



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

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2013 Legislative Priorities - Summary

Protect the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver from Further Funding Reductions

The Council urges the Florida Legislature to protect individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who receive the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver from any further reductions.

Work to Reduce the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver Waitlist

The Council urges the Florida Legislature to support a meaningful long-term commitment to significantly reduce the number of people on the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver waitlist.

iBudget Florida

iBudget Florida needs sufficient time to be fully implemented and evaluated before other redesign options for the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver are considered.

Transportation Availability for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The Council urges the Florida Legislature to maintain current funding for transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Council supports the creation of transportation options for individuals with developmental disabilities that optimize an individual's choice of provider and route. Options could include a voucher or "smart card".

Employment First

The Council supports a system for employment programs that is competitive and where supported and integrated employment is the first option available for all individuals with developmental disabilities.

Guidelines for the Use, Prevention and Reduction of Restraint and Seclusion in the Public School System

The Council supports a policy where physical restraint and monitored seclusion in the school system should be used only when there is a demonstrable and imminent physical danger to the student or others, and implemented by trained staff. The Council supports prohibiting restraint or seclusion as planned interventions in education plans for students with disabilities. These plans include a student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP), because restraint and seclusion should only be used in cases of imminent danger and as part of a crisis plan.

Support Early Steps, Florida's Part C/Early Intervention Program

The Council supports current per-child funding as a minimum for the Early Steps Program which serves over 45,000 children who will receive those services in 2013-2014, plus additional funding for those who need services for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Specialty Requirements for Medicaid State Plan Health Care for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Establish and require specialty requirements for Medicaid state plan health care services that serve individuals with developmental disabilities and coordinate care with those who receive services from the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services (DD/HCBS) Waiver.

The Individualized Family Support Plan needs to be considered an authorizing document for Medicaid- eligible services for children in Part C/ Early Steps.

The Council urges legislators to require that the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) be recognized as the authorizing document for medical necessity and Medicaid reimbursement for Part C Early Intervention Services.