



SUNCOAST REGION NEWS

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

Volume 1 Issue 5

November 2007

State of the Agency

The Special Session on Budget Reductions resulted in many changes. The changes, which affect the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, are as follows:

- Transfer of money from secure forensic services to the civil ICF/DD (program to move individuals in county jails to more appropriate settings) approved
- 75 OPS positions granted to conduct needs assessments and develop initial cost plans for individuals receiving waiver services (preserves waiver support coordinator earnings potential and their role as client advocates)
- Personal Care Assistance restored for individuals over 21 who have intensive physical, medical, or adaptive needs

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Strategic Planning Workshop

The SunCoast Region, Area 14, Area 8, and GCC hosted the Strategic Planning Workshop for the Southwest Region on October 24 at the Park Trammel building in Tampa, Florida. The Strategic Planning Workshop was one of many to be scheduled throughout the state to seek the input of agency stakeholders regarding a draft of the Agency's mission and values statement, stakeholder requirements and potential goals developed by Area Administrators and Central Office Staff. Agency employees, consumers, providers and other stakeholders participated in the workshop and offered valuable contributions to the strategic plan and its implementation. Agency Director, Jane Johnson initiated the creation of the strategic plan to serve as a framework for the future.

State Disability Coordinator Selected

Chip Wilson, former president of ADA Consultants of Northeast Florida and member of Gov. Charlie Crist's Commission on Disabilities, has been selected to fill the newly created position of state disability coordinator, which answers directly to the Florida Division of Emergency Management Director (DEM), Craig Fugate. "There is a moral responsibility to serve all of our citizens and Chip's job is to hold us accountable," said Fugate. Chip's position is the result of a partnership between DEM and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

During the regular Legislative Session, APD received authority to:

- Extend support plans that do not increase the amount of services or total cost
- Expedite the review of cost plans with no changes or requests for new services
- Develop a web-based system to assist with tracking individuals waiting for services
- Limit Support Coordination for children, on the waiver, and living in their family home
- Limit Supported Living Coaching (20 hours a month) when provided in conjunction with In-Home Support Services
- Limit Personal Care Assistance (180 hours a month) for individuals over 21 with non-intensive needs
- Consolidate Residential Habilitation rate structure limiting services to 8 hours a day. Additional hours reserved for persons who have been assessed with intensive medical, adaptive or behavioral needs
- Eliminate Psychological Assessment Services, Massage Therapy, Non-Residential Support Services, Chore and Homemaker Services
- Expand the definition of In-Home Services to include some of the Non-Residential Support Services, Chore and Homemaker Services

Still more changes forthcoming including:

The transition to a 4-tiered waiver system.

"Life isn't all about what you don't have, but yet, what you do with what you have been given,"
Robert M. Hensel

2007 Day of Caring

The SunCoast Region Agency for Persons with Disabilities participated in the 2007 United Way Day of Caring Event on October 18. The event, hosted by the United Way of Tampa Bay, provides a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to volunteer their time and expertise assisting those in need. SunCoast Region agency representatives were delighted to spend the day reading, playing games, singing, dancing, chatting and exercising at the Lealman Adult Day Care Center located in St. Petersburg, Florida. Lealman is a private not-for-profit organization, which has served the elderly and their families in Pinellas County for more than 40 years. Lealman provides wellness, health, and social programs for older persons with special needs and assists in their efforts to remain independent.

"The hardest thing to overcome is not a physical disability but the mental condition which it induces,"

Alexander de Seversky

FSECC

Our Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign Fund has ended. All of our fundraisers and activities were geared towards promoting awareness of United Way and its continuous effort to provide services and assistance to those in our community. For employees wishing to contribute to United Way through a one time contribution or pay-roll deduction, there is still time. Please stop by the Program Office to pick-up your donation form. As always, your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. ❖

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. **November 9, 2007**

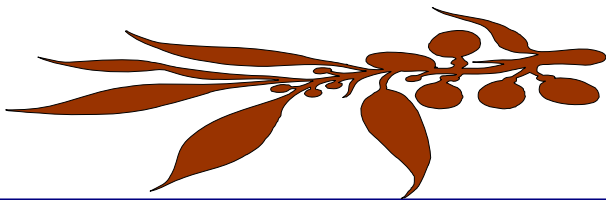
St. Mark's Catholic Church ~

9724 Cross Creek Blvd., Tampa 33647
Please call (813) 837-7723 to schedule an
appointment. ❖

SELF RELIANCE INC.

**Does your disability limit
independence in your home? Are
you unable to access the
community? Would a ramp, roll in
shower, accessible sink or toilet
or widened doorway enable you
to be more independent?**

To Find Out If You Qualify for Home
Modifications/Barrier Removal Contact Evelyn
at (813) 375-3965 ext. 103 (County Residents)
or Tara at (813) 375-3965 ext. 117 (City
Residents).



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

**SunCoast Region Training Calendar*

November 5 Incident Reporting	9am -11am	St. Pete. Office
November 6 AIDS/HIV	1:30pm-4:30pm	St. Pete. Office
November 6,13, 14 Personal Outcomes for Waiver Support Coordinators	9am - 4pm	Tampa Office
November 8 Phase III	9am -12pm	St. Pete. Office
November 8 Phase IV	1:30pm-4pm	St. Pete. Office
November 7 ICG for Waiver Support Coordinators	9am - 3pm	St. Pete. Office
November 13 Medication Administration for Managers (PD#01-01)	9am -12pm	St. Pete. Office
November 15 Providing Effective In Home Supports	9am - 4pm	St. Pete. Office
November 16 Medication Administration Train the Trainer for RNs	9am-1pm	St. Pete. Office
November 27 Working with Outcomes	9am - 4pm	St. Pete. Office
November 28, 29, 30 Supported Employment Pre-Service	9am - 4pm	St. Pete. Office

***Pre-Registration is Required for All Classes**

Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

November 14

FASST Open House

TGH Rehab Center

4:00pm - 6:00pm * 2 Columbus Drive * FASST Room R214 * Tampa, FL * Call to Register 813-844-7591

November 15

Waiver Support Coordinator

7720 52nd Street North

Pinellas Park, FL

9am – 12pm

November 16

Area Steering Committee

1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 516

Tampa, FL

9am – 12pm

November 16-18

2007 NAMJ Florida Annual Meeting & Conference

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel and Marina * Tampa, FL

November 19

Family Care Council (West)

1501 N. Belcher Road

Clearwater, FL

6:30pm – 8:30pm

November 26

Supported Employment

WorkNet Pinellas One Stop Center

4140 49th St. N.

St. Petersburg, FL

9am – 11am

November 29

FRC & UR Public Meeting

Goodwill Industries of Central Florida * 7531 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL * 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Announcements & Activities

Can Food Drive

November 5 – November 19

Can Food Drive to benefit Metropolitan Ministries sponsored by General Revenue Unit 360

Donation Box located at 1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 501

For additional information, contact Jeannie Majerick

(813) 233-4342

SunCoast Region Holiday Recipe Collection

November 5- December 7

The SunCoast Region would like to create a collection of holiday recipes to share with employees. If you have a favorite holiday recipe, you would like to share, please forward to Glorie Singleton at (813) 233-4318.

Winter Holiday Drive

November 6 – January 4th

Nonperishable/Toiletries Items drive to benefit the Naval Unit NCHB11 Charlie & Bravo Companies

For additional information, contact Victoria Perry (813) 233-4347 or Barbara Heindel at (813) 233-4338

Donation Boxes: Tampa Office (Suite 501) / St. Petersburg Office (Lobby)

Sponsored by General Revenue Unit 360

Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week

November 12 – November 18

The purpose of Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week is to raise the profile of spinal cord injuries as a community issue and to stress the importance of prevention.

Security Awareness Training

Security Awareness Training is required of all staff that utilizes DCF computer systems or access DCF computer related media. **This applies to all APD employees, contractors and vendors.**

The training is available now and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

http://eww.dcf.state.fl.us/aspe/training_core.shtml

Deadline Date for Completion is December 28, 2007.



Cerebral Palsy

The term cerebral palsy refers to any one of a number of neurological disorders that appear in infancy or early childhood and permanently affect body movement and muscle coordination but do not worsen over time. Even though cerebral palsy affects muscle movement, it is not caused by problems in the muscles or nerves. It is caused by abnormalities in parts of the brain that control muscle movements. The majority of children with cerebral palsy are born with it, although it may not be detected until months or years later. The early signs of cerebral palsy usually appear before a child reaches 3 years of age. The most common are a lack of muscle coordination when performing voluntary movements; stiff or tight muscles and exaggerated reflexes; walking with one foot or leg dragging; walking on the toes, a crouched gait, or a “scissored” gait; and muscle tone that is either too stiff or too floppy. A small number of children have cerebral palsy as the result of brain damage in the first few months or years of life, brain infections such as bacterial meningitis or viral encephalitis, or head injury from a motor vehicle accident, a fall, or child abuse.

Treatment

Cerebral palsy cannot be cured, but treatment will often improve a child's capabilities. Many children go on to enjoy near-normal adult lives if their disabilities are properly managed. In general, the earlier treatment begins the better chance children have of overcoming developmental disabilities or learning new ways to accomplish the tasks that challenge them. Treatment may include physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, drugs to control seizures, relax muscle spasms, and alleviate pain; surgery to correct anatomical abnormalities or release tight muscles; braces and other orthotic devices; wheelchairs and rolling walkers; and communication aids such as computers with attached voice synthesizers.

Prognosis

Cerebral palsy does not always cause profound disabilities. While one child with severe cerebral palsy might be unable to walk and need extensive, lifelong care, another with mild cerebral palsy might be only slightly awkward and require no special assistance. Supportive treatments, medications, and surgery can help many individuals improve their motor skills and ability to communicate with the world.

Article published by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/cerebral_palsy

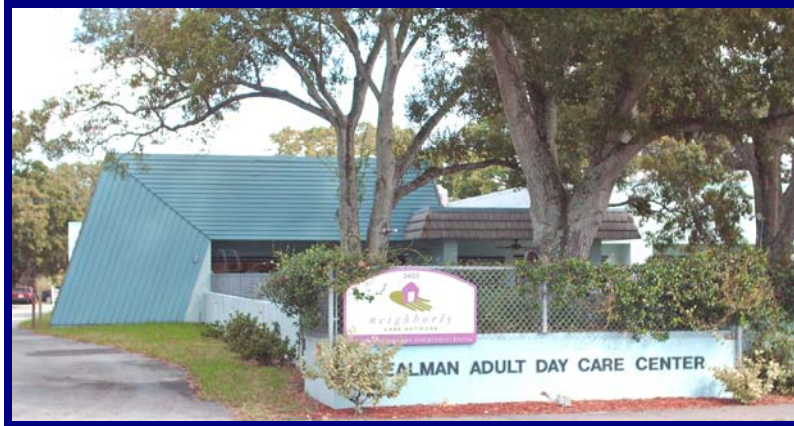
Material provided for informational purposes only. Consult your physician to determine appropriate treatment and care.

DisAbility Mentoring Day



Millie (APD), Courtney (Pyramid), Larry (mentee), Nancy (APD), Carolyn (mentee)
SunCoast Region APD

United Way 2007 Day of Caring



Lealman Adult Day Care Center



Rosie, Vicky, Glorie, Valerie & Angelic SunCoast Region APD



Lealman Attendee & Vicky



Lealman Attendee



Lealman Attendee & Valerie

