

The 22nd Annual

Family CAFE

Featuring the Governor's Summit on Disabilities
June 2020



2020 Visions for our Future



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR



May 8, 2020

Dear Friends:

As Governor, it is my pleasure to send best wishes to all of those participating in the Annual Family Café's 2020 Virtual Summit. I appreciate your efforts to ensure access to the same valuable resources and information you would find at a face-to-face Annual Family Café.

Floridians with unique abilities play an important role in our communities and enrich our lives. I remain dedicated to providing assistance to individuals with unique abilities, their families and caregivers and helping ensure their service needs are met. Thanks to the support of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and other state organizations, we are working hard to ensure that all Floridians with unique abilities have the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Casey and I are proud that Florida is an accommodating state, and we will continue to make sure that Floridians with unique abilities have the support they need to succeed and thrive.

Best wishes for a productive Virtual Summit!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor



Welcome to the 22nd annual First-ever VIRTUAL Family CAFÉ ORLANDO

Dear Family Café Attendees,

Over the past few months, the coronavirus pandemic has turned everyone's world upside down. When we first learned about the virus back in March, we knew that whatever action The Family Café took in response would be guided by a commitment to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the people with disabilities and families we serve. Once it became clear that it wouldn't be safe to gather together thousands of individuals with disabilities or health conditions impacting their immune systems for a three-day in-person event as we have for twenty-one consecutive years, our Planning Committee made the difficult but necessary decision to make The 22nd Annual Family Café virtual.

Despite the move to a virtual event, The Family Café Planning Committee remains committed to connecting attendees with all of the information and resources that can traditionally be found at The Annual Family Café. While the format is different, the self-advocates, family members, fellow nonprofits and state agency partners that make up The Family Café Planning Committee maintain their mission to provide you and your family with an opportunity for Collaboration, Advocacy, Friendship and Empowerment in a family-centered environment!

Once we decided that this year's Annual Family Café would be virtual, we immediately started working on a plan to create an online event that would be as close to the real thing as possible, and meet the need for information and networking among people with disabilities and/or special health care needs and their families in Florida, just like the in-person event has since 1998. The end result of that planning process is captured here in this event program, which looks a bit different than what you might be used to seeing. You will find descriptions of more than 200 breakout sessions here, with contact information for the scheduled presenters so you can reach out to them with your questions. Since the event is virtual, all of the sessions are organized by topic, instead of by date and time. In addition to our usual tracks, Advocacy, Assistive Technology, Birth through Age Five, Dads, Disaster Preparedness, Employment, Mental Health, Military Families, Recreation, Smart Money, and Youth, we also have groups of sessions on Art and Music, Autism, Behavior, Caregivers, Self-Care, Empowerment, and Motivation, Education, Health, Legal, Family, Miscellaneous, Roundtables, State Agencies, Services, and Resources, and Transition and Social Life.

Of course, it's not possible to deliver all of the planned sessions as part of our virtual event. That's why we have selected a few of the most relevant and popular sessions to be part of our virtual Annual Family Café, which is happening online over two weeks between June 5th and June 19th. On each of those days (except for the two Sundays, the 7th and 14th), The Family Café will host two live events at 11 AM EDT and 2PM EDT. In addition to a number of moderated breakout sessions with live Q&A, we'll also have the Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities, roundtable sessions, and appearances by our three keynote speakers: Zack Gottsagen, self-advocate and star of the film *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, Robert "Bobby" Silverstein, ADA architect and former staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, and Maysoon Zayid, actress, comedian, and self-advocate. We'll also be sharing self-advocate entertainment and adaptive recreation videos throughout the two weeks.

While we can't feature every breakout session in our virtual event, we have extended an invitation to all of our presenters to share their information with us in whatever format they choose. Once we've collected their submissions, we will produce an online-only version of this program, with links to what they've sent in. So, shortly after the virtual Annual Family Café concludes on June 19th, you'll be able to access information on many of the presentations we had planned to include.

We also know that our attendees enjoy visiting the Exhibit Hall to connect with the vendors, organizations, and agencies that we bring in to share their information and resources. While we can't host an in-person Exhibit Hall, we have put together and sent you an Exhibitor Catalog to connect you with what they have to offer. It lists every exhibitor, along with a description of their organization and their contact information. Please take the time to look through it and reach out the exhibitors that interest you!

