



Family Care Council Florida

www.fccflorida.org

OVERVIEW

In 1993, the Florida Legislature created the Family Care Councils (Section 393.502, Florida Statutes) in each service area of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to advise the agency, develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area, and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and supports provided under the plan.

While APD has the responsibility for the welfare and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities, the Family Care Councils (FCCs) are governor-appointed volunteers who educate and empower people with developmental disabilities and their families.

There are 15 local FCCs throughout the state. Each council is made up of 10 to 15 members which reflects the geographical areas and the various disabilities, ethnicity, and ages served by the agency. The membership is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as parents, siblings, grandparents, and guardians of people with developmental disabilities who qualify for APD services.

ROLE OF THE FAMILY CARE COUNCIL

The purpose of the FCCs is to advise APD, 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 councils are to:

- Assist in providing information and outreach to families.
- Review the effectiveness of service programs and make recommendations with respect to program implementation.
- Advise the agency with respect to policy issues relevant to the community and family support system in the local area.
- Meet and share information with other local family care councils.



Family Care Council Florida

2017-2018 COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Council Advisory Activities

- Each FCCs held regularly scheduled monthly meetings averaging 10 meetings per year.
- During monthly meetings, APD provided updates on agency programs during which the FCCs would provide feedback and recommendations.
- Provided input on APD's Legislative Budget Request, rules, services and programs such as the iConnect project, iBudget, competitive provider rates, the waiting list, parent training for waiting list families and small group home settings with intensive behavioral services/medical needs within the person's community of residence.
- Provided 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.
- Members provided feedback and recommendations on the agency's Next Generation Questionnaire for Situational Information, a tool designed to assist the agency in identifying the service needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Assist in Providing Information and Outreach to Families

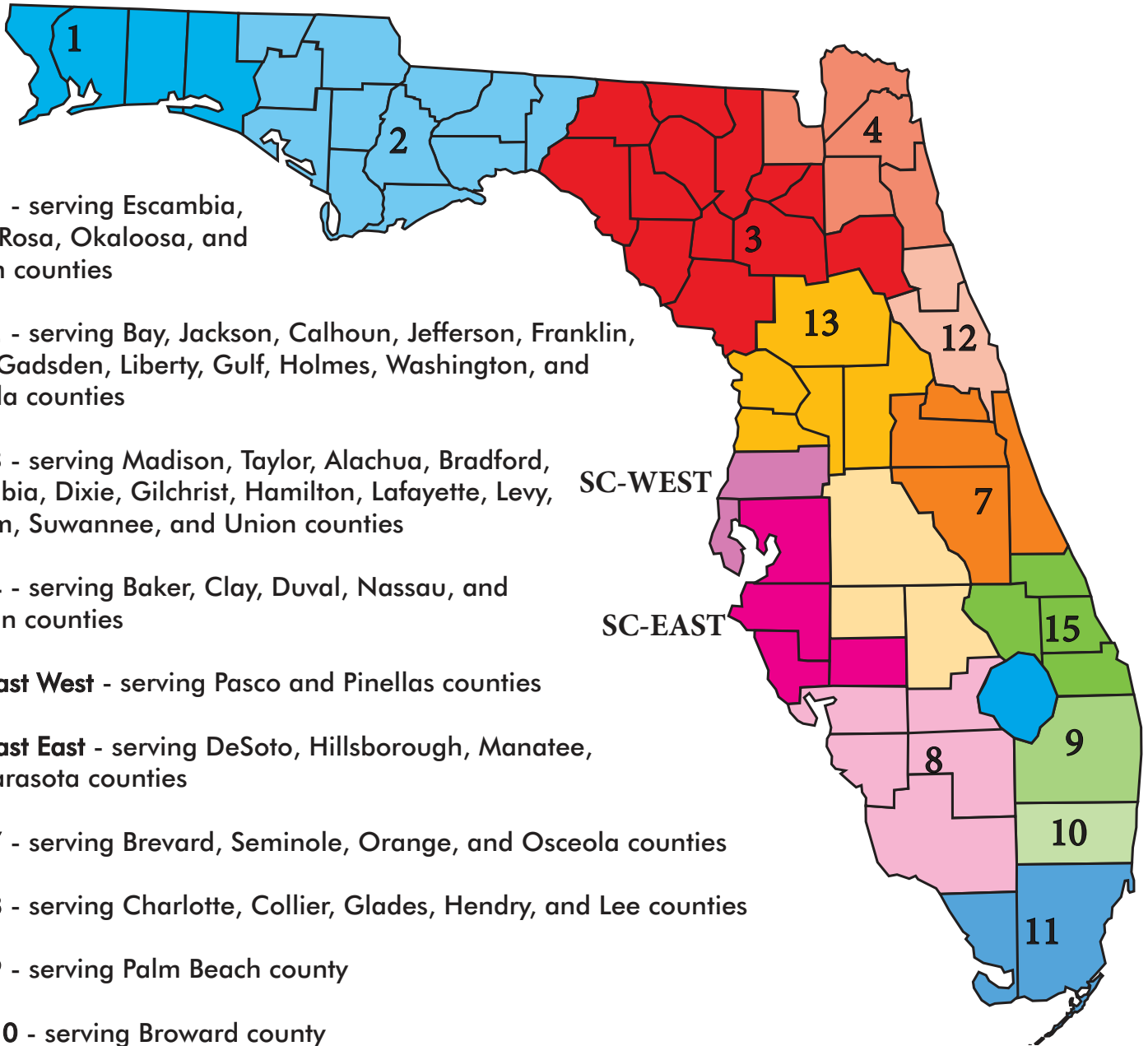
- Members attended the annual Developmental Disability Awareness Day at the State Capitol to provide educational information to families and Florida legislators.
- The FCCs gathered together to host a workshop at the 2018 Family Café Conference. The presentation, "Still Going Strong," shared what councils have learned from the past, celebrated the present, and discussed the vision for the future.
- Council members collaborated to create an informational brochure to educate families on the role and responsibilities of Waiver Support Coordinators and how to select the best coordinator to meet their needs.
- Local councils held forums, workshops, training and resource fairs to educate families on issues individuals with developmental disabilities face in their local communities.
- Council members respond to more than 200 calls for information requested through the bilingual toll-free information line.

