

## Role and Purpose of the Council

To provide a voice for people with developmental disabilities through leadership, education, advocacy and practice.

To encourage choice and self-direction in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and promote independent, productive and inclusive lifestyles.

To cultivate relationships and build community partnerships to encourage integration and inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities in education, employment, housing, recreation, cultural enrichment and all other aspects of life.

To educate policymakers and community members about the importance and essential need for programs and services that enable persons with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential and live independent, self-sufficient and productive lives.

To offer resources that are free and can easily be downloaded from the Council website or ordered on-line.

## Membership

The Council is composed of 29 members appointed by the Governor. Members represent individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, agency staff and interested individuals.

## Council Members

**Renee Valletutti** - Brevard County - *Chair*  
**Kathy McAllister** - Sarasota County - *Vice-Chair*  
**Susan Gold, Ed.D.** - The Mailman Center  
- *Treasurer*

**Rixys Alfonso** - Broward County  
**Pat Archer** - Palm Beach County  
**Ronni Bianco** - Miami-Dade County -  
*Member-at-Large*

**Jim DeBeaugrine** - Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
**Sylvia James-Miller** - Marion County

**Susan Kabot** - Sarasota County  
**Shirley Kervin** - Dept. of Elder Affairs

**Beth Kidder** - Agency for Health Care Administration - Medicaid  
Program Development

**George King** - St. Lucie County  
**Kathy Leigh** - Bradford County

**Bambi Lockman** - Dept. of Education - Exceptional Education &  
Student Services

**Karmel McCarthy** - Broward County  
**Barbara Moss** - Broward County

**David Ott, Ph.D.** - Seminole County

**William Palmer** - Dept. of Education - Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation

**Susan Redmon** - Gadsden County -  
*Member-at-Large*

**Tricia Riccardi** - Citrus County  
**Sara Romine** - Polk County

**Phyllis Sloyer, Ph.D.** - Dept. of Health - Children's Medical  
Services

**Ann Smith** - Santa Rosa County  
**Michael Smith** - Escambia County

**Phil Stevens, Ph.D., PE** - Polk County - *Member-at-Large*

**Casey Stewart** - Broward County  
**Robert Whitney** - Disability Rights Florida

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The Council is a non-profit organization that receives its funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Council operates independently of any state agency or department.

# Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.



*"To advocate and  
promote meaningful participation  
in all aspects of life for  
Floridians with developmental disabilities."*



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## Council Outreach



### **Guardianship Training**

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and other disability groups conduct guardianship training workshops around the state to provide individuals with disabilities and their families information on guardianship law and alternatives to guardianship.



### **NACDD Conference**

Florida and seven other states hosted the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities 2010 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. Over 300 people attended.



### **Idelio Valdez Leadership and Advocacy Award**

Idelio Valdes was a self-advocate who had a tremendous impact on the people around him and the community in which he lived and worked. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council created this award in his memory.



### **Partners in Policymaking**

Partners in Policymaking (PIP) is a leadership and advocacy training program sponsored by the Council that teaches self-advocates and family members how to be community leaders and obtain the best available services for themselves and others.



### **Empowering Self-Advocates**

Every year the Council sponsors "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" in Tallahassee at the Capitol. Self-advocates come from all over the state to talk with lawmakers about issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities.



### **Employment**

The Council has made significant progress toward its goal of providing competitive, integrated employment opportunities and developing a range of customized employment services for individuals with disabilities.