

Public Policy and Advocacy Committee Report

September 19, 2024/ Orlando, Florida Meeting

The Public Policy and Advocacy Committee met Thursday morning, and we discussed and approved the Council's 2025 Legislative Platform called ***Our Care Matters***. Guidelines for approving priorities and other legislative issues the Council supports were discussed.

The Council's three central priorities for this year's platform emerged from national and statewide data for the State Plan, which includes input from people with I/DD, their families, and the people who support them.

Specifically, the Council's Platform contains the following recommendations that were approved by the committee.

1) Access to Services

- The Council recommends centralized and coordinated resource information systems for individuals with I/DD and their families.
- The Council is committed to encouraging systems to maintain the most up-to-date information.

2) Home- and Community-Based Services Delivery Systems

- The Council recommends both case management and service delivery systems that have quality measures and standards that families and organizations can use. This is particularly important as the state pilots a for-profit managed care model to serve individuals with I/DD.
- The Council recommends maintaining Florida's Consumer Directed Care waivers that allow more flexibility to choose service providers at a lower cost to the state. This waiver is particularly helpful in rural communities where service options are limited.
- The Council recommends effective practices for individuals with I/DD with significant behavioral challenges to address individuals with a dual diagnosis being placed in more restrictive settings. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities is piloting the addition of personnel with expertise in developmental disabilities to mobile crisis teams that have a good chance of stabilizing individuals with I/DD, who are having a mental health crisis, in their home.

3) Aging Caregivers

- The Council recommends a sustainable partnership between developmental disability and aging networks. This collaboration will create a system of care that is both sensitive to and available for both caregivers and individuals with an I/DD who are growing older.

Other Legislative Priorities that were approved were.

- Transportation for individuals with I/DD
- Dental services for individuals with I/DD
- Budget concerns (e.g., pre-enrollment)

Awards for Legislators

- The Committee voted to give out two legislative awards(one House member and one Senate member) this year if earned.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is March 11, 2025!