

# FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

## Public Policy Committee Report

September 22, 2022

The Public Policy Committee met yesterday, and we discussed and approved the Council's Legislative Platform which includes the following,

### **Invest in home and community-based services to include individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into their community**

This year the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee approved prioritizing talking with lawmakers about the value of investing in Florida's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). There are many aspects of the iBudget waiver that need to be supported so a broad-based request to invest in the Waiver seemed the best way to frame our platform this year. The need for strengthening the Support Coordination system and Behavioral Services appear to be emerging. The draft position is on page 3 of your materials and includes the following recommendations some of which have been modified by the Committee. **1.** The Council supports estimating increases in utilization that accurately reflect the yearly additional needs of individuals on the iBudget waiver. Recommendation **2.** was changed to say a significant reduction of individuals should come off the waitlist each year instead of 10%. Also, a careful analysis of who is on the waitlist is recommended. **3.** The Council supports creating a robust case management and support coordination workforce to address the needs of individuals with I/DD. **4.** The Council supports addressing the behavioral needs of individuals with I/DD. The narrative paragraph will be edited to include behavioral services for all with I/DD who need them and an investment in Behavioral Focused group homes and Behavioral Intensive groups homes.

### **Supported Decision Making (SDM)**

The Council has advocated for Supported Decision-Making legislation for the last two years. Proposed language was suggested for statute 393 last year to make SDM an alternative to Guardian Advocacy and this passed out of one committee. The Public Policy and Advocacy Committee voted to continue to work on this issue.

### **Arc Waitlist Campaign**

Arc of Florida is about to launch a Campaign to explain the iBudget Waitlist called Be Prepared, Be Counted and Be Heard. The Campaign includes information and advocacy concerning education about what services Florida has for individuals with I/DD, the benefits of being on the Waitlist and the importance of being heard. The Public Policy and Advocacy Committee approved Margaret's work on this campaign on behalf of the Council.

### **Foster Children with Disabilities**

The Public Policy and Advocacy Committee heard from advocates, Amanda Johnson and Vanessa who work with the foster care system. They told stories about children with I/DD who have intense behavioral challenges and the need more services and behavioral supports from APD. The Committee voted to approve the draft position.

### **Dental Services for individuals with I/DD**

The Committee voted to support increased funding for dental services for individuals on the iBudget Waitlist and for more availability of dental services for those on the iBudget Waiver.

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for March 14, 2023!**