

SUNCOAST REGION NEWS

Mission: The Agency for Persons with Disabilities is dedicated to empowering Floridians with developmental disabilities to live, learn and work in their communities.

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Utilization Increases Results in APD Deficit

Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee staff members presented the Interim Monitor Project on the status of the Home and Community Based Services Waiver on December 13, 2007. Objectives of the project were to review and monitor APD's budget deficit, its progress towards implementation of the four-tiered waiver system and the agency's plan to remain within its appropriation as required by statute. Beginning fiscal year 2002-03 and ending with fiscal year 2007-08, APD received \$589.4 million in additional funding. The added funding, a 158 percent increase, was used to provide additional services to current consumers and permitted the agency to serve an additional 590 consumers through the HCBS waiver. Of the \$589.4 million increase, Senate staff estimates that \$521 million was used to fund utilization increases, \$22 million was used to fund new HCBS waiver consumers,

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APD to Host Unity Summit

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will host the Planning for the Future – Unity in the Developmental Disabilities Community” summit on January 17, 2008 at the Downtown Tampa Convention Center. APD officials encourage interested parties to participate in a “Round Table” discussion of vital issues for individuals with developmental disabilities. Key legislators, policy makers and stakeholders will have an opportunity to discuss the history and future of the developmentally disabled community. Director Jane Johnson along with Jim DeBeaugrine, APD Deputy Director of Planning/Budget and Mac McCoy, APD Deputy Director of Operations will address the “State of APD – Where We’ve Been, Where We Are and Where We’re Going”. Senator Ronda Storms, Chairman of the Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee, and Representative Bill Galvano, Chairman of the House of Representative Healthy Families Committee shall share their perspectives concerning potential legislation which may impact the developmental disabilities community. For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Jennifer Silva at (850) 922-7733. ❖

“Don't be pushed by your problems. Be led by your dreams,”

~Author Unknown

and \$46.39 million was used to fund FSL Waiver consumers. \$175 million in additional funding was provided for fiscal year 2007-08. These funds were designated for the use of eliminating the projected budget shortage in conjunction with the use of savings anticipated from the implementation of the four-tiered waiver system. No additional funding was issued to neither reduce the wait list nor provide services for crisis cases.

Review of the Four-Tiered Waiver system, service reductions and eliminations indicated the majority of the projected \$170 million savings would exist due to the execution of the tiers in July 2008.

Reviewers also notated that the FSL waiver has a surplus, which the agency has transferred in the past to offset the shortage in the Home and Community Based Waiver.

Examination of the agency's plan to reduce the budget and stay within its appropriations is \$19.3 million dollars short.

Although it represents an estimated 80 percent, decrease in the deficit from fiscal year 2006-2007.

Jim DeBeaugrine, APD Deputy Director of Budget and Planning assured members the agency is continuing to implement other cost saving measures to resolve the deficit.

Reviewers concluded that the deficit is the result of increased utilization and recognizes the agency's efforts. ❖

New Mission Statement

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities has a new mission statement:

The Agency for Persons with
Disabilities is dedicated to empowering
Floridians with developmental disabilities
to live, learn and work in their
communities.

Name the Database Contest

SunCoast Region employees are invited to participate in the Name the Database Contest for our new database system, which is currently under construction. Employees are asked to submit their recommendation for the name of the database by January 31, 2008. The winner will receive a prize and bragging rights. Following is a brief description of the database and its functions. Please submit your entry to Glorie Singleton (813) 233-4318.

Database Information

At this time, the database is referred to as ACCESS. ACCESS is a desktop database software program designed by Microsoft as a management tool. Information stored in the tables can be selected and used with information stored in other tables. This functionality allows the generation of reports on a monthly or one time basis with preferred information. This database can be used simultaneously for a multitude of purposes. Our current database stores information on incident reports, behavior data, residential information, complaints, medical case management, providers and some Delmarva information. For additional information, contact Laurie Harlow at (813) 233-4354.

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. **January 11, 2008** • **Bayshore Baptist Church** located at 3111 Morrison Avenue, Tampa 33629 Please call (813) 837-7723 to schedule an appointment. ❖

*After 30 years of service, the time
has come to say good-bye to*

Cindy Totten



*Please join in the fun as we celebrate
Cindy's retirement on January 25 at
11:30a.m. at Red Lobster
6151 34 Street N. (US 19)*

*For gift contributions & RSVP, please
See Denise (Tampa) or Marcy (St. Pete)*

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



From Our Director

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to everyone! 2007 certainly has been a tumultuous year, with many changes and challenges. As we close out the year, I can't help looking back on all that has happened with immense gratitude and appreciation for the extraordinary commitment demonstrated by the members of the APD family. I have learned many things about APD's programs and policies and politics since April - every day, some new situation seems to present itself and call for a solution. Through it all, the members of the APD team have demonstrated uncommon dedication to excellence. Despite budget deficits, budget cutbacks, service reductions and service eliminations, the APD team has kept its focus on the agency's primary goal. Most organizations faced with the monumental changes in operations, policies and funding that APD has seen would do well just to weather through those disruptions successfully. However, the APD team not only tackled the myriad of challenges it faced, but at the same time, they are able to think toward the future and develop a strategic plan and vision for the agency. This is a challenging time for APD, but the APD family is a truly exceptional organization. I do believe that the next few years will test our fortitude and our commitment, but if 2007 is any indicator of things to come, I also believe that the challenges we are facing will only make APD a better agency, equipped to fulfill its mission. "The Agency for Persons with Disabilities is dedicated to empowering Floridians with developmental disabilities to live, learn and work in their communities."



