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.
2013 Council Members

Kathy McAllister: Council Chair & Self Advocate, Sarasota, FL
Sylvia James-Miller: Council Vice-Chair & Parent Advocate, Ocala, FL
Robert Whitney: Council Treasurer, Disability Rights Florida, Tallahassee, FL
Rixys Alfonso: Parent Advocate, Pembroke Pines, FL
Pat Archer: Self Advocate, Boca Raton, FL
Ronni Bianco: Parent Advocate, Aventura, FL
Richard Bradley: Non-Profit Member, Gainesville, FL
Charlotte Curtis, RN, BSN, CPM: Dept. of Health Children's Medical Services, Tallahassee, FL
Conney Dahn: Parent-Advocate, Stuart, FL
Lise Fox, Ph.D: Florida Center for Inclusive Communities, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Laurie J. Harlow: Parent Advocate, Tampa, FL
Shevaun Harris: Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee, FL
Cynthia “Marcy” Jackson: Parent Advocate, Tallahassee, FL
Jack Kosik: Parent Advocate, Lakeland, FL
Shirley Kervin: Dept. of Elder Affairs, Community & Support Services, Tallahassee, FL
Kathy Leigh: Self Advocate, Starke, FL
Mary Ellen McDonald: Disability Rights Florida, Tallahassee, FL
Aleisa McKinlay: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DOE), Tallahassee, FL
Thomas (TJ) Moon: Self Advocate, Ocala, FL
Bernadette Moran: Parent Advocate, Jacksonville, FL
Barbara Palmer: Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Tallahassee, FL
Tricia Riccardi: Self Advocate, Kissimmee, FL
Margaret Reilly: All Children's Hospital, Bradenton, FL
Sara Robinson: Self Advocate, Lakeland, FL
Jean Sherman, Ed.D., R.N.: Mailman Center UCEDD University of Miami, Pembroke Pines, FL
Casey Stewart: Self Advocate, Pembroke Pines, FL
Louis Towson: Self Advocate, Marianna, FL
Monica Verra-Tirado, Ed.D: Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (DOE), Tallahassee, FL
David Wood, MD, MPH: Local Agency, Jacksonville, FL
Victoria Vangalis Zepp, Parent Advocate, Tampa, FL

The Council is composed of 30 members appointed by the Governor. Members represent individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, agency staff and interested individuals. To learn more about the current Council members go to:

http://www.fddc.org/about/council_members
From The Executive Director

Debra Dowds

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to present our 2013 Annual Report. We are just two years into our five year state plan and have already seen some major accomplishments. The local self advocacy networks participated in the legislative advocacy efforts to end the R-Word and get people off of the waitlist; Health care professionals are gaining a greater understanding of how to meet the health care needs of individuals with developmental disabilities; Communities have formed coalitions and created partnerships in generating additional supports for individuals with developmental disabilities; Students with developmental disabilities are being included in general education classes through the use of Universal Design for Learning Technology, and; Students with Developmental Disabilities are earning post-secondary certificates in their chosen field that will lead them to employment. That’s something to celebrate and something to build upon for the future. We are very proud of the work conducted as well as the enthusiasm of the Council members and staff. We also thank the Resource members, contractors and many other stakeholders that made this a reality. To view the year end Program Performance Report in its entirety and to learn about the many resources we have available and the current work of the Council, please visit our website at www.fddc.org.

The Council Staff, 2013

Front Row (left to right): Richard Bivins, Safee Broxton, Allison Cruz, Cindy Tan, Evie Feliciano, Margaret Hooper, Cydeon Trueblood, Holly Hohmeister

Back Row (left to right): Sheila Gritz-Swift, Jarl Jackson, Carolyn Williams, Misty Grimm, Lisa Taylor, Debra Dowds, Vanda Bowman
The Council supports many initiatives that help to improve the success of individuals with developmental disabilities in preparing for and securing employment. These initiatives include: Collaborative on Discovery & Innovations in Employment, Developing Employment Opportunities in Rural Communities, EmployMe 1st, Let’s Get Everyone to Work, and Project Achieve/Vertical Training Program. The Council is committed to advocating and promoting meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities.

...Success Stories...

We especially enjoy sharing some of the stories of success such as; the Florida State College at Jacksonville, in collaboration with the Duval County and Nassau County School Districts, Project Achieve/Vertical Training Program. This project is designed to provide students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the support to pursue their post-secondary education at a college, specifically working toward certification in the field of their choice. The certification programs chosen by students have included facials/cosmetology, child care, welding, carpentry, auto body repair, hazardous waste disposal and warehouse management. The Council has completed its second year of supporting Project Achieve which has provided fully inclusive career and technical post-secondary education. Two students have successfully completed their certificate in articulated nursing and warehouse management. One student in each of the following programs have completed their certificates, they include: aviation coating technician program, automotive collision repair & refinishing, carpentry, welding, hazardous waste operation and emergency response. Additionally two students have not only completed their certificate program but also passed their state licensing test for facial specialty. Altogether, 11 students have passed their certificate programs and are working with their vocational rehabilitation counselors to find jobs in these areas.

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 general education classrooms. Education initiatives include: Early Care and Inclusion Training, Universal Design for Learning Through Technology, and Disability Awareness Guides.

...Success Stories...

The Universal Design for Learning, through the Technology Initiative, focuses on the use of UDL technology to facilitate inclusion. In St. Lucie and Collier County, schools are including students with significant disabilities in general education science classes and are using cutting edge technology to meaningfully include them in those lessons. They are using electronic science probes, electronic microscopes, iPods, iPads and smart boards to have all children use the same technology to access the curriculum.