Despite the challenges of going virtual, we've done our best to assemble an exciting, engaging event this year, and we think you will be impressed with the wide array of information we've brought together. It's been our great pleasure and honor to create a truly unique space for people with disabilities and their families at The Annual Family Café for the past twenty-one years, and we are excited to have you as part of our first-ever virtual event. We sincerely hope that your participation in The 22nd Annual Family Café leaves you feeling informed, educated and empowered. As always, please let us know if there is anything we can do to serve you better!

Yours
The Family Café Planning Committee

June 5, 2020

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Barbara Palmer
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Dear Annual Family Café Attendee:

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Family Café and Governor's Summit on Disabilities. On behalf of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, I encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful educational and networking opportunities provided at this conference.

Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is committed to helping people with developmental disabilities live, learn, and work in their communities. The agency serves more than 55,000 people with spina bifida, severe forms of autism, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, and cerebral Prader-Willi syndrome.

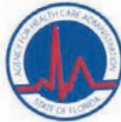
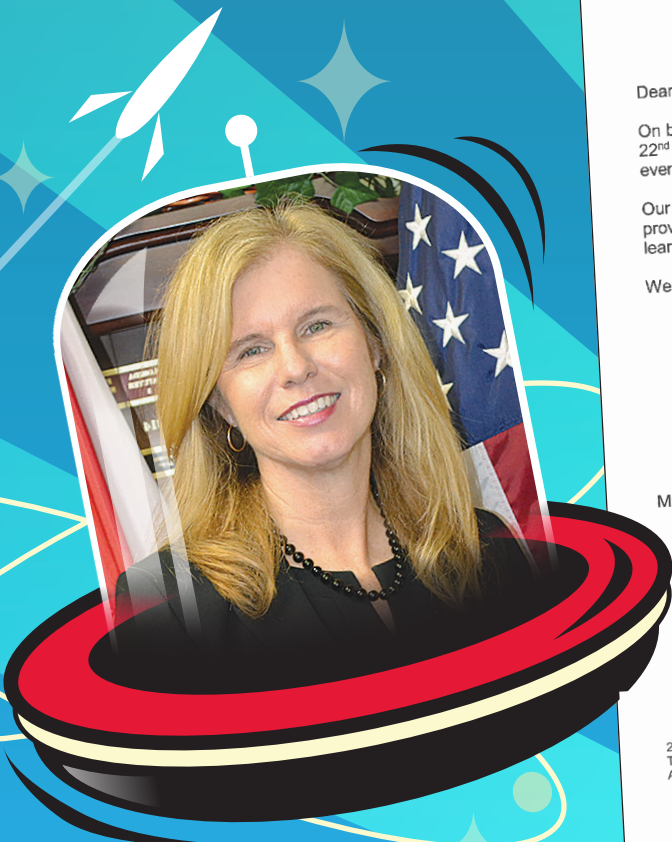
The Family Café offers people with disabilities and their families a friendly environment to educate themselves about organizations and resources that are available in our state. Families and organizations who are working together to find solutions will have the greatest success in meeting the needs of individuals. APD has an online Resource Directory at APDcares.org which may offer community solutions when government resources are not available. Please come by the APD booth while attending the conference for additional information.

Throughout this gathering, you will have the chance to share your experiences. There will be presenters, exhibitors, and other family members who have useful information to benefit you, so make the most of this educational experience. Again, I hope you enjoy your time here!

Sincerely,



Barbara Palmer
Director



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

MARY C. MAYHEW
SECRETARY

June 5, 2020

Dear Family Café Participants:

On behalf of the Agency for Health Care Administration, it is an honor to welcome you to the 22nd Annual Family Café! Our Agency is proud to once again serve as a partner for this great event. Family Café provides a wonderful opportunity to support individuals with disabilities.

Our staff will be available during the virtual conference to share information on the services we provide for those with disabilities and their families. I encourage you to take the opportunity to learn more about our Agency and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We hope you enjoy your time at the Family Café.

Sincerely,



Mary C. Mayhew
Secretary


MCM/ks

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State Board of Education

Andy Tuck, Chair
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 Ben Gibson
 Tom Grady
 Michael Olenick
 Ryan Petty
 Joe York

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the 21st Family Café and Governor's Summit on Disabilities. At the Florida Department of Education, we are committed to working hand in hand with students, parents, teachers, educators and community members to improve Florida's education system for students of all backgrounds and abilities.