Meetings & Announcements

January 21

Family Care Council West
1501 N. Belcher Road
Clearwater, FL
6:30p.m. – 8:30p.m.

January 23

Family Care Council East
1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 608
Tampa, FL 33602
10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

January 23

Area Steering Committee
1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 608
Tampa, FL 33602
11:00a.m – 1:00p.m.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

January 15

Social Security Disability Determination Process and Work Incentive

WorkNet Pinellas
4140 49th St. N.
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33709
8:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Presenters:

Janney Gard & Jill Godde
Representatives from the Disability Determination Office
Frank Torano
SSA's Area Work Incentive Coordinator
WorkNet Pinellas' Disability Program Navigator
Goodwill Suncoast Vocational Evaluation Department
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Pinellas County Vocational Rehabilitation

For additional information and registration, contact Michael Roush at mroush@worknetpinellas.org

Coordinated by

The Disability Navigator Program of WorkNet Pinellas

January 25

Bright Futures Training Workshop

4210 West Bay Villa Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33611
8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Registration Cost \$35 ECC members/ \$50.00 Non-Members

Bright Futures Training provides a framework to address the current and emerging health needs of infants, children, adolescents, and their families.

Please RSVP by contacting Belkis Velasquez at 813 837-7753 or bvelasquea@tampabay.org

Sponsored by

the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County, Inc.

*SunCoast Region Training Calendar

January '08

14

Incident Reporting

APD St. Petersburg Office
9a.m. - 11a.m.

15

AIDS/HIV

APD St. Petersburg Office
9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

16

Phase II, New Provider Orientation, Personal Outcomes

APD St. Petersburg Office
9:00a.m. -12:15p.m.

22

Medication Administration Train the Trainer for RNs

APD St. Petersburg Office
9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.

23

Providing Effective In-Home Supports

APD St. Petersburg Office
9:00a.m.– 4:00p.m.

24

Phase III, New Provider Orientation

APD St. Petersburg Office
9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

24

Phase IV, New Provider Orientation

APD St. Petersburg Office
1:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.

28-31

Waiver Support Coordinator Pre-Service Training

APD St. Petersburg Office
9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

**Pre-Registration is Required for All Classes*

Waiver Enrollment & Wait List

*Waiver

County	HCBS	CDC	FSL	Total	HCBS Added	HCBS Removed	FSL Added	FSL Removed
Non-Area	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Non-Area	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Non-Area	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
DeSoto	51	1	10	62	0	1	0	0
Hillsborough	1,489	122	416	2,027	0	0	0	0
Manatee	297	38	103	438	1	0	0	0
Pasco	512	17	169	698	0	0	1	0
Pinellas	1,541	53	313	1,907	1	0	1	0
Non-Area	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sarasota	352	13	102	467	1	1	0	0

Wait List

Total	On FSL Waiver	
	Yes	No
4,073	1,095	2,978

**Information collected December 1, 2007*

Spina Bifida

Spina bifida (SB) is a neural tube defect (a disorder involving incomplete development of the brain, spinal cord, and/or their protective coverings) caused by the failure of the fetus's spine to close properly during the first month of pregnancy. Infants born with SB sometimes have an open lesion on their spine where significant damage to the nerves and spinal cord has occurred. Although the spinal opening can be surgically repaired shortly after birth, the nerve damage is permanent, resulting in varying degrees of paralysis of the lower limbs. Even when there is no lesion present, there may be improperly formed or missing vertebrae and accompanying nerve damage. In addition to physical and mobility difficulties, most individuals have some form of learning disability. The three most common types of SB are: myelomeningocele, the severest form, in which the spinal cord and its protective covering (the meninges) protrude from an opening in the spine; meningocele in which the spinal cord develops normally but the meninges protrude from a spinal opening; and occulta, the mildest form, in which one or more vertebrae are malformed and covered by a layer of skin. SB may also cause bowel and bladder complications, and many children with SB have hydrocephalus (excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain).

Treatment

There is no cure for SB because the nerve tissue cannot be replaced or repaired. Treatment for the variety of effects of SB may include surgery, medication, and physiotherapy. Many individuals with SB will need assistive devices such as braces, crutches, or wheelchairs. Ongoing therapy, medical care, and/or surgical treatments may be necessary to prevent and manage complications throughout the individual's life. Surgery to close the newborn's spinal opening is generally performed within 24 hours after birth to minimize the risk of infection and to preserve existing function in the spinal cord.

Prognosis

The prognosis for individuals with SB depends on the number and severity of abnormalities. Prognosis is poorest for those with complete paralysis, hydrocephalus, and other congenital defects. With proper care, most children with SB live well into adulthood.

Research

The NINDS supports a broad range of research on neural tube defects such as SB aimed at finding ways to treat, prevent, and, ultimately, cure these disorders. Recent studies have shown that the addition of folic acid to the diet of women of child-bearing age may significantly reduce the incidence of neural tube defects. Therefore, it is recommended that all women of childbearing age consume 0.4 mg of folic acid daily.

NINDS health-related material is provided for information purposes only. For additional information, please review the NINDS website at http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/spina_bifida/spina_bifida.htm

Welcome & Congratulations



Bonnie Brookhart

New Hire 12/07

Human Services Counselor III
St. Petersburg Office

Welcome to our team!



Nancy Jordan

Human Services Program Specialist
Promotion 12/07
Tampa Office



Judith "Jude" Redding

Interim 12/07
Human Services Program Director
Tampa Office