



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

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Legislative Platform Summary 2015

Employment First

The Council promotes a statutory foundation for the Governor's Executive Order for the Employment First initiative. This would provide guidance and support for the strategic action implementation plan developed by the Employment First Collaborative Team and Employment Partnership Coalition and agreed to by nine state agencies and organizations in an interagency cooperative agreement.

Transportation Availability for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Council urges the Florida Legislature to designate funding specifically for employment related transportation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Individual Budgeting/Home and Community Based Services Waiver – a lifeline for individuals with developmental disabilities to ensure choice, independence and access to their communities

- The Council urges the Florida Legislature to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who receive the Individual Budgeting/Home and Community Based Services Waiver have stable and qualified service provider staffing for delivering waiver services and a strengthened focus on enabling individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve independence and productive lives in the community through the Individual budgeting Home and Community Based Services waiver.
- The Council urges the Florida Legislature to support a meaningful long-term commitment to eliminate the Individual Budgeting/Home and Community Based Services Waiver waitlist and to appropriate funding for a substantial amount of individuals to come off the waiting list in 2015.

Deinstitutionalization for individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The Council asks that the legislature require the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to create and implement a comprehensive five year plan to reduce the number of individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in Florida's remaining institutions.

Florida must continue the directive stipulated in Florida Statute (F.S.) Chapter 393 of removing individuals from unnecessary institutional placements and abating the use of large institutions.

Guidelines for the Prevention and Reduction of Restraint in the Public School System

- The Council supports a policy where physical restraint in the school system shall be only used as a last resort when there is a demonstrable and imminent physical danger to the student or others, and implemented by trained staff.
- The Council opposes the use of seclusion, mechanical restraints and prone restraint entirely.
- The Council opposes restraint as a planned intervention in education plans for students with disabilities.

Support Early Steps, Florida's Part C/Early Steps Program

The Council supports increased funding for the Early Steps Program for increased services for more children and for more service coordinators.

The Council supports ensuring that Medicaid providers recognize Part C's Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) as an authorizing document for Medicaid reimbursement.

Help Me Grow

The Council supports funding for the Help Me Grow program to continue, expand, and further strengthen a Florida Help Me Grow Program.

Children with Disabilities Who Have Medically Complex Conditions

The Council supports family life for children with medically complex conditions and the services that will enable all of these children to live, grow, and thrive in a home with a family.