Meet and Share Information with Other Local Family Care Councils

- In Section 393.502(7)(d) of the Florida Statutes, Family Care Councils (FCCs) are mandated to "meet and share information with other family care councils." Through the Family Care Council Florida (FCCF), representatives from each local council meets bimonthly to educate and discuss common concerns while working together to represent individuals with developmental disabilities and their families as a united voice.



Family Care Council Florida



Area 1 - serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties

Area 2 - serving Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Jefferson, Franklin, Leon, Gadsden, Liberty, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, and Wakulla counties

Area 3 - serving Madison, Taylor, Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union counties

Area 4 - serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. John counties

Suncoast West - serving Pasco and Pinellas counties

Suncoast East - serving DeSoto, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties

Area 7 - serving Brevard, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties

Area 8 - serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties

Area 9 - serving Palm Beach county

Area 10 - serving Broward county

Area 11 - serving Dade and Monroe counties

Area 12 - serving Flagler and Volusia counties

Area 13 - serving Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties

Area 14 - serving Hardee, Highlands, and Polk counties

Area 15 - serving Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie counties



Family Care Council Florida

www.fccflorida.org

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019

Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) consists of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Our goal is to educate all Floridians and empower these individuals.

We want to ensure the health and safety of those eligible for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) iBudget Florida Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver.

Here are our recommendations:

- Competitive provider rates are essential for our individuals to receive reliable and quality services.
- Develop affordable and accessible housing throughout Florida to serve our population on fixed incomes.
- Eliminate the HCBS waiting list for the APD iBudget waiver by providing additional funding.
- Continue to enhance transportation opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Continue to fund employment opportunities for individuals on the waiting list.

EDUCATE *and* EMPOWER

Families often feel they will lose their dream of self-sufficiency and independence for their children when they receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability (DD) for their child. However, with proper supports, both families and individuals with DD can thrive and achieve their chosen goals.

Caring people, that's what it takes! The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and our State and Federal government support the principles of inclusion, self-determination, community living, and successful transition to adult life and integrated employment. Families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and their support workers must keep the dream of a full and rich life the goal at all times.

Collaboration is a powerful tool. If this philosophy is to succeed, families must be the driving force. Barriers need to continually be identified and broken down and necessary programs and policies put into place. We must all work together for the benefit of all persons with developmental disabilities. Together - we can make this happen. Make time to get involved!



Family Care Council
— educate and empower —

*The mission of the
Family Care Council Florida
is to educate and empower individuals
with developmental disabilities
and their families,
partnering with the
Agency of Persons with Disabilities,
to bring quality services
to individuals with
dignity and choice.*

A Developmental Disability is a term that refers to a variety of conditions that interfere with a person's ability to function in everyday activities. Chapter 393, Florida Statutes, defines developmental disabilities as:

Autism • Cerebral Palsy • Down Syndrome
Intellectual Disability • Prader-Willi Syndrome
Spina Bifida • High-Risk (3-5 Years)
Phelan McDermid Syndrome



SERVING FAMILIES *since 1993*



Family Care Council
— educate and empower —



Family Care Council Florida
www.fccflorida.org
800.470.8101



Family Care Council

In 1993, the Florida legislature passed legislation (Florida Statutes 393.502) establishing an all volunteer Family Care Council (FCC) to be located within each service area of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). Each of the fifteen (15) FCCs are made up of governor appointed individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for services from APD and the parents, siblings, and guardians of individuals who have developmental disabilities. In addition, many councils receive vital support from other interested individuals in their local communities.

The APD has the responsibility for the welfare and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities. The APD assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by providing assistance to identify needs and funding to purchase supports and services.

The purpose of each FCC is to advise APD, to develop a plan for the delivery of family support services, and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the services and supports provided under the plan.

FUNCTIONS OF FCC

- 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.



Each FCC represents a geographic area and works closely with the regional APD office to help families receiving services. The FCC also works closely with other local disability organizations and programs to access services and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who may be on the APD Waiting List.

We invite you to become involved in your local area council. Everyone is welcome. It is important that you participate in decisions affecting the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Information about local councils is available on the FCC website.



AT THE STATE LEVEL

- Area councils join together through the statewide Family Care Council Florida (FCCF).
- The FCCF meets bi-monthly to share information and concerns, to and from their local area councils.
- FCCF members also serve on various state level committees, initiatives and task forces concerning Florida's residents with developmental disabilities.

