



Family Care Council Florida

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

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October 26, 2006

Thomas W. Arnold

Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Admin.

Agency for Health Care Administration

2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop 8

Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Mr. Arnold:

Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) considers it an honor to serve as a primary partner to Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) in the Money Follows the Person Demonstration grant project #HHS-2007-CMS-RCMTP-0003. We know, understand and have experienced the benefits of money follows the individual. All too sadly we know individuals who can not reap the benefits because they do not fit into the targeted disability group. That is why this grant project is so exciting because it is open to all individuals with disabilities and does not target a specific disability or age group.

Individuals with developmental disabilities have already demonstrated that when money follows the individual their quality of life is greatly enhanced. FCCF believes and advocates that all individuals should have the right to choose where they live and select the supports that they need to be successful in that setting. Historically, individuals with disabilities were never offered choice but rather they were sentenced to life in isolated, segregated settings not unlike a prison and their only crime was having a disability. This grant will restore their rights to be part of the community and will further Florida's effort in complying with the Olmstead decision.

This is an opportunity for Florida to build upon the system changes that have occurred from prior grant funding from CMS and continue the movement of removing the institutional bias in the design of the Medicaid programs.

FCCF looks forward to working in concert with AHCA in Money Follows the Person grant to achieve the goals of the grant resulting in an improved quality of life for people with disabilities in Florida.

Sincerely,

Patty Houghland

Chairperson

Family Care Council Florida

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.