD, also from the FAU Treasure Coast Campus in Port St. Lucie.*

Submitted by Ruth Wingate, Family Care Council Area 15

*Sometimes you have to attend a conference  
or two to fins out what's going on.*

800-470-8101

We're on the web,  
www.fccflorida.org



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/18-19/2011—FCCF Meeting, Sheraton Suites, Orlando

3/23/11—DD awareness day—the capitol

5/?/11—Legislature Adjourns

5/20-21/2011—FCCF Meeting, Sheraton Suites, Orlando—FMA of legislative session and plan for 2012

7/15-16/11—FCCF meeting

9/16-17/11—FCCF meeting

11/18-19/11—FCCF meeting

- Attend your local FCC meeting. It could mean the life of your child.


## WAIVERPROVIDER.COM

Have you taken advantage of Aaron Nangle's offer yet? He has a standing offer to help our family care councils.

He will arrange to provide a DJ and dance for your group. Area 13 has just decided to do this. See the brochure to the right.

Aaron also has lots of other info on his web page. Check it out.

[www.waiverprovider.com](http://www.waiverprovider.com)



**Welcome**  
Saturday April 2, 2011  
AREA 13 Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)  
Area 13 Family Care Council (FCC) and Waiver Provider.com  
Waitlist Quarterly/Family Forum & Dance

**PROGRAM**

9:15 AM-10:00 AM REGISTRATION

10:00 AM WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

ISABEL S de MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON AREA 13 FAMILY CARE COUNCIL  
CLARENCE LEWIS, APD AREA 13 AREA ADMINISTRATOR  
AARON NANGLE, WAIVERPROVIDER.COM, RESOURCES

APD Keynote followed by Q&A: 10:15 AM-11:00 AM  
AmeriCorp Presentation: Isabel and Self Advocates,  
Shawn Mims and Connie Bass 11:00 AM-11:15 AM

**Breakout Sessions**  
11:15 AM- PM-12:15 PM

Scrapbooking will be ongoing with supervision and guidance by FCC member, Karen, assisted by Corey & Kileigh

VISIT RESOURCE & INFORMATION TABLES!

Room A: Social Security Benefit/Supported/ Employment, LeAnn Herman, APD  
Room B: "Conscious Discipline" Renee Mavros, Citrus County School System

12:15 PM-1:00 PM  
Visit Exhibits and Lunch

1:00 PM -2:00 PM

Room A: "Guardianship" Melinda Coulter, APD  
Room B: "Conscious Discipline" Renee Mavros, Citrus County School System

2:00 PM- 4:00 PM  
WaiverProvider.Com Sponsored Dance/Prizes

Sign up and stay informed with Mail or e-mail From your Area Family Care Council

Local Area Agency Staff and Family Care Council Members will be available with general information.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPEAKERS, VISITORS, AND THE RESOURCE PARTICIPANTS LISTED ON THE BACK FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN MAKING TODAY A SUCCESS