

Florida Family Care Council

Developmental Disabilities Current Situation (how it works!)

- Legislature passes laws indicating how people with developmental disabilities (DD) will be supported – Covered under Chapter 393
- Legislature allocates funds to provide supports
- APD implements the law
- Family Care Council – created under 393.502



Slide # 1

Family Care Council — from 393

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.



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Family Care Council

Unwritten Agenda

Advocate for people & families with Developmental Disabilities (DD)!!

- Follow provisions in 393.502
- Help to Organize Families
- Work with and influence legislation



FCC's

- 15 Area Agencies – 15 FCC's
- Suncoast Region has 2 FCC's
- FCCF (State-wide FCC) is a collection of the area FCC's that meet and share information
- FCCF not specified in statute
- FCCF has evolved into a much more important organization than that. It is the “go-to” organization for family influence about state policy relating to DD - it is the only organization that solely represents the family voice.



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FCC's

- Each FCC can have up to 15 official members appointed by the Governor.
- The members must be family members, self advocates or guardians
- Members are volunteers
- Members can be reimbursed for most expenses like travel, lodging and food
- Most FCC's need more members



FCC Financials

- Funds provided by APD
- About \$10,000 is allotted per year for each FCC
- About the same is provided at the beginning of the fiscal year to support FCCF as a sharing opportunity for FCC's
- Money Can not be spent on services
- Must be spent on advocacy/education like meeting expenses, newsletters, speaker fees, travel expenses to meetings, etc.
- Subject to state financial review
- Must Comply with state spending rules



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FCC Working Relationships

- Each Area Agency has an FCC liaison who works closely with the Area Administrator and the FCC.
- Each FCC maintains a good working relationship with it's area agency
- The central office liaison maintains a good working relationship with the area liaisons and the FCCF
- FCCF maintains good working relationships with sister organizations like the Florida Arc and DD Council



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FCC's

**ADVOCATE FOR OUR DD
FAMILIES!**

Family Care Council Florida

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FCC Legal Responsibilities

- Maintain Confidentiality
- Operate in the Sunshine
- Follow 393



FCC Mission

- Advocate, educate & empower Individuals with developmental disabilities & Families
- Partner with APD to provide Quality services, Dignity & choice
- Partner with other organizations like The Arc of Florida and the Florida DD Council



FCC's & Families

Everyone needs to believe:

- That everyone has something to offer
- That families are a driving force
 - In Self-Determination and Choices
 - In the future for individuals
- That success comes from working together
- That the situation is NOT Hopeless!



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Barriers to Success

- Just Thinking about ourselves and our own family situation
- Not getting involved - too busy
- Assuming that there is no money
- Assuming that the currently served population will continue to be served.
- Negative thinking and behavior



Current State of Affairs

- Florida is in an economic down-turn
- APD (and the legislature) serve about 35,000 DD folks
- There are over 20,000 DD folks on the waitlist and growing
- Individuals coming off of wait list based on first come, first served
- FCC's organizing



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Future State of Affairs

- The economy will come back
- The waiting list will grow
- Individuals coming off waiting list will be in priority order.
- We will all unite and require the legislature to fully fund the wait list.



Bottom Line

- FCC's are a legislated state networking group for families that have a member with DD
- Most expenses are reimbursed.
- FCC's are a perfect place to organize and advocate for your loved one with DD
- FCC's are the only organization that just represents the family voice.



If We Could Do One Thing

- Join your local FCC
 - Be active in advocating for your family member with a developmental disability
 - Go meet with your legislators



To Get Involved

- www.fccflorida.org
- Chairperson – Frank Carroll – 386-842-2480
ccsfrankc@netscape.net
- Vice Chairperson – Phil Pearson - 386-445-1288
ppearson1@mindspring.com
- Secretary – Patty Houghland - (850) 944-3217
pattyfcc@yahoo.com pattyh@advocacycenter.org
- Treasurer – Pauline Lipps - 941- 922-9647 p_lipps33@comcast.net
- Past Chairperson – Betty Kay Clements - (352) 753-1163
cbettykay@aol.com
- Or Call your area office and ask about your local FCC