A student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) was chosen to participate in the Universal Design for Learning through Technology because of his extreme difficulty with transitions. After two weeks of inclusion, the same student frequently views the clock to see if it’s inclusion time, and happily jumps up to check his schedule when prompted, saying, “I love inclusion.”
The Council supports improved health for individuals with developmental disabilities and increased access to a more coordinated health care system. This goal is achieved by supporting initiatives that promote oral hygiene, child developmental screening as well as webinars and publications that encourage healthy living. Health Care and Prevention initiatives include: Child Development Screening/Help Me Grow Statewide Initiative, Integrated Service Delivery Design for Medicaid State Plan and Community-Based Services, Easing Your Stress Information for Caregivers of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Oral Health Care Training for Caregivers, My Health Care, and Physician Training Program.

Easing Your Stress

Easing Your Stress is a popular and valuable resource for caregivers that provides relevant information and techniques they can use to ease their personal stress, contributing to their overall health and to the health of their family.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council offered several training sessions for professional and family caregivers on how to perform oral hygiene like tooth brushing, flossing and positing in a home setting. The program will soon be available as a webinar in English and Spanish.

For more information on Council Health Care and Prevention Initiatives, contact Holly Hohmeister at: hollyh@fddc.org
Supporting Community Living Initiatives

The Council is working on initiatives that enable an individual with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life. Through partnerships with other organizations, such as the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, as well as other advocates, the Council has developed community outreach and provided 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: Developmental Disabilities Waitlist Strategic Plan, Developing Community Coalitions, Florida Inclusive Housing Corporation, Restoration of Capacity, Abuse and Neglect Stakeholders’ Work Group, Lighting the Way to Guardianship Curriculum; and the Housing in Florida Resource Guide.

...Success Stories...

The Council’s Community Coalitions initiative is supporting the establishment of Project Empower – A Coalition for Supporting Persons with Developmental Disabilities for Escambia, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties. Project Empower is working to support the development and strengthening of community resources that will address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. They are currently assisting the Pure Friendship Ministries to provide weekend respite services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their siblings. They are researching ways to address transportation issues and providing a forum for discussion of issues and solutions for individuals with developmental disabilities in their community.

For more information on Council Community Living Initiatives, contact Cydeon Trueblood at: cydeont@fddc.org

Chairman Victor Smith (center) works with board members as they prepare to move forward with numerous community projects during one of their meetings in Pensacola, Florida
The Council undertakes a comprehensive set of activities to effectively educate and advocate for issues that impact individuals with developmental disabilities with state Legislators. In 2013, the Council identified nine Legislative Priorities to focus its legislative education and advocacy: DD HCBS Waiver, Reducing the DD HCBS Waiver Waitlist, keeping the iBudget, transportation, Employment First, Restraint and Seclusion, Supporting Florida’s Part C/Early Intervention Program, Specialty Requirements for Medicaid State Plan Health Care and the Individualized Family Support Plan authorizing Part C/Early Step services.

ABOVE: Self-advocates along with their family members, friends and caregivers, rallied at the Capitol during Disability Awareness Day in support to End The R-Word.

LEFT: Florida Governor Rick Scott addressed the more than 200 who attended DD Awareness Day At The Capitol on March 7, 2013 during the annual press conference concerning his recommendation to provide additional funds for Florida’s waiver waiting list.

For more information on Council Public Policy and Advocacy Activities, contact Margaret Hooper at: MargaretD@fddc.org
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, this in turn will develop self-determination, independence and meaningful participation with their communities. Self-Advocacy initiatives include: Partners in Policymaking, Florida Self-Advocacy Network (Florida SAND), Route to Self-Determination, Youth Leadership Forum and Self-Advocate Leadership Training (Project SALT).

**Success Stories**

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership and advocacy training program that teaches self-advocates and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to be community leaders. The overall goal is to develop productive relationships between people who need and use services and those in a position to make policy and law. Participants hear presentations about current issues and state-of-the-art practices from national leaders in the field of developmental disabilities. Florida graduates have used their leadership skills in a variety of ways including serving on boards, advocating for an anti-bullying program, advocating for expanding accessible transportation, and establishing a resource information program for families.

Graduates from the Partners in Policymaking class range from the Secretary for the Disability Achievement Center Board of Directors, the Palm Beach County School District ESE Advisory Council, the Board of Directors of the Learning Disabilities Association of Florida and the South Florida CIL Disability Advocacy Council. A graduate has also been appointed to the Advisory Committee to the Florida State Guardian Ad Litem program to help design a two-day training on special education and dependency issues.

For more information on Council Self-Advocacy Initiatives, contact Safee Broxton at: Safeeb@fddc.org
## GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Public Policy</td>
<td>154,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Communications</td>
<td>235,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Self-Advocacy</td>
<td>611,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Health Care</td>
<td>182,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Health Care/Education</td>
<td>508,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Formal &amp; Informal Supports</td>
<td>15,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Housing</td>
<td>87,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Transportation</td>
<td>290,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Quality Assurance</td>
<td>276,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Education</td>
<td>59,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Education/Employment</td>
<td>311,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Employment</td>
<td>367,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>397,796</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,499,415</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Integrated Service Delivery Design for Medicaid State Plan and Community-Based Services**

**Let’s Get Everyone to Work**

**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**
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 and Prevention—Self-Advocacy Leadership
Congratulations 2013 Graduates!

Family and friends gathered in Orlando, Florida for the graduation of the 2013 Partners in Policymaking Class. It was a joyous occasion that shared highlights of the program as well as the bonds that had been developed. Kathy McAllsiter, FDDC Chair, gave the commencement address emphasizing the empowerment and grace they had each gained. Instructor Ginny Cook recognized the 2013 graduates for their hard work throughout the program, growth as an advocate and the commitment to be future leaders in their communities.