The mission of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. is to advocate and promote meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities.
2012 Council Members

Renee Valletutti - Chair – Merritt Island, FL
Kathy McAllister - Vice-Chair – Sarasota, FL
Susan F. Gold, Ed.D. - Treasurer – The University of Miami, University Center for Excellence, Miami, FL
Rixys Alfonso – Pembroke Pines, FL
Pat Archer – Boca Raton, FL
Ronni Bianco – Aventura, FL (At-Large Member)
Mike Hanson – Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Tallahassee, FL
Sylvia James-Miller – Ocala, FL
Susan Kabot, Ed.D. – Plantation, FL
Shirley Kervin – Department of Elder Affairs Community and Support Services, Tallahassee, FL
George King – St. Lucie Sheriff’s Office, Port St. Lucie, FL (At-Large Member)

Beth Kidder – Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee, FL
Kathy Leigh – Starke, FL
Barbara Moss – Miramar, FL
Jan Pearce – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Supported Employment Program, Tallahassee, FL
Susan J. Redmon – Quincy, FL (At-Large Member)
Michele Polland – Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Ed & Student Services, Tallahassee, FL
Tricia Riccardi – Kissimmee, FL
Sara Romine – Lakeland, FL
Ann Smith – Milton, FL
Michael Smith – Pensacola, FL
Casey Stewart – Pembroke Pines, FL
Robert Whitney – Disability Rights Florida, Tallahassee, FL

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. To view a list of current Council members, go to http://www.fddc.org/about/council_members

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
Letter From

Debra Dowds

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to share with you our 2012 Annual Report. The Council is charged with implementation of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The intent of the this Act and the work of the Council is to recognize the competencies, capabilities and personal goals of individuals with developmental disabilities and to contribute to a system where individuals with Developmental disabilities have the ability and opportunity to make personal decisions, exert control over their lives and participate in the same community activities that are available to individuals without disabilities. This is *Meaningful Participation in Community Life*.

2012 was an exciting and productive year and the first year of our new five year State Plan. Our initiatives spanned across health care, education, early intervention, employment, transportation, housing, guardianship, self-advocacy, transition, and community supports. We are very proud of the work conducted and the commitment and enthusiasm of the Council members and staff, as well as Resource members, contractors and many other stakeholders that made this a reality. To view the year end Program Performance Report in its entirety, please go to [www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org) or visit our website at [www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org) to learn about the many resources we have available and the current work of the Council.

Sincerely,

Debra Dowds
Executive Director

The Council Staff, 2012

**Front Row (left to right):** April Katine, Carolyn Williams, Dennie Hill, Debra Dowds, Latarsha Williams, Janina Wilson, Rose Coster

**Back Row (left to right):** Holly Hohmeister, Lisa Taylor, Mike Capps, Margaret Hooper, Vanda Bowman, Allison Cruz, Misty Grimm, Cindy Tan

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
The Council supports many initiatives that improve the success of individuals with developmental disabilities in career and technical education programs to achieve employment. These initiatives include: Collaborative on Discovery and Innovations in Employment, Developing Employment Opportunities in Rural Communities, EmployMe 1st, Let’s Get Everyone to Work, and Project Achieve.

Preparation For And Succeeding In The Work Force

Lives Made Better

In its second year, Project Achieve at the Florida State College at Jacksonville had a total of 22 students attend fully inclusive career and technical post-secondary programs. Of these, 10 students have completed their certificate and are working towards passing their state licensing test.

For more information on Council employment initiatives, contact Sheila Gritz-Swift at: sheilags@fddc.org
The Council supports initiatives that strengthen early intervention programs, promote child development and education, and promote inclusion of students with developmental disabilities in regular education classrooms. Education initiatives include: *Child Development Screening Initiative, Early Care and Inclusion Training, Universal Design for Learning Through Technology,* and *Disability Awareness Guides.*

**Lives Made Better**

A few comments from teachers included:
A 1st grader is being included in a general education reading class. He is more independent due to smart board technology in both small and large group settings. Another 2nd grade student was able to move from all self-contained classes to full time inclusion. An ipad touch helped him keep up with the other students.

