



Family Care Council Florida

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Ann Millan, Chairperson
amnvic@tampabay.rr.com
www.fccflorida.org

Vice Chairperson:

Bob Wessels

Past Chairperson:

Frank Carroll

District Chairs:

District 1

Joy Frazier

District 2

John Stone

District 3

Shelly Voelker

District 4

Vacant

SunCoast Region

Beverly DeStories

District 7

Donna Rauber

District 8

Sheryl Soukup

District 9

Maryellen Jones

District 10

Bob Wessels

District 11

Margarita Montalvo

District 12

Edith Kegel

District 13

Betty Clements

District 14

Pete Wesley

District 15

Todd Decker

April 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)
Florida Supported Living (FSL) Waiver

Dear Governor Bush, Legislators, Secretary Levine, and Director Brantley,

Individuals with developmental disabilities who choose to live at home are now only eligible for the FSL waiver, which offers them eleven services and is capped at \$14,282 per year. This waiver is helpful for many individuals but not for those who need more services or different services than are offered by the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver.

- Sue lives at home with her elderly parents, she is 41. Sue is on the waiting lists and needs communication and language support when she is offered the FSL. Sue wants to improve these skills before seeking independent living. Sue's parents have worked really hard for her independence through natural supports. She has a job and is very active in her community, social groups, and Special Olympics. They provide her transportation. They don't want transportation, they want speech therapy. Speech therapy is not one of the 11 services offered on the FSL.
- David, 9 years old, was offered the FSL waiver this year along with 6,000 other individuals waiting for services. Not only is the service David needs not available under FSL, but the dollar amount is LESS than what he is already receiving through General Revenue (GR) funding. Obviously, APD had already determined David's family needed help for him to be receiving GR funds. David doesn't meet the narrow requirements for the HCBS waiver unless he moves out of the family home.

The David's and Sue's in Florida must have the choice to have equal access to services provided through the HCBS waiver. The requirements for HCBS waiver must be reviewed to benefit the consumers on the wait list. Unmatched GR funding is a perfect example of waste. David doesn't meet the APD's stringent qualifications for the HCBS waiver. If he could access Federal match funding, David could access waiver providers and his needs could be met.

Please seriously consider adding services to the FSL waiver and expanding the exceptions for HCBS waiver.

Ann Millan

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.

Family Care Councils

Florida Statute: 393.502:

(7) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the local family care councils shall be to advise the agency, to develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area, and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and support provided under the plan. The primary functions of the local family care councils shall be to:

- (a) Assist in providing information and outreach to families.
- (b) Review the effectiveness of service programs and make recommendations with respect to program implementation.
- (c) Advise the agency with respect to policy issues relevant to the community and family support system in the local area.
- (d) Meet and share information with other local family care councils.

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.