

# SUNCOAST REGION NEWS

Mission: To support persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning & working in their communities.

Volume 1 Issue 2

August 2007

## Budget Cuts

Gov. Charlie Crist advised state agencies to prepare for potential budget cuts. The proposed cuts will result in a 4 percent loss from this year's budget and 10 percent from next year's budget. "We're trying to kick-start the economy," said Gov. Crist, "But until we get there, it's a little tight right now." In response to the proposed cuts, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities has implemented a hiring freeze on all non-critical vacancies and has ceased unnecessary travel and purchase expenses. An anticipated one billion dollar revenue shortage is the cause for the projected cuts. Senate President Ken Pruitt and House Speaker Marco Rubio announced a special session to convene on September 18 to discuss budget issues. "We will have a balanced budget that meets the needs of our state," said Ken Pruitt. ❖

## Governor's Commission

Governor Charlie Crist appoints Lance Block to serve as chair of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Lance Block is a steadfast advocate for the rights of the developmentally disabled. He has served as a Trustee for the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities

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## Class Action Complaint Filed

Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, Secretary of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration and Jane Johnson, Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities are Defendants in a Lawsuit filed on July 30, 2007. The lawsuit filed by six Plaintiffs, alleges they received "inadequate notice" of the reduction in services and that the reductions violate "the due process requirements of Federal Medicaid Law and the Fourteenth Amendment." The lawsuit also alleges the imposition of limits on the hours of personal care services to children and youth violates the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment requirements of the Federal Medicaid Statute. Plaintiffs are requesting the U.S. District Court-Northern District of Florida certify their complaint as a class action, and to enter a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring AHCA and APD to "provide Plaintiffs with sufficient notice and an opportunity to challenge the reduction in DD waiver services".... and "to ensure that EPSDT subclass Plaintiffs receive medically necessary Medicaid covered services."

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"Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them."

-Albert Einstein

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## Employee Survey

"Thank You" to all employees for submitting questions for the upcoming employee survey. Due to the large number of questions received, management has chosen to issue a series of surveys. All staff will receive an email link to SurveyMonkey.com where they will complete the survey on line. The survey will not

and as past President of the Arc of Palm Beach County. "Lance has a long career in advocating and defending Floridians with disabilities," said Governor Crist. "I am honored he has agreed to serve the people of our state in this important position." The Governor's Commission will consist of 19 members appointed by the Governor and will represent Florida's disabilities community. "We are very excited about the creation of the Governor's Commission on Disability," said Jane Johnson, APD Director, and its promotion of policies that will "enable us to make a more meaningful and positive difference in the lives of the people we serve." ❖

## Legislative Tour

Local legislatures received an invitation to join APD Director, Jane Johnson on tours scheduled for each of the APD Area Offices. The tours will provide an opportunity for legislatures to obtain an overview of the various services APD provides to consumers and their families. The Legislative Tour for the SunCoast Region will occur on August 21 and will begin at the APD Office in St. Petersburg. Legislatures will receive an up-close and personal view of a state-owned intensive care facility (Sunrise), an adult day training program, a group home, supported living and supported employment program (PARC). The tour hours are from 8:30a.m. until 12:30p. A question and answer session with the media is scheduled following the tour. ❖

## Community Connections



*Nathaniel's Hope Buddy Break* is a free respite program offered to parents and caregivers of special needs children. The program is available for up to 3 hours one Saturday per month. The program is available to children ages two through 16 and their

siblings ages four through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Program hours are 10a.m.-1:00p.m. located at the St. James United Methodist Church in Tampa. The next respite date is August 11: <http://www.stjamestampa.org>

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*"Passion is the great slayer of adversity. Focus on strengths and what you enjoy."*

*Charles Schwab*

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*The Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy* is an exceptional horseback riding program for individuals with developmental disabilities. SMART strives to assist their students build self-awareness and self-confidence. "One of the goals of SMART is to make our program available to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. We never turn away a suitable rider based on lack of funds." <http://www.smartriders.org>