*ABOVE: April Katine presents a disability awareness guide and books to Dr. Marsha Sanders, Principal at Astoria Park Elementary in Tallahassee.***

*LEFT: The Cover from “Disability Awareness Through Language Arts and Literacy,” a guide developed by Marty Beech, Ph.D., is available for prekindergarten and Elementary Schools.*

For more information on Council education initiatives contact April Katine at: aprilk@fddc.org
The Council supports improved health for individuals with developmental disabilities by supporting exercise programs, good dental care, webinars and publications that promote healthy living. Health care initiatives include: *Community Wellness Needs Assessment, The Fit Club, My Health Care,* and *Physician Training Program.*

**Enjoying A Healthier Life**

ABOVE: The Fit Club has offered persons with developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in activities and receive education that promotes healthier living. Through behavior changes and heightened understanding of the importance of making choices that support a healthy lifestyle, participants have experienced increased self-esteem, health awareness, and weight loss in supportive community and facility-based environments.

LEFT: The Physician Education in Developmental Disabilities (PEDD) Project developed an accredited curriculum and free online training course for physicians focused on providing care to adults with developmental disabilities.

**Lives Made Better**

One participant said, “Since I started to be an active participant in the ADT FIT Club, I have experienced changes in my feelings and knowledge about what being healthy means. I am also happy because I have the highest weight loss of everyone in the class for the last 12 weeks.”

For more information on Council health care initiatives, contact Holly Hohmeister at: hollyh@fddc.org
Finding Natural Supports

The Council is working with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and other advocates to develop community capacity and provide non-Waiver supports to address the unmet needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are currently on Florida’s Medicaid Waiver waitlist. Projects that support this goal include: Developing Community Coalitions, Developmental Disabilities Waitlist, Strategic Plan, Residential Options Resource Guide, and Transportation Stakeholders Task Force.

Lives Made Better

In August, 2012 the Grottoes of North Florida funded services for two children on the APD Waitlist through the Dental Care for Children with Special Needs Program. Miranda, a child with Cerebral Palsy, had not received any dental services in several years and was in dire need of a dental cleaning and exam. Her parents did not have access to Medicaid or dental insurance and were paying out of pocket for other specialized therapies. Dental services was another need that the child had in which there was just not enough money to provide. Thanks to this funding, Miranda was able to receive the dental services she needed.

For more information on Council community living initiatives contact Allison Cruz at: allisoncruz@fddc.org
The Council educates and advocates for issues that impact individuals with developmental disabilities and supports these individuals and families in their advocacy efforts. The Council’s legislative education efforts this year included: advocacy for increased funding for Early Steps, DD HCBS Waiver, and Transportation Disadvantaged.
Strengthening the leadership skills of Florida’s self-advocates is a primary goal of the Council. Initiatives provide training, technical assistance and support to individuals with developmental disabilities to develop self-determination, independence and meaningful participation with their communities. Self-advocacy initiatives include: *Partners in Policymaking*, *Self-Advocacy Grassroots Group Development*, *Route to Self-Determination*, and *Youth Leadership Forum*.

The “Self-Advocates of East Volusia”, one of 13 local grassroots groups that make up the Florida Self-Advocates Network’d (FLSAND), learn how to become stronger advocates during their monthly meetings.

For more information on Council self-advocacy initiatives contact Dennie Hill at: dennieh@fddc.org
Financial Report

2012 Funded Projects

- Community Wellness Needs Assessment
- Benefits Training and Asset Development
- Child Development Screening Initiative
- Collaborative on Discovery and Innovations in Employment
- Consultant on Progressive Employment Practices
- Developing Community Coalitions
- Developing Employment Opportunities in Rural Communities
- Developmental Disabilities Waitlist Strategic Plan
- Early Care and Inclusion Training
- EmployMe 1st
- Fit Club
- Let’s Get Everyone to Work
- My Health Care
- Partners in Policymaking
- Physician Training Program
- Project Achieve
- Residential Options Resource Guide
- Route to Self-Determination
- Self-Advocacy Grassroots Group Development
- Transportation Stakeholders Task Force
- Universal Design for Learning Through Technology
- Youth Leadership Forum

### GOALS

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**General Management**

| 532,505 |

**Functions of DSA**

| 0 |

**Total**

| 3,710,543 |
Map of Florida Showing Council Initiatives

Category Codes

- Child Development/Education
- Community Living/Service Coordination
- Employment and Transportation
- Health Care/Prevention
- Self-Advocacy Leadership

Child Development/Education  - Community Living/Service Coordination
Employment and Transportation—Health Care/Prevention—Self-Advocacy Leadership
Congratulations Partners in Policymaking, Class of 2012

This 2012 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of

Mike Capps and Barbara Moss

two members of the FDDC family we lost this past year.