

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 with dignity and choice

FCCF 2016-2017 REPORT

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

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

1. Advise the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)
2. Develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area
3. Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and supports
4. Review/make recommendations as to the effectiveness of the delivery of supports/services
5. Provide education and outreach to families
6. Advocate for local community and family needs
7. Meet and share information with other Family Care Councils

The Councils meet these obligations by:

- Meeting bi-monthly as the Family Care Council Florida, 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 are held in addition to the regular meetings as issues warranted. The FCC Chair and members mentor the Councils at FCCF meetings. (1-7)
- Area FCC's held regularly scheduled and advertised monthly meetings averaging 10 meetings/year for each council, as required by Section 393.502, F.S., and adhering to Florida Sunshine laws. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)
- Area FCC meeting agenda examples include: FCC business items, budgetary items, bylaw review and updates, action/support plan items, committee reports, the Chair's FCCF meeting report, public outreach activities report, a calendar of local events, APD updates by Region/Local APD staff, and time for public comment. (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)
- Presenting the second annual CAFÉ workshop for families titled "Making a Difference Together" and an exhibit booth focusing on information and family engagement with the Council. (5), (6)
- Creating the yearly booklet highlighting Floridians with disabilities. (4), (5), (6)
- Identifying a legislative platform and talking points to use during legislative visits and share with other groups focused on disability issues. Members also attended annual local legislative delegation meetings. They traveled to Tallahassee to participate in Developmental Disability Day events and distributed "We are Part of Your Community" booklets to legislators. (1), (2), (5), (6)
- Providing input to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities on their Legislative Budget Request and rules and services such as the TRAIN project, iBudget, competitive provider rates, the waiting list, parent training for waiting list families and small-home settings with intensive behavioral services/medical needs within the person's community of residence. (1-6)

- Continuing representation on the Delmarva Quality Council focusing on the quality of services provided to Floridians by making recommendations to the Agency for Health Care Administration through committees on Social Roles and Supported Living. (3), (4), (5), (6)
- Attending conferences, meetings, summits and trainings including a joint APD, Disability Rights Florida meeting to discuss support groups and outreach to individuals on the waitlist, the Developmental Disabilities Council meeting to share legislative platforms, the CAFÉ-sponsored summit on Family Run Organizations to discuss strategic planning, where the FCCF Chair spoke, The Texas conference titled “Dementia Capable Care of Adults with Disabilities and Dementia” which earned the attendee certification to train on this topic, Interagency Transition Councils that include participants from school districts, APD, Voc Rehab, Keiser University and a variety of agencies serving individuals with disabilities, continuing to identify solutions to Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues, the Wright’s Law event on Special Education Law and advocacy, sponsored by the Family Network on Disability, the ROOF/APSE (housing/employment) conference, hosting the “Family Centered Care Options” event with partners from APD and the Department of Children and Families which is leading to support for families considering or undertaking foster roles with children with developmental disabilities, attended DCF foster care training to identify their services and continued to represent the Councils at the Florida Lifespan Respite Summit, sponsored by Respite Alliance. (1-6)
- Statewide, the Councils hold local expos, resource fairs, workshops and training for individuals and their families on disability issues. They partner with groups that offer a wide variety of information including essential safety for individuals through first responder training. Speakers encompass attorneys, Step up for Students, Noah’s Ark, Arc of Florida, Florida ARF, Florida Developmental Disability Council, Delmarva, AHCA, Able United, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Center for Inclusive Communities, DCF, support coordinators/consultants and others who focus on identifying needs and proposing solutions. (1-7)
- Council members attend Buddy Walks, Autism Walks, they provide financial support for self-advocates to attend conferences, continue to improve communication with their community through local Area FCC websites and provide training to partner agencies on disability-related topics. (4), (6)

New initiatives include:

- Creating a support coordinator brochure to assist individuals with disabilities and their families in selecting the best support coordinator to meet their needs. (2), (4), (6)
- Participating in the Statewide Transportation Committee Workgroup as requested by APD Director Barbara Palmer. (1), (2), (5), (6)
- Accepting the Florida Supreme Court’s invitation to participate in the working interdisciplinary network of guardianship stakeholders, known as “WINGS”. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)
- Examining the role of the Family Care Council to celebrate their 25th year of service by instituting a FCC training workgroup to identify and focus on how members serve their community (1-7)