## H.Y.A

*Handicapped Young Adults* is a social club established for individuals with developmental disabilities. The club provides an opportunity for members to get together and have fun in a safe environment. Club members arrange dances, socials and bowling outings. Club membership is \$12 per year. Contact Eva Boyd at (727) 572-0107 for additional information. ❖

### WAIVER INFORMATION

CURRENTLY ON WL	15,273
SUNCOAST REGION	3,896
WAIVER ENROLLMENTS	50
SUNCOAST REGION	7
(AS OF JUNE 2007)	

collect any employee identifying information. Watch your e-mail for the publication of the first survey and take advantage of this opportunity to share your concerns and opinions. Survey results will aid management in implementing necessary changes. ❖

*“Now I look beyond what I can’t do and focus on what I CAN,”*

*Robert M. Hensel*

## MEETINGS/EVENTS

**Aug. 8**

WORKNET WEDNESDAY

Job Fair

950 Lake Carillon Dr. St. Pete, FL

12pm – 4pm

**Aug. 15**

DESOTO COUNTY PARENT RESOURCE FAIR

South Florida Community College

2251 N.E. Turner Ave., Arcadia, FL

9:00am-3:00pm

**Aug. 16**

WAIVER SUPPORT COORDINATOR MEETING

Children’s Board of Hillsborough County

1002 E. Palm Ave, Tampa, FL

9:00a.m until 12:00p.m

**Aug. 23**

AREA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

1201 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., St.Petersburg, FL

9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

## Congratulations Amanda Baker Recipient of the 2008 Ms. Wheelchair America Spirit Award

Contestants of the 2008 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant voted Amanda Baker as the woman who best exemplifies the spirit of self-determination. Amanda won the Miss Wheelchair Florida competition in February. Since that time, she has made several appearances around the state to advocate for people with disabilities. Amanda, whose platform focuses on inclusion, has cerebral palsy and receives services from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

## Family Care Council

**Aug. 2/ 6:00-7:30p.m. 100 Coburn Rd, Sarasota, FL**

**Aug. 22/ 11a.m.-noon 1313 N. Tampa St, Tampa, FL**  
(Large Conference Room)

**Aug. 23/ 6:30-8:30p.m. 1501 N. Belcher Rd. Clearwater**

## RETIREMENTS

Jane Schiereck

**33 Years**



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

AUG 6-9

### FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

RENAISSANCE HOTEL, ORLANDO,

[HTTP://WWW.DOT.STATE.FL.US/CTD/](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/CTD/)

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Disadvantaged Training and  
Technology Conference

AUG. 17 & 18

### HEART & HOPE STATEWIDE FAMILY CONFERENCE

Hilton St. Pete. Bayfront, St. Petersburg, FL [www.fndfl.org](http://www.fndfl.org)

Heart and Hope will unite families of children with  
disabilities from around the state.

AUG. 27-29

NORTH AMERICAN SPINAL CORD INJURY CONFERENCE &  
DISABILITY EXPO GAYLORD PALM RESORT AND CONVENTION  
CENTER, ORLANDO, FL

"CREATING YOUR FUTURE: LIVING WITH A DISABILITY" FREE EXPO BY  
NASCICDE ON AUG. 27 & 28 [WWW.SCICONFERENCE.ORG](http://www.sciconference.org)

## Florida Diagnostic & Learning Research Center

**FREE \*FREE\*FREE**

INFANT, TODDLER, PRE-SCHOOL  
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AGES  
BIRTH TO FIVE

By appointment only

FDLRS will conduct free vision, hearing, motor,  
speech, language, cognitive, behavioral and medical  
screenings beginnings at 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m. August  
17th at Bayshore Baptist Church located at 3111  
Morrison Ave, Tampa, FL. Please call (813) 837-7723  
to schedule an appointment. ❖

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*"Keep your face to the sunshine and you can  
not see the shadow."*

*Helen Keller*

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## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Hurricane season

June 1<sup>st</sup> thru November 30

The time is now to create your disaster plan if you  
have not already done so. Do not wait until an  
emergency strikes and you have no electricity, no  
food and no telephone service. Creating a plan now  
can go a long way in securing your family's safety  
and well-being. If you need help creating or updating  
your disaster plan, visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org>.

## Disaster Preparedness Plan for People with Disabilities

Special needs registries offer disaster  
assistance to individuals with disabilities. To  
sign up for the Special Needs Registry or to  
receive additional information, please contact  
your county at the number listed:

Desoto: (863) 993-4831

Hillsborough: (813) 307-8015 ext. 6006

Manatee: (941) 749-3022

Pasco: (727) 847-8959 or (TDD) (352) 521-5137

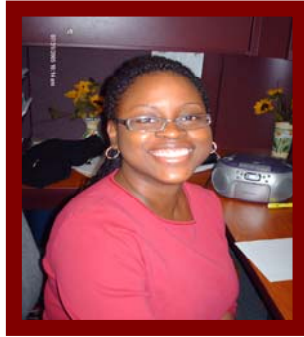
Pinellas: (727) 464-3800

Sarasota: (941) 951-5283 or (941) 861-5000

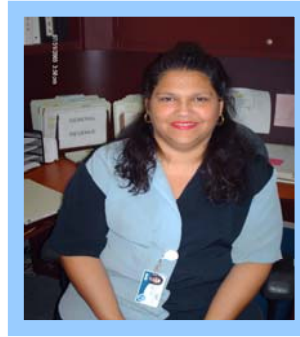
# Welcome New Employees!



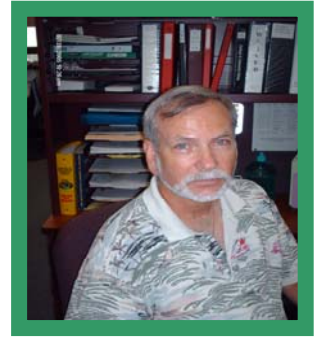
Deborah Decker  
Computer Systems Analyst  
06/07



Yashia Clarke  
Waiver Support Liaison  
06/07



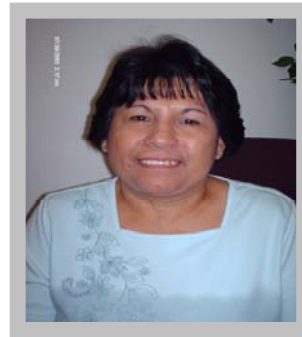
Rosalie Castillo  
G.R. Support Coordinator  
05/07



Michael Breen  
G.R. Support Coordinator  
04/07



Angelic Apostolatos-Parnter  
Waiver Support Liaison  
04/07



Millie Melendez  
Administrative Secretary  
03/07



Ann Smith  
Secretary Specialist  
02/07



Elizabeth Schuler  
G.R. Support Coordinator  
02/07



Victoria Perry  
Secretary Specialist  
02/07



Nancy Jordan  
G.R. Support Coordinator  
01/07

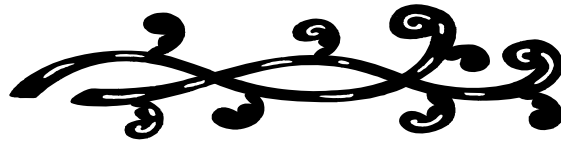


# Memorial Tribute



Sharon R. Andrews

(October 22, 1947 - July 12, 2007)



Sharon Andrews worked with the agency diligently for 30 years and possessed an unyielding desire to assist individuals with developmental disabilities. Recently, Sharon celebrated her second APD retirement at Valencia Gardens amidst fifty-five co-workers and friends who gathered to pay special tribute to her. “Sharon was very caring and family focused...and will be missed greatly,” said friend and co-worker Jeannie Majerick. Funeral Services were held on July 16 at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 2713 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa. Cantor Moshe Friedler officiated.

Agency for Persons with Developmental Disabilities SunCoast Region  
1313 N. Tampa St. Suite 515  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
1-866-APD-CARES or 1-866-273-2273  
<http://apd.myflorida.com>