One of our main goals is to provide a high-quality education that results in each student being college, career and community ready. Currently, Florida serves nearly 24,000 pre-k children with special needs; 300,000 students with special needs in the K-12 education system; and more than 20,000 students with special needs in the Florida College System.

In addition, FDOE's Division of Career and Adult Education reports that over 8,000 adults with special needs participate in adult general education and postsecondary career and technical education programs, and over 100,000 students with special needs participate in secondary career and technical education programs.

Please enjoy the next three days and the opportunities to make new friendships and discover new information and resources. FDOE and discretionary project staff will be offering a wide variety of presentations and exhibit booths.

All of us at the Department look forward to many more years of partnerships and lifetime of continued learning.

Sincerely,



Richard Corcoran

www.fdoe.org

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Dear Conference Attendees:

The Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) welcomes you to the 22nd Annual Family Café Conference. This conference promises to be another wonderful opportunity for you to learn about the many services available from a wide range of providers and stakeholders for individuals with disabilities and their families.

VR is a federal/state program that assists individuals who have physical or mental disabilities to help them get or keep a job. VR is the state's employment agency for individuals with disabilities and we are committed to helping individuals with disabilities find meaningful careers.

If you are interested in employment, VR staff will be making presentations throughout the conference about the different programs VR offers, including our Pre-Employment Transition Services for ages 14-21 who are in school, Supported Employment, and Ticket to Work through the Social Security Administration. We also have a booth where you can talk to a VR counselor and learn more about how VR can assist you with your goal of finding or keeping a job.

I hope you enjoy the conference and take advantage of the information, activities and friendship available to you.

Sincerely,

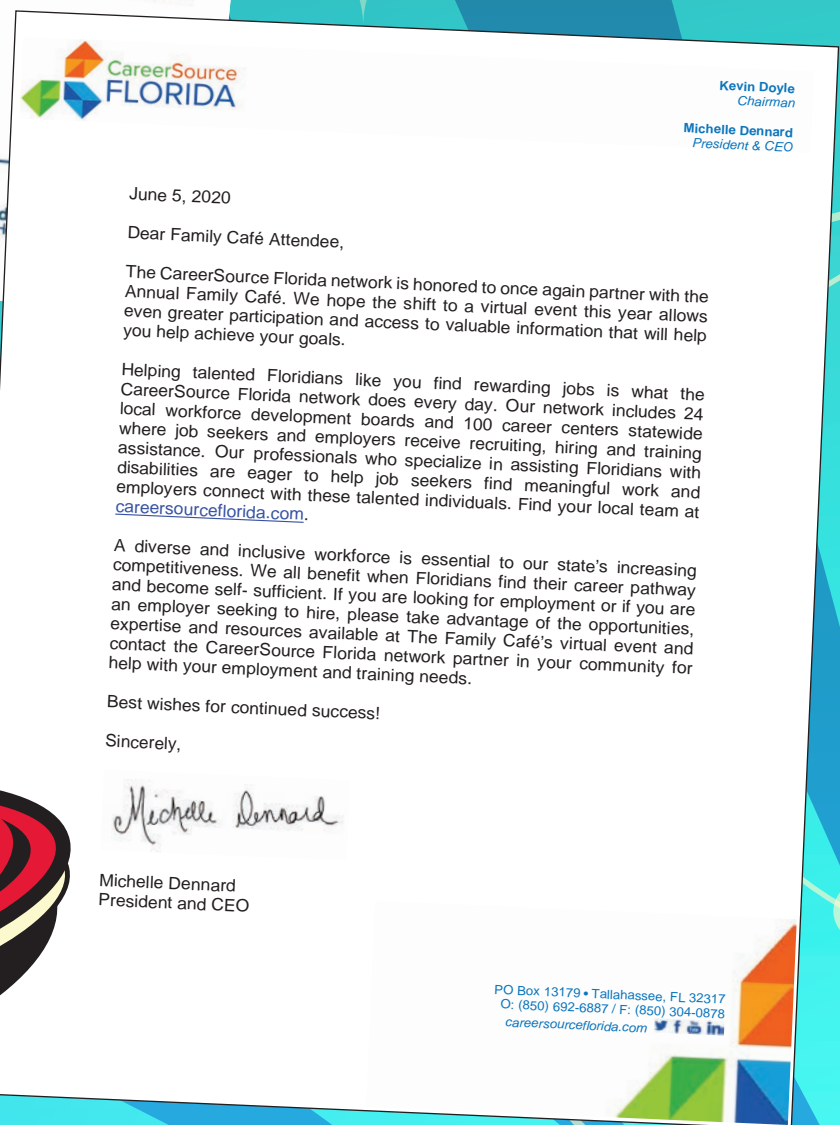
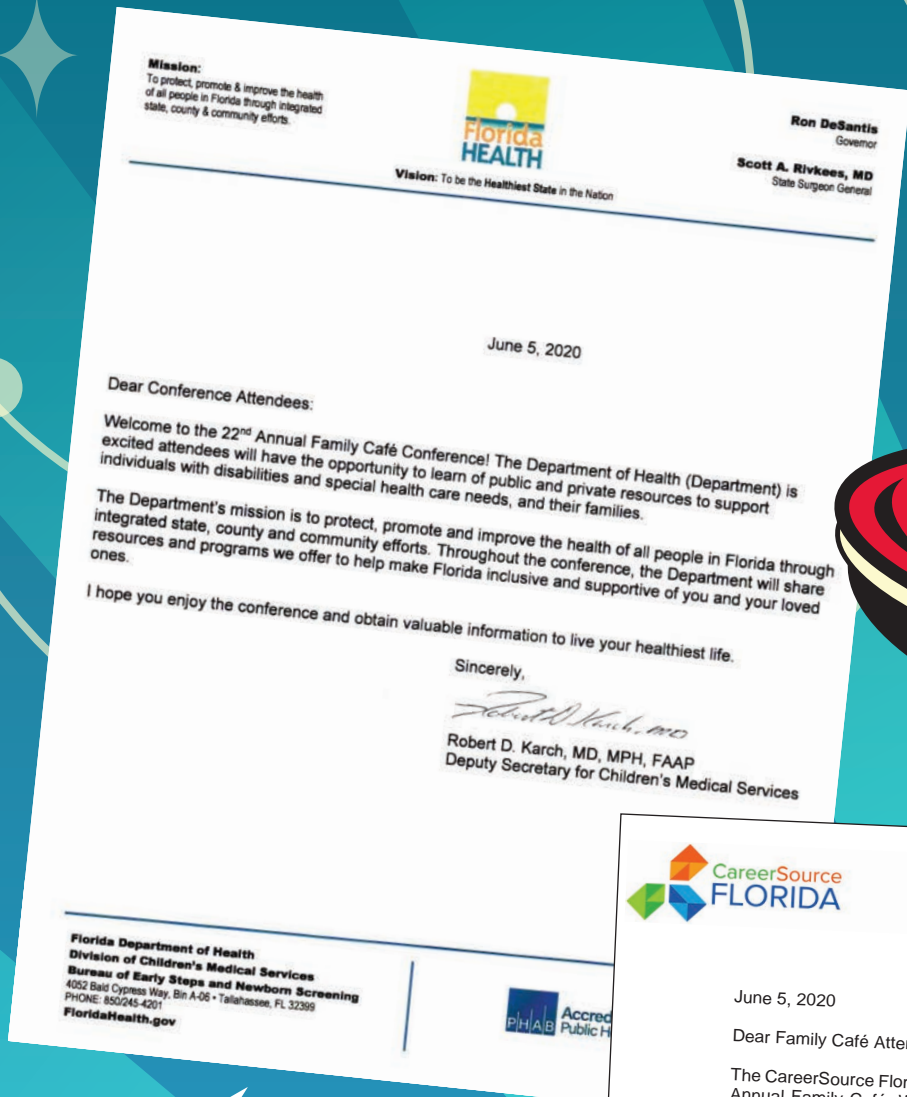


Allison Flanagan, MRC, CRC
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State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Family Café!

As Secretary for the Department of Children and Families, I am looking forward to providing my support for this year's Annual Family Café. From networking opportunities, educational presentations, and the ability to share your experiences with other families, The Annual Family Café provides a welcoming environment that aims to maximize the quality of life for those with disabilities.

Protecting Florida's vulnerable populations is a shared goal—one that understands the need to provide assistance to nearly 28 percent of Florida's population who are living with a disability in our communities. When we come together, we build a stronger team that can provide even greater opportunities for Florida's families and most vulnerable populations.

I look forward to working together and providing my continued support to The Annual Family Café. On behalf of the Department of Children and Families, I wish you all the best this year.

Sincerely,

Chad Poppell
Secretary



STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph Moskowitz
Director

Dear Family Café Participant:

Welcome to the 22nd annual Family Café. As the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, we are honored to continue to take part in this important event.

At the Division, we are committed to making sure the state is prepared for all future events, including hurricanes, floods, wildfires, tornadoes and manmade threats such as terrorism and radiation from nuclear power plants. While we make sure that Florida is prepared, the division is also focused on recovering from recent storms, including Hurricanes Michael, Irma, Hermine and Matthew. Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, we have put new processes in place to make sure that the state is recovering as quickly as possible.

Hurricane Season takes place each year from June 1 – November 30. It's critically important to have everything you need in case disaster strikes. To make sure you have everything you need, visit FloridaDisaster.org/GetAPlan to learn how to make a disaster plan and to learn about the supplies you need to have ready.

To assist Floridians with special needs, the Division works with our many partners at the state and local level to make sure that every Floridian has access to resources in a disaster, including ways to receive information and a place to go for shelter. As part of this effort, the Division has a place for residents with special needs to register to receive assistance during a disaster. This statewide registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for hurricanes. To access the Florida Special Needs Registry and make sure you have all the resources you need in a disaster, please visit FloridaDisaster.org/snr/.

Florida has experienced the landfall of four hurricanes over the past three years. As Hurricane Season has already started, now is the time to be prepared. As you participate in the Family Café this week, I urge you take the time to visit the Division's online resources and if you have any questions, seek out information about disaster preparedness from the many knowledgeable staff here.

Sincerely,

Jared Moskowitz, Esq.
Director

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The 22nd Annual **Family Café** 2020 Sponsors



ABLE United
CareerSource Florida, Inc.
Disability Rights Florida
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Education/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Sunshine Health

**The Family Café wishes to thank the
following organizations for their participation
in The Family Café Planning Committee**

CareerSource Florida, Inc.
Disability Rights Florida
The Family Café Board of Directors
The Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM)
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)
Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Florida Department of Health
Florida Disabled Outdoors Association
Florida Youth Council
MPower Consulting
U.S. Military
7-Dippity

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



Meet the Family Café!

MISSION

The Family Café exists to provide individuals with disabilities and their families with an opportunity for **Collaboration, Advocacy, Friendship and Empowerment** by serving as a facilitator of communication, a space for dialogue and a source of information.

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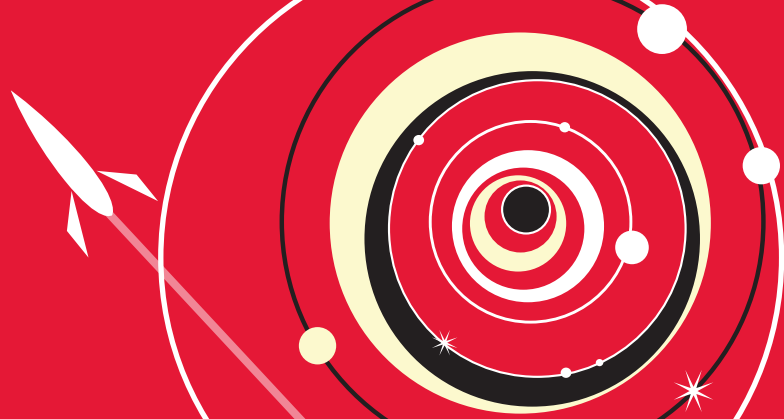
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Jesse Hansen, Northwest RDC Coordinator
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Sarah Uptagrafft, Financial Administrator
Niki Germain, Youth Advisor

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



Key for identifying "Tracked" Sessions



Some of the sessions at this year's event have been organized into "tracks" based on subject. This key will help you to identify "tracked" sessions.

- Advocacy
- Assistive Technology
- Birth through Age Five
- Dads
- Disaster Preparedness
- Employment
- Mental Health
- Military Families
- Recreation
- Smart Money
- Youth

Sessions presented in Spanish, or with Spanish-speaking presenters, are printed in RED.

Because this year's Annual Family Cafe is a virtual event, we have also grouped all of the remaining sessions into topic areas. They include:

- Art & Music
- Autism
- Behavior
- Caregivers, Self-Care, Empowerment, & Motivation
- Education
- Health
- Legal
- Family
- Miscellaneous
- Roundtables
- State Agencies, Services, & Resources
- Transition & Social Life

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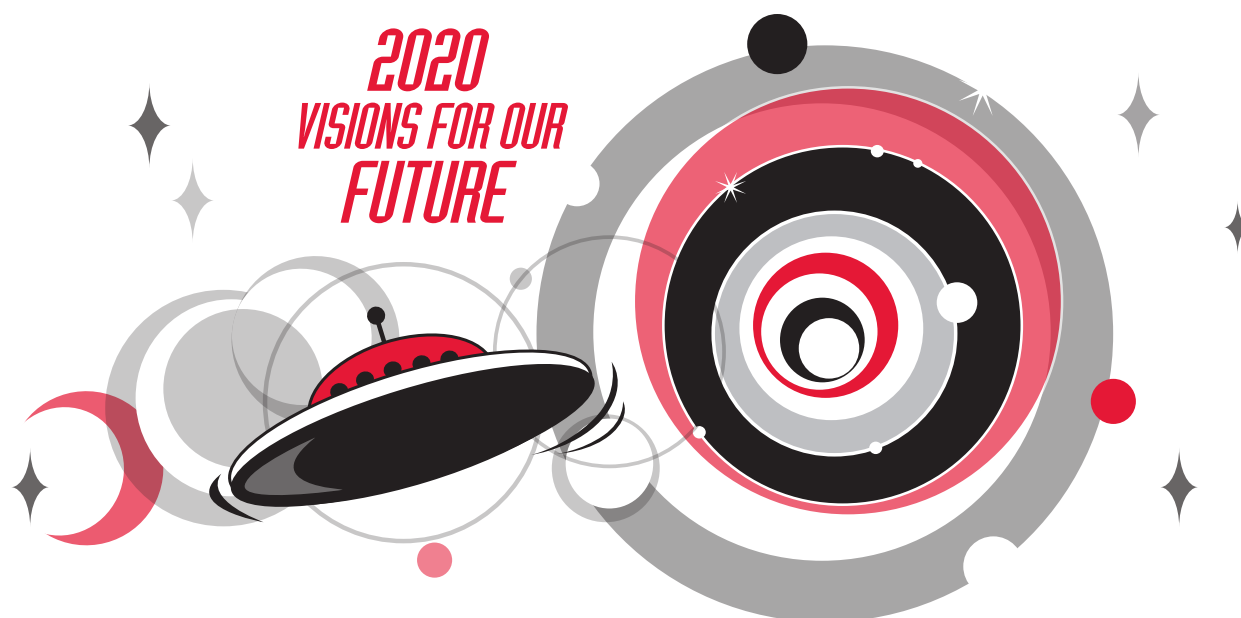
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First-ever **VIRTUAL** 22nd Annual **Governor's Summit on Disabilities**

Beginning with The 1st Annual Family Café in June of 1999, The Family Café has upheld a tradition of creating a space where our attendees can connect with the elected officials and policymakers whose actions directly impact individuals with disabilities and their families.

Despite the fact that this year's Annual Family Café is a virtual event, The Family Café's commitment to bringing together Florida's leaders and policymakers with citizens with disabilities remains in place. We are very proud to continue the practice of connecting Floridians with disabilities with decision makers at the highest level of state government, to foster a productive dialogue about the issues facing Floridians with disabilities, and the impact public policy has on their daily lives.

The Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities will present a unique opportunity to hear from leaders of both the Executive and Legislative branches of our state government. The Family Café is pleased to welcome Governor Ron DeSantis. Governor DeSantis was elected to office in 2018, and is setting a new course for disability policy in our state. He will share his vision for our state's service delivery system, and his thoughts on building more inclusive, accessible communities throughout Florida. This year's Summit will also include comments from Senate President Bill Galvano. Senator Galvano was first elected to the State Senate in 2012, after serving in the Florida House from 2002 through 2010. He is a longtime supporter of The Family Café, having attended our event for over a decade, and a champion for Floridians with disabilities in Tallahassee. As the leader of the upper house of Florida's legislature, Senator Galvano has unique insight into legislative priorities and processes.

The 22nd Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities promises to be both informative and memorable. The Family Café is committed to helping policymakers to understand what daily life is like for the people with disabilities and families that they serve, and to giving our attendees a chance to better understand the policy making process by hearing from our state's leaders directly. We sincerely hope you take advantage of this opportunity to be a part of that dialogue at The 22nd Annual Summit on Disabilities!



Governor
Ron DeSantis



Senate President
Bill Galvano



First-ever
VIRTUAL 22nd Annual
Family Café



presents



Zack Gottsagen

Star of *The Peanut Butter Falcon*

Zack Gottsagen is a Florida native, a disability advocate, and the star of the 2019 film *The Peanut Butter Falcon*.

Zack made his film debut as the star of a natural childbirth instructional film all the way back in 1985, and has been an enthusiastic performer since his first role as a frog at age three. He attended Bak Middle School of the Arts, and graduated from Dreyfoos School of the Arts, as a theatre major in 2004. He was the first child with Down syndrome to be fully included in the Palm Beach County school district, and was involved in one of the earliest ADA lawsuits, which addressed inclusion in Little League.

Prior to becoming known as a film actor, Zack performed and taught with Southern Dance Theatre for fifteen years. He performed a monologue from *Hamlet* at the Blackbox Theatre at Dreyfoos in 2003, and auditioned for and was chosen to star in the live theatre production of *Artie* at the Royal Palm Playhouse in 2005.

Zack became involved with Zeno Mountain Farms nonprofit film productions in 2008, performing in multiple independent movies, including *Burning Like A Fire*, *Life of a Dollar Bill*, and *Bulletproof*, which spawned the behind the scenes Showtime documentary *Becoming Bulletproof*, which was screened at a 25th anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Smithsonian Museum in July, 2015.

In 2017, Zack began filming his first feature length movie, *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, playing a role written specifically for him by Tyler Nielson and Michael Schwartz. Zack thrived on the opportunity to perform with co-stars Shia LaBeouf, Dakota Johnson, and Bruce Dern, insisting on doing all his own stunts and delivering daily inspirational speeches to the cast and crew via megaphone.

Zack has won many awards, including the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocate Award from Global Down Syndrome Foundation; Outstanding Breakout Performance from Crested Butte Film Festival; the Rising Star Award from Palm Springs International Film Festival; the Newcomer Award from the Hollywood Critics Association; Honorary Champion of Inclusion from Best Buddies; and the Breakthrough Entertainer Award from the Associated Press. He also presented an Oscar at the 2020 Academy Awards.

In Zack's words, "Talent... that's all I've got."

First-ever
VIRTUAL 22nd Annual
Family Café *presents*

Bobby Silverstein, J.D.

**Principal, Powers Pyles
Sutter & Verville, PC**

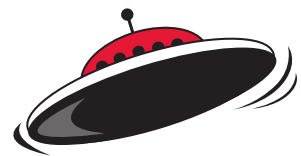
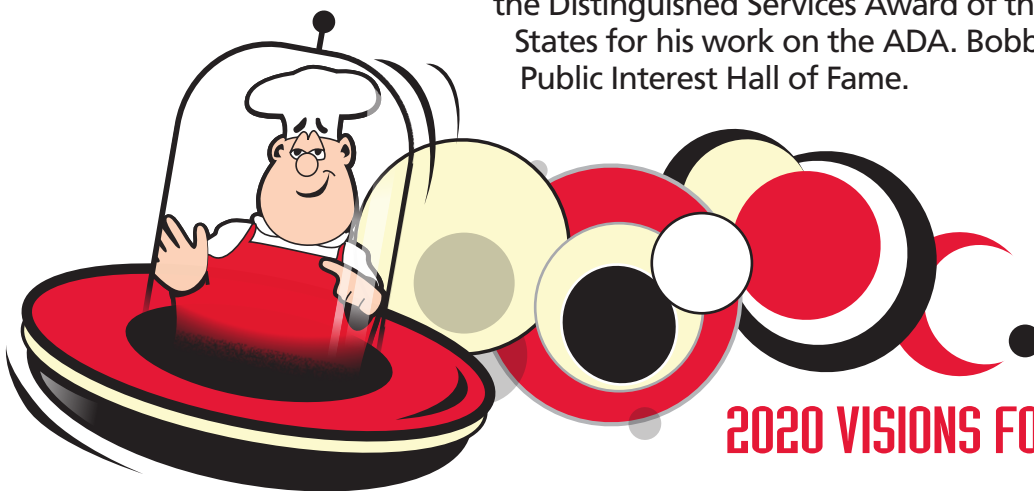
