



## FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

### Mission Statement:

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 for Persons with Disabilities (APD), to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.

### FCCF 2014-2015 REPORT

#### F.S. 393.50 Family Care Council (FCC) Accomplishments Summary

There are 15 FCCs around the state that have as their purpose and primary functions to:

- Advise the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD);
  - Develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area;
  - Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and supports;
  - Provide education and outreach to families;
  - Review and make recommendations as to the effectiveness of the delivery of supports and services;
  - Advocate for local community and family needs;
  - Meet and share information with other Family Care Councils.
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- ❖ Through Family Care Council Florida (FCCF), Area FCC representatives met bi-monthly fulfilling Section 393.502, F.S. mandate to meet and share information between APD Regional/Area Family Care Councils. Conference calls to update and promote discussion were held in between the bi-monthly meetings as issues warranted. FCC members mentor other FCC's individually and by attending local FCC meetings.
  - ❖ Area FCC's thanked Legislators and Florida Governor Rick Scott for legislation that supported an additional \$40 million dollars to expand the iBudget Medicaid waiver to help take approx. 2000 individuals off the APD waitlist, the \$1 million designated to the Employment Enhancement Project, and implemented the ABLE ACT which could ensure every person has the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of the challenges they may face.
  - ❖ Area FCC's have experienced membership growth in the past two years. Each FCC has actively recruited and recommended applicants for their local FCC, and Governor Scott has appointed 27 members to FCC's across the state.
  - ❖ Area FCC's held regularly scheduled, advertised, monthly meetings averaging 10 meetings/year for each council, as required by Section 393.502, F.S. and Florida Sunshine laws.
  - ❖ Area FCC meeting agenda examples include: FCC business items, budgetary issues, by-law reviews and updates, action/support plan items, and APD updates by Region/Local APD staff. Meeting agendas also cover topics that include current issues/needs of individuals/families, and planning for outreach, education, resources, legislation, and employment issues.

**Area FCC Activities and Accomplishments included, but were not limited to the following:**

- Visited with Legislators in their home offices, at local delegation meetings and in Tallahassee at DD Day. Developed or supported legislative platforms for issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Facilitated procurement of individual stories for the FCCF “Community Booklet” distributed to all legislators, and for community education and outreach.
- FCCF purchased for each Council, Apple Bites: Commonsense Disability Strategies for Everyone
- Hosted Local Family Forums and/or FCC conferences with a diverse agenda of topics for education and outreach to individuals and families. Resource Fairs were held and APD waiting list, housing, employment/benefits, Social Security, ESE & EES-Transition, iBudget, guardianship, wills and trusts, Disability is Natural, and behavioral issues were among the top agenda items. Several FCC’s collaborated with local organizations for community events on pertinent issues.
- FCC members assisted to create and design a New FCCF website, which has developed new contacts with families across the state. FCCs also cultivated mailing and email lists for broader distribution and outreach.
- Multiple FCC members from around the state attended the FDDC (5 year) State Plan Meeting and participated in the creation of the 5 year plan.
- Participated on APD, FDDC, AHCA, CMS and other related workgroups, focus group surveys, iBudget handbook rule hearings, weekly Café legislation calls, and workshops held throughout the year.
- Sponsored, or attended various conferences and events regarding Housing Coalition, VISIONS, AAIDD, Arc Conference, Autism, Down Syndrome, Managed Care, Special Olympics, FDLRS, Easter Seals, Superintendent’s District Advisory Panel, Family Community Involvement Advisory Council (FCIA), meetings held by DD stakeholder organizations such as FARF, FND, The Arc of Florida, the 2015 Justice Summit, Youth Summit, SNAC, Disability Mentoring Day, Disability Awareness Month, Department of Elder Affairs/No Wrong Door, Americans with Disabilities Act celebrations, Life Access, Sumter/Lake Delegate Days, FDOA Sportsability, CARD, FDDC participating in activities, and workshops.
- Served on the Delmarva Quality Council and local active Quality Steering committees.
- Sponsored 116 families to attend Family Café. FCC members also attended, with several FCC members assisting with the FCCF exhibit. A few members assisted with Café registration and other activities as well.
- Responded to messages for their local area (via the FCCF maintained toll free number) from persons requesting information, resources or other issues. Approximately 145 calls were received and responded to by a local FCC member.
- Member is active with DOE-ESE Parent Stake Holder committee, PTI CFPC, and COPAA Council for Parents, Advocates, and Attorneys. Provides webinar training to support and educate parents, Medicaid waiver coordinators, and guardian advocates.
- Purchased equipment for local APD office to assist with mailings going out into the community.
- Received many calls and emails from individuals, family members, community organizations, healthcare offices and others with questions about services and supports available for families, waiting list and waiver issues, and community resources available or needed. Information and referrals made as indicated.
- Outreach by Area FCC’s occurred in several ways:
  - Articles in local newspapers; Facebook and other social media set up with postings; brochures or articles posted on local community and office bulletin boards; fact sheets prepared and circulated; local website and resource libraries developed and updated.
  - Distributed FCCF and APD brochures. Several Area FCC’s also designed and distributed local-specific FCC Brochures.
  - Attended and participated at APD trainings, and APD provider and waiver support coordinator meetings.
  - Promoted and encouraged the organization of support groups and participation with self-advocacy groups such as Florida SAND. Local members assist CDC+ support groups in several APD/FCC areas.