



Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.  
Public Policy Committee  
Executive Summary  
September 20, 2018  
Tampa, Florida

## **I. Roles and Functions**

The Public Policy Committee met for the first time and went over their Roles and Functions.

## **II. Decision items that were approved by the Public Policy Committee included four legislative priorities.**

### **1) Pay Fair for Care**

People with lifelong intellectual and developmental disabilities require a range of services to ensure their health, safety and success in community living. Direct Care providers are the lifeline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members. However, the rates paid to providers of these services are no longer adequate. As a result, providers are faced with constant turnover. Families are often unable to find someone to provide the services their loved ones must have to be included in the community. To help strengthen this service system, as well as maintain current services with a choice of providers, rates must increase.

***Florida families and providers must be able to recruit and retain dedicated people to support the direct care needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Higher wages for individual personal support workers are needed to resolve a critical shortage of these service providers.***

### **2) Support the iBudget Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver**

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities continues to face the challenge of funding the increasing needs of current individuals on the waiver while funding services for those who are in crisis situations and those in high priority waitlist categories.

***It is essential to fund the growth of the iBudget waiver and to fund services to transition individuals off the iBudget waitlist.***

### **3) Continue to fund and implement recommendations from the Transportation Task Force**

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council was successful in advocating for funding for some of the recommendations from the legislated Transportation Task Force in 2018. These grant projects address the issues faced by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities: affordability, safety, inability to cross county lines and long travel times.

***The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will urge the Florida Legislature to provide resources and continue alternative approaches for transportation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that were recommended by the Transportation Task Force.***

### **4) Implement the Working People with Disabilities Program**

Forty-six states have government programs that improve the ability for an individual with a developmental disability to work, keep vital health coverage, and lower their dependence on government assistance. Currently, Florida does not have this type of program. Last year the legislature required the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek approval for a federal waiver, a state plan amendment, or other federal authorization to provide a program called Working People with Disabilities, for adults who receive services under Florida's Medicaid waiver programs.

***The legislature needs to support the Working Program for Individuals with Disabilities to allow participants to work full-time without losing Medicaid waiver personal support services and therapies (not covered by traditional health insurance) that allow these individuals to contribute to the workforce.***

**HOLD THE DATE**

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for March 20, 2019**