



SUNCOAST REGION NEWS

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

Volume 1 Issue 3

September 2007

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

"Workers with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team!" is the official 2007 theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. National Disability Awareness Month, commemorated in October, is a special time in which our nation reaffirms its commitment to the disabled workforce. It is a time dedicated to building employment opportunities, increasing community awareness and recognizing the contributions of the disabled workforce. Scheduled activities include job fairs, work-oriented seminars and employment preparation workshops. This month also includes a career exploration day -- Disability Mentoring Day. Disability Mentoring Day is October 17 and offers job seekers a chance to receive hands on experience, one on one mentoring and a valuable understanding of work place operations. Participating employers gain valuable insight into the disabled working community, a chance to recruit new employees and an opportunity to

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Publix Launches Free Prescription Drug Program

Publix, winner of the 2007 *J.D. Power & Associates Retail Pharmacy Satisfaction Award*, launched its free prescription drug program last month. Now new and current Publix pharmacy customers can receive a 14-day supply of the following pediatric prescriptions free: Amoxicillin, Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim (SMZ-TMP), Ciprofloxacin (excluding ciprofloxacin XR), Penicillin VK, Ampicillin, Cephalexin, and Erythromycin (excluding Erx-Tab). Insurance is not required and there is no limit on the number of prescriptions filled free. "We are always striving to provide our customers with service and value," said Dwaine Stevens, Publix Media and Communities Relations Manager. According to Publix reports, the generic pediatric prescriptions make up almost 50 percent of the prescriptions filled at Publix. "Health and wellness is crucial to every Floridian's quality of life and paramount to the vitality of our state," said Florida Governor Charlie Crist. "We appreciate great partners like Publix Super Markets working to further provide affordability and accessibility to quality prescription drugs for working families and seniors." Publix, founded with the "spirit of giving in mind," also contributes annually to the Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Children's Miracle Network, United Way and Food for All.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, nor touched ... but are felt in the heart" - Helen Keller

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serve their community. Disability Mentoring Day applications are required by job seekers and employers. Mentor and mentee matching is based upon the job seeker's career interest, education level and work experience. National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a time designated to building relationships between employers and disabled workers. The goal of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is the creation of a more inclusive work environment. For additional information and applications, please visit <http://www.dmd-aapd.org>

Legislative Tour

The SunCoast Region's legislative tour was conducted last month. Participants received a personal view of SunRise Community (a state-owned intensive care facility) and the Pinellas Association of Retarded Children's Facility. The aspiration of the tour was to increase awareness of the services and opportunities provided to developmentally disabled individuals by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Jane Johnson, APD Director and guests Senator Ronda Storms, legislative assistants Beth Sutkowy (Sen. Storms), Eric Johnson, Jennifer Wilson (Sen. Crist), Bethany Linderman, Courtney Vandenberg (Sen. Justice), Rachel Burgin (Rep. Traviesa) and Amber Smith (Rep. Ambler) participated in the tour.

SunCoast Area Steering Committee News

by Jennifer Stone

The SunCoast Area Steering Committee's primary focus is to promote continuous improvement of the service delivery system by providing recommendations to our Program Administrator on system changes to enhance the quality of services and appropriate outcomes in people's lives. The steering committee, also, assists on a local level with the statewide Interagency Quality Council (IQC) quality improvement initiatives. We are currently working on an initiative to improve communication among all stakeholders in the SunCoast Region. The

committee is exploring the possibility of funding for an IRIS system telephone tree that would allow our region to contact over 10,000 people a year as many times as needed regarding disaster planning, budget cuts and regional news. In addition, we are in the process of developing focus groups in the upcoming months to discuss strategies on improving our communication systems. SunCoast Steering Committee meetings are held on a monthly basis. We encourage interested stakeholders to attend meetings. We are currently seeking consumer representatives and self-advocate to serve on the committee. If interested in joining a focus group and/or learning more about the steering committee, please contact Marcia DiGrazia, MA, Ed at (727) 217-7021.

"Advantages and disadvantages come in many forms."- Charles Schwab

Hillsborough County In- Home Respite Program

by Hillsborough County Children Services

Hillsborough County Department of Children's Services In-Home Respite Program offers respite services for families of developmentally disabled children. The services are available to children not currently receiving Medicaid Waiver services (although they may be on the waiting list), under the age of 18, and who have been diagnosed with at least one of the following conditions: Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Prader Willi Syndrome, Autism, Severe Developmental Delays, or Intellectual Deficiencies/ Retardation. Care is provided at no cost to the program participants. To be eligible to receive services, the family must reside in Hillsborough County and submit an application, along with a current physical and diagnostic statement signed by a licensed psychologist or physician. Each family involved in the program receives up to 20 hours per month of respite care to be set up and used at their discretion. The family is able to call Achieve Tampa Bay to schedule their hours in a manner that suits them. Providers are available seven days a week between the hours of 7 AM and 11 PM. This allows parents an evening to go out,

Fingerprint Processing Fee Changes

	<u>Current</u>	<u>10/01/07</u>
PAPER CARD	\$32	\$38.25
PAPER CARD	\$47	\$53.25
LIVE SCAN	\$32	\$27.25
LIVE SCAN	\$47	\$42.25

Note: Amount Includes the FDLE \$8.00 Fee

*SUNCOAST REGION TRAINING CALENDAR

BOUNDARIES-WHERE YOU END AND I BEGIN

September 4 1:30pm-4:30pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St.Petersburg, FL

INCIDENT REPORTING

September 5 9am-11am
1201 102nd Ave N. St.Petersburg, FL

WORKING WITH OUTCOMES

September 6 1:30pm-4:30pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St.Petersburg, FL

AIDS/HIV

September 7 9am-11am
1201 102nd Ave N. St.Petersburg, FL

ZERO TOLERANCE

September 14 1:30pm-4:30pm
1002 E. Palm Ave Tampa, FL

CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS

September 10 9am-2pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY (MGRS)

September 11 9am-12pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE IN-HOME SUPPORTS

September 18 9am-4pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St.Petersburg, FL

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PRE-SERVICE

September 19, 20, 21 9am-4pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St.Petersburg, FL

RESIDENTIAL LICENSURE ORIENTATION

September 20 9am-12pm
1313 N. Tampa St Tampa, FL

ZERO TOLERANCE

September 25 9am-12pm
1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

***Pre-Registration is required for all classes**

a chance to take other children on an outing, or the ability to attend school meetings, doctor's appointments, or other functions, all while knowing their child is being cared for in the comfort of his/ her own home. We are currently accepting new applications for services. To obtain a copy of the application or for more information you may contact Dawn Joost at 264- 3807 x125. Applications are also available on the Children's Services website at

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/childrensservices.

Click on "Applications/Forms" to get the application packet for the In-Home Respite Program.

Governor's Budget Reduction Exercise

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities provided the requested budget reduction exercise to the Governor's Office last month. The recommended proposal will decrease the agency's budget while reducing the impact on services to consumers and families. The following recommendations were included in the proposal:

~Transition waiver support coordination from contracted services to state operations

~ PCA services to individuals under the age of 21 provided by the State Medicaid Plan

~The use 50 existing ICF/DD licensed beds to serve consumers in the Mentally Retarded Defendant Program

~Reversal of a 2.8 percent price level increase to waiver service providers (excludes waiver support coordinators)

~The elimination of supported living subsidies and supported employment services (new clients only---will not affect anyone currently receiving services

Also submitted, but not recommended due to the possibility of an interruption in consumer services, was an additional 7 percent rate reduction to waiver service providers.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities' reduction target rate is \$49.8 million. Governor Crist instructed state agencies to complete a budget reduction exercise because of projected tax revenue shortage.

Conferences & Meetings

September 20, 2007

WAIVER SUPPORT COORDINATOR MTG 9am-12pm
Pinellas Park Public Library
7770 52nd St. Pinellas Park

September 23-26, 2007

USBLN CONFERENCE Orlando, FL
"Building the New Workforce- Inclusion and Innovation"
Conference includes a free career fair for high school and college students with disabilities.

September 26, 2007

SUPPORTED LIVING QUARTERLY MTG
Two Sessions Available: 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm
1201 102nd Ave. N. St. Pete, FL
Call Dale Zinn @ 727-317-7039 to register for preferred session.

September 27, 2007

AREA STEERING COMMITTEE MTG 9am-12pm
1313 N. Tampa St. Ste 516
Large Conference Room

September 29, 2007

SPARC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE Largo, FL
Providing parents, teachers, therapists and other professionals with resources that will help children achieve in all aspects of their life.



F.U.E.L Pilot Project

CARD-USF is currently recruiting caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorders to share information about their life changing experiences. The goal is to learn how to identify strategies to help families become more resilient and increase their quality of life. All responses will remain confidential. Call today to request your information packet about the FUEL pilot project. *Space is limited.* Dr. Karen Berkman 813-974-2532
<mailto:kberkman@fmhi.usf.edu>

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*

*Join us 9/17 1501 N. Belcher Rd (Long Center)
6:30pm-8:30pm
9/26 1313 N. Tampa St (Conference Rm)
12:30pm-1:30pm*



Back-to-School Tips

~Build Alliances

Nurture alliances with teachers, support staff, parents, students and others who affect you and your child.

~Review Your Child's IEP

Makes sure your child's teachers understand the intent of the IEP and implement it.

~Create a "What Works" Portfolio

Include descriptions of your child's strengths, interests, favorite activities and learning priorities for the year.

~Request a Meeting

Share information about your child; review your child's IEP and "What Works Portfolio."

~Visit the Classroom

This is a great way to begin developing positive connections between other students and your child.

~Stay Involved

Join the PTA or SAC and remain involved throughout the school year.

~Continue Your Own Education

You are your child's most important ally and it is essential that you develop the skills to help your child create a rich and meaningful life.

INFANT, TODDLER & PRE-SCHOOL Developmental Screening ages birth to five by appointment only **FREE*FREE*FREE Florida Diagnostic & Learning Research Center**

Free vision, hearing, motor, speech, language, cognitive, behavioral and medical screenings presented by FDLRS from 8:30a.m. until 11:30a.m. on September 21 at the First Baptist Church of Temple Terrace located at 10002 N. 56th Street, Temple Terrace, FL. Please call (813) 837-7723 to schedule an appointment.

"It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision."

- Helen Keller

RETIREMENTS

Sheila Grant

19 Years



The Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign 2007

09/15 through 12/15

The Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign (FSECC) needs your single authorized employees to benefit local providing programs to needs in our community, nation, and abroad.

Department of Services provides through the Steering and the appointed for 2007, The Chief Financial Sink. Each local Committee administers designated and allocated

Way fiscal agent. The Tampa Bay FSECC Steering Committee administers Hillsborough and Pinellas counties through United Way of Tampa Bay. Check your emails for upcoming fundraising information and events.

help! The FSECC is the solicitation of state voluntary agencies

meet human across the

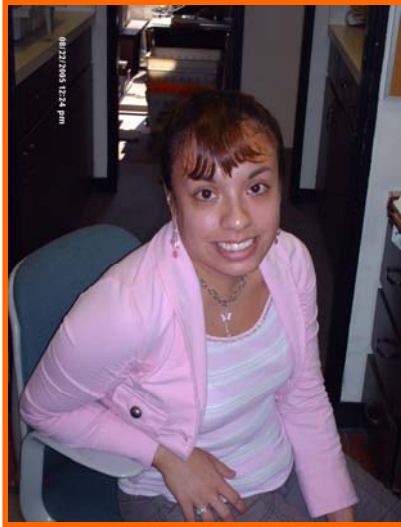
The Management (DMS) oversight State

Committee, annually Chairperson State of Florida Officer, Alex Steering

the FSECC local funds through a United



Welcome New Employees



Catherine Maffei
Word Proc. System Spec.
02/07



Linda Eubanks
Word Proc. System Spec.
06/07



Anne Barrow
Intake Specialist
07/07





From the Desk of Carl Littlefield, Area Administrator:

Changing of the Guard

Outside the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery and at the entrance gates of Buckingham Palace in London, elite soldiers guard icons of extreme value. In Britain, the elite soldiers guard the home of the sovereign as a respectful and dutiful expression of devotion and gratitude. In Arlington they guard the sacred, solemn and hallowed ground where honorable men and women without identity rest in peace after giving the utmost sacrifice. The guards change with great pomp and precision.

From time to time, we at APD also engage in the act of changing the guard. After serving, guarding and promoting the dignity of individuals with disabilities and their families for years...some of our elite move out while others move in. Unlike the soldiers at Arlington and Buckingham, the “change” is often without great pomp. However, who can doubt the devotion of these DD “soldiers” who have served this “higher calling” for years? They have instilled in us the mandate to respect and value the people we serve. They are in their own way icons of loyalty and devotion. We do well to emulate them.

Without mentioning one name...you know who they are and the tireless contribution they have made. Their deserved respect goes unchallenged. Take the time to thank some of our DD “soldiers.”

Carl Littlefield

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1-866-APD-CARES or 1-866-273-2273 <http://apd.myflorida.com>