



Family Care Council Florida

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

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

Vice Chairperson:

Bob Wessels

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Past Chairperson:

Frank Carroll

Governor Jeb Bush
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL

District Chairs:

District 1

Joy Frazier

Dear Governor Bush,

District 2

John Stone

The Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) met this past weekend for our bi-monthly meeting of all Family Care Council (FCC) Chairpersons and we are very concerned about the proviso language allowing all individuals with autism to have the opportunity to go onto the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. The triage language for the Family and Supported Living (FSL) Waiver will not apply to them.

District 3

Shelly Voelker

We strongly request that you do NOT sign this proviso language. Exceptions for the HCBS Waiver should be based on need, not a qualified handicapping condition. We are very concerned that the splitting of the developmental disability community, via the ability of individuals with autism to bypass the current triage process, is sending a very bad message on behalf of the legislature and Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). This language is saying that mental retardation, cerebral palsy, etc. do not have capability or needs and they are not important.

District 4

Vacant

SunCoast Region

Beverley DeStories

District 7

Donna Rauber

I have a 35 years old daughter with autism. It takes a lot for her to cope with life and a compendium of services. Many FCCF council members have individuals with autism. We all know the need and continual expenses involved. However, Megan Holl has cerebral palsy and requires total care. Her family desperately needs the services provided for her through the HCBS Waiver, and she is currently receiving services from the FSL Waiver because she does not qualify under the current triage language. How can one need possibly be higher than another?

District 8

Sheryl Soukup

District 9

Maryellen Jones

Medicaid Waiver funding through the APD is the funding source of last resort. Individuals with developmental disabilities under 18 receive their services through the Medicaid State Plan. The school system is required to meet the special education needs of individuals. Individuals over 18 years old can qualify for SSI benefits. We must explore every avenue before jumping to an uninformed and potentially discriminatory conclusion.

District 10

Belkis Almeida
Jean Sherman

The legislature passed this language in the last hours of session and this is not a solution for individuals with autism and their families. The solution is a lot more than APD. All departments, agencies, school systems, medical community, etc. need to be at the table to help develop the needed compendium of services.

District 11

Margarita Montalvo

District 12

Edith Kegle

District 13

Betty Clements

Please include FCCF in helping to solve this issue, but not through splintering the developmental disability community. Many of us have a lot of really good ideas and a lot of experience. Give us the opportunity to be heard and in the meantime, do not sign off on the currently proposed proviso language.

District 14

Pete Wesley

District 15

Todd Decker

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 Department, 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 Department, to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.