



## **FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.**

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## **Key Messages**

### **Inclusion NOW!**

- Excluding or separating individuals with disabilities does not serve the public interest nor does it serve the person's best interest.
- All people have the same hopes and aspirations to live, learn, work, play and participate in life experiences and responsibilities as valued community members.
- Everyone benefits when the civil rights and innate potential of all individuals are recognized and supported in all aspects of life, including in education, business and the community.
- Barriers which prevent or impair the realization of full inclusion for all individuals must be identified, addressed and overcome.
- The time to end segregation of people with disabilities is NOW!

### **Transportation**

- Lack of adequate transportation is one of the most frequently identified barriers to community inclusion and independence of individuals with disabilities.
- For persons with developmental disabilities, reliable transportation is essential to obtain and retain gainful and meaningful employment.
- More transportation options need to be available in order to maximize an individual's choice in obtaining transportation that will best meet their needs.

### **Community Living**

- Developmental Disability waiver programs are essential for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and must be expanded.
- Thousands (13,000) of Floridians with developmental disabilities are waiting for needed supports and services, despite recent increases in funding.
- Waiver programs help include people with developmental disabilities in their communities, so that they are able to grow, learn, work and develop into fully-realized citizens capable of making valuable contributions.

## **Health Care Transition**

- Transition from pediatric care to adult-centered care and transfer of care for youth with disabilities and chronic illnesses are challenging life changes.
- Many adult medical providers are not trained to take care of chronic diseases originating in childhood, such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida or rare genetic diseases.
- A transitional process and flexible regulations are necessary to ensure that young people with developmental disabilities receive the services needed as they move into adulthood.
- Children with developmental disabilities can benefit from a health transition that addresses all the interconnecting tasks that are required to successfully navigate to adulthood. Strengthening collaboration between pediatric and adult-care institutions will help create smoother transitions.