

SUNCOAST REGION NEWS

The Agency Supports Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living, Learning and Working in their Community.

1313 North Tampa Street * Suite 515 * Tampa, Florida * 33602 * Office (813) 233-4300 * Fax (813) 233-4302

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APD Future Fiscal Agent for CDC Plus

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will become the fiscal employer agent for the Consumer Directed Care Plus Waiver program beginning March 1, 2008. PPL will no longer operate as the fiscal employer agent after February 29. APD's responsibilities will include provider and consumer enrollment, authorization of services, payment of time sheets and invoices, reconciliation of consumer accounts and customer service management. APD has issued a detailed letter to all participants explaining the need for the change in the CDC Plus Waiver Program and placed a call to all participants to offer support and answer any questions they may have. The agency will utilize agency staff in conjunction with independent contractors to implement the change in the CDC Plus Waiver Program. The goal is to improve CDC Plus customer relations and devise a proficient delivery system for payments.❖

Governor's Budget Supports APD

Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp budget recommendations for fiscal year 2008-2009 support the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the individuals we serve. The Governor's budget recommendations include the allotment of \$24 million in state funds to replace the non-recurring funds from APD's fiscal year 2007-2008 budget. The federal government will match these funds providing \$54 million to APD. The governor has also recommended \$5.9 million to serve individuals with developmental disabilities in crisis and \$1.3 million to hire 74 employees to increase staffing ratios at the Mentally Retarded Defendant Program (MRDP). "I am thankful to Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Kottkamp for acknowledging the importance of addressing the needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities by funding the Medicaid waiver programs," Director Johnson said. "In a tight budget year, we appreciate the Governor's commitment to Florida's vulnerable citizens. Our agency's goal is to provide Floridians with needed services so they may continue to be contributing members of their community. Governor Crist's recommended budget will help us achieve this objective."

"Don't let today's disappointments casts a shadow on tomorrow's dreams,"

~Author Unknown

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Gov. Crist Launches Florida Discount Drug Card

Governor Charlie Crist launched the Florida Discount Drug Card last month. The Discount Drug Card allows eligible Floridians to save on medications at more than 3,000 participating pharmacies. "Access to affordable prescription drugs enhances every person's quality of life as well as the vitality of our state, and many working families and seniors struggle to afford their medications," said Governor Crist. To qualify for the program, individuals must be age 60 and older with no prescription drug coverage or in the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage gap. Individuals, families and seniors under age 60 may be eligible if they have an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and do not have prescription drug coverage. For additional information on eligibility and enrollment, visit www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com. ❖

Vocational Rehabilitation Change Proposal

*Bill Palmer, Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

The Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is developing a process to determine financial participation of individuals in the cost of their Vocational Rehabilitation services. The individual's level of participation in the cost of services is based on the individual's plan of services, income, and includes consideration of work-related disability expenses paid by the individual. The Division believes that this process is necessary to maximize the use of available resources and to continue to serve all eligible individuals. Email your comments or questions to our office at vrplan@vr.fldoe.org. ❖

Medical Case Management News

The Medical Case Management Team of the Suncoast Region would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2008! And to assist everyone in the realization of this goal, the MCM Team is launching this first edition of our new endeavor, Medical Case Management News.

The mission of this newsletter is to provide an on-going resource of information and support for all APD Medicaid Waiver service providers of the Suncoast Region. Because the Suncoast Region supports the largest percentage of consumers on the Home and Community-Based Medicaid Wavier Program, it is often difficult for the Medical Case Management Team to personally provide the degree of support and education to MW service providers that we believe is essential to ensure that APD consumers receive the best services possible. The Medical Case Management Team is hoping that we will be able to reach more providers by using a quarterly newsletter rather than having regular provider meetings. The Medical Case Management Team will use this newsletter to address the issues that we have found to be causing the most concern, or simply rousing the most interest, among both MW service providers and APD staff who regularly interact with MW service providers.

Because this newsletter is intended to be both a resource and a support for service providers, the Medical Case Management Team will include a section dedicated to answering individual questions or concerns submitted to Medical Case Management via email. Questions can be submitted directly to: eileen_taylor@dcf.state.fl.us. or Jill_cramer@dcf.state.fl.us. [Medical Case Management News, first edition.](#) ❖

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, and cognitive, behavioral and medical screenings from 8:30a.m. until 11:30a.m. **February 8, 2008 • Bing Elementary School 6409 36th Avenue S., Tampa, FL**
Please call (813) 837-7723 to schedule an appointment. ❖

SunCoast Steering Committee

*Jennifer Stone, Chairperson
Area Steering Committee*

The Steering Committee is working in collaboration with the Family Care Council. Our first meeting together was scheduled for January 23, 2007. We are also in the process of reviewing and providing input on protocols for the complaint and recoupment procedures currently in place. We continue to actively seek new members to join our committee. If interested please contact Marcia DiGrazia (727) 217-7021. Our next meeting will be held on February 11, 2008 at the DD Center 1201 102nd Ave N St Petersburg. ❖

Family Care Council

Families often feel they will lose their dream of self-sufficiency and independence for their children, when they receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability (DD) for their child. However, with proper Support, both families and individuals with DD can thrive and achieve their chosen goals.

Caring people, that is what it takes! The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and our State and Federal government support the principles of inclusion, self-determination, community living, successful transition to adult life and integrated employment. Families, individuals with developmental disabilities and their support workers must keep the dream of a full and rich life the goal at all times.

Collaboration is a powerful tool. If this philosophy is to succeed, families must be the driving force. Barriers need to continually be identified and broken down and necessary programs and policies put into place. We must all work together for the benefit of all persons with developmental disabilities. Together - we can make this happen.

Families are the Driving Force

Meetings

11

Area Steering Committee

1201 102nd Ave N.
St. Petersburg, FL
10:00am -1:00pm

18

Family Care Council (West)

Louise Graham Regeneration Center
2301 Third Ave South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
6:30pm - 8:30pm

21

Waiver Support Coordinator

Pinellas Park City Auditorium
7690 59th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL 3781
9:00am -12:00pm

27

Family Care Council (East)

1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 516
Tampa, FL 33602
11:00am -12:00pm

29

Supported Employment Meeting

1201 102nd Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL
9:00am -11:00am



Announcements

Seventeen out of Eighteen Crisis Cases Approved.....WOW!

Keep up the great work!

Suncoast T-shirt & Paraphernalia

Please turn in completed order form and payment to
Glorie Singleton.

“Name the Database Contest”

There is still time to submit your entry for our “Name the Database” contest. Submit entries by email to
glorie_singleton@apd.state.fl.us

System New/Change Form

This form is used to request a change or addition to the data systems. Please provide the completed form to
Deborah_decker@apd.state.fl.us.

My Deaf Network

A new free online community for deaf and Hard of Hearing. Members build relationships with people of similar backgrounds and interests.

<http://www.mydeafnet.com/>

Research to Aid Persons with Disabilities

The [Research to Aid Persons with Disabilities \(RAPD\) program](#) supports research that will lead to the development of new technologies, devices or software for persons with disabilities. Research should support the characterization, restoration and/or substitution of human functional ability or cognition, or to the interaction of persons with disabilities and their environment. Areas of particular interest include disability-related research in neuroscience/neuroengineering and rehabilitation robotics. Applicants are encouraged to contact a program director prior to submitting a proposal. See the Web site of the [National Science Foundation](#) for application deadlines.

Grants to Help State Medicaid Agencies Support the Employment of People with Disabilities

The [Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment](#) program addresses the needs of people who have physical or mental impairments that may lead to a disability. This demonstration authority allows States to help working individuals by providing necessary benefits and services required for people to manage the progression of their conditions and stay employed. Proposals will be accepted until **March 15, 2008**.

Happy Valentine's Day



Upcoming Events

February 5 and 12

Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Transportation Committee

1:30pm-3:30pm

Telephone conference call ~ all persons are invited

The call in number is 1.888.808.6959 conference code: 9214170#.

February 13

Transition: The IDEA Way

8:00am - 4:45pm

Radisson World Gate Resort, 3011 Maingate Lane, Kissimmee, Florida

The purpose of the conference is to provide information about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) requirements for transition services as well as evidence-based practices.

Email transitioncenter@coe.ufl.edu for additional information.

Sponsored by the Transition Center at the University of Florida

February 14

Family Cafe Conference

The 10th Annual Family Cafe Conference is scheduled for June 13-15, 2008 at [Disney's Coronado Springs Resort](#) in Orlando, FL. Registration will open on Valentine's Day, February 14. Financial Assistance will be offered as available.

February 16

4th Annual Vision Expo

8:30am to 12:00pm

Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 S Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, FL 33609

Featuring

Dr. Tim Petito:

Using Your Remaining Vision
Services for Children and Families

&

Dr. Nancy Kirk:

What's New in Treatments for Preserving Your Sight
Services for Children and Families.

Participating Organizations:

Division of Blind Services, Hillsborough County Public Schools, Visually Impaired Program,
Hillsborough County Talking Book Library & Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind

February 16th
No Limits Sports

9:00am-3:00pm

All People's Life Center, Sports Complex, 6105 E. Sligh Avenue, Tampa

Mission is to increase families' awareness of the benefits of recreational or competitive sports for youth with physical limitations. Participants who are 6 to 21 years of age and able to learn rules and skills, will have the opportunity to experience various sports through this fun and safe event.

Sports Events Include:

Power Soccer, Wheelchair Basketball, Adaptive Karate, Table Tennis, Field Events, Weightlifting/Training, Adaptive Tennis, Hand Cycling, Dance, Boccia

Call (813) 975-7142 Fax (813) 975-7125 or Email nolimitssports@shrinenet.org

Sponsored by Shriners Hospitals for Children in partnership with Blaze Sports of Tampa Bay, US Paralympics & Hillsborough County Florida

February 20
Southern Movement New Horizon Advocacy Group

10:30am-1:00pm

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 515, Tampa, Florida 33602

Group discussion will include the rights, self-determination, choice and advocacy for persons with disabilities. Please call Eileen O'Brien at (813) 977-5097 or (813) 233-4317 for additional information.

February 26
Tampa Bay Metro Business Leadership Network
Kick-Off

7:45-8:15am Registration and Breakfast; 8:15-9:30am Program

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, 2900 Bayport Drive, Tampa, FL 33607

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Hyatt Hotels, SunTrust Bank, Jobing.com, Busch Gardens, MacDonald Training Center and other local companies and dignitaries invite you to attend the
Email Debbie Courtney at debbiec@wilres.com for sponsorship information.

*Suncoast Region Training Calendar

FEBRUARY

4	Chronic Medical Conditions	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
5	Working with Outcomes	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
7	Medication Administration	1:00pm - 4:00pm
8	Behavioral Analysis Overview	9:00am - 12:00pm
12	ABC Training for WSC	9:00am - 12:00pm
14	AIDS/HIV	9:00am - 12:00pm
15,18-19	Supported Living Pre-Service	9:00am - 4:00pm
20	Personal Outcomes	9:00am - 12:15pm
25 - 27	Supported Employment Pre-Service	9:00am - 4:00pm
28	Policy and Procedures	9:00am - 12:00pm
28	Mechanics of Quality Service	1:30pm - 4:00pm

**Pre-Registration is required for all training. Trainings located at 1202 N. 102nd Ave. St. Petersburg, FL*

Mental Retardation

Mental retardation is a term for a pattern of persistently slow learning of basic motor and language skills ("milestones") during childhood, and a significantly below-normal global intellectual capacity as an adult. One common criterion for diagnosis of mental retardation is a tested intelligence quotient (IQ) of 70 or below and deficits in adaptive functioning.

People with mental retardation may be described as having developmental disabilities, global developmental delay, or learning difficulties.

The term "mental retardation" has acquired pejorative and shameful connotations over the last few decades.

The broad term *developmental delay* has become an increasingly preferred synonym by many parents and direct support professionals. However, this term carries the emotionally powerful idea that the individual's current difficulties are likely to be temporary.

Developmental disability is preferred by most physicians, but can also refer to any other physical or psychiatric delay, such as delayed puberty.

The phrase *intellectual disability* is increasingly being used as a synonym for people with significantly below-average IQ. These terms are sometimes used as a means of separating general intellectual limitations from specific, limited deficits as well as indicating that it is not an emotional or psychological disability. Intellectual disability is also used to describe the outcome of traumatic brain injury or lead poisoning or dementing conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. It is not specific to congenital conditions like Down syndrome.

Signs

In early childhood, mild disability (IQ 60–70) may not be obvious, and may not be diagnosed until children begin school. Even when poor academic performance is recognized, it may take expert assessment to distinguish mild mental disability from learning disability or behavior problems. As they become adults, many people can live independently and may be considered by others in their community as "slow" rather than retarded.

Moderate disability (IQ 50–60) is nearly always obvious within the first years of life. These people will encounter difficulty in school, at home, and in the community. In many cases, they will need to join special, usually separate, classes in school, but they can still progress to become functioning members of society. As adults, they may live with their parents, in a supportive group home, or even semi-independently with significant supportive services to help them, for example, manage their finances.

Diagnosis

According to the latest edition of the [*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*](#) (DSM-IV), there are three criteria before a person is considered to have a developmental disability: an IQ below 70, significant limitations in two or more areas of adaptive behavior (i.e., ability to function at age level in an ordinary environment), and evidence that the limitations became apparent in childhood.

It is formally diagnosed by professional assessment of *intelligence* and *adaptive behavior*.

Causes

Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome and Fragile X syndrome are the three most common inborn causes. However, doctors have found many other causes. The most common are:

- Genetic conditions
- Iodine deficiency
- Problems during pregnancy
- Problems at birth
- Health Problems
- Malnutrition
- The use of forceps
- Institutionalization
- Sensory deprivation

Treatment and Assistance

By most definitions, mental retardation is more accurately considered a *disability* rather than a *disease*. MR can be distinguished in many ways from mental illness, such as schizophrenia or depression. Currently, there is no "cure" for an established disability, though with appropriate support and teaching, most individuals can learn to do many things.

Although there is no specific medication for "mental retardation", many people with developmental disabilities have further medical complications and may take several medications. Beyond that, there are specific programs that people with developmental disabilities can take part in wherein they learn basic life skills. These "goals" may take a much longer amount of time for them to accomplish, but the ultimate goal is independence. This may be anything from independence in tooth brushing to an independent residence. People with developmental disabilities learn throughout their lives and can obtain many new skills even late in life with the help of their families, caregivers, clinicians and the people who coordinate the efforts of all of these people. ❖

RESOURCES: <http://apd.myflorida.com> <http://www.rehabworks.org/> * APD Medical Case Management Unit * <http://fdlrs.mysdhc.org>
* <http://www.familycarecouncil.com> * <http://www.mydeafnet.com/> * [National Science Foundation](#) * [Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment](#) * <http://www.familycafe.net> * <http://www.thetransitioncenter.org/> *
http://dms.myflorida.com/other_programs/commission_on_disabilities * <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org> *
<http://www.tampabaymetrobln.org> * http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mental_retardation *
<http://www.lovepoemsandquotes.com/InspirationalQuotes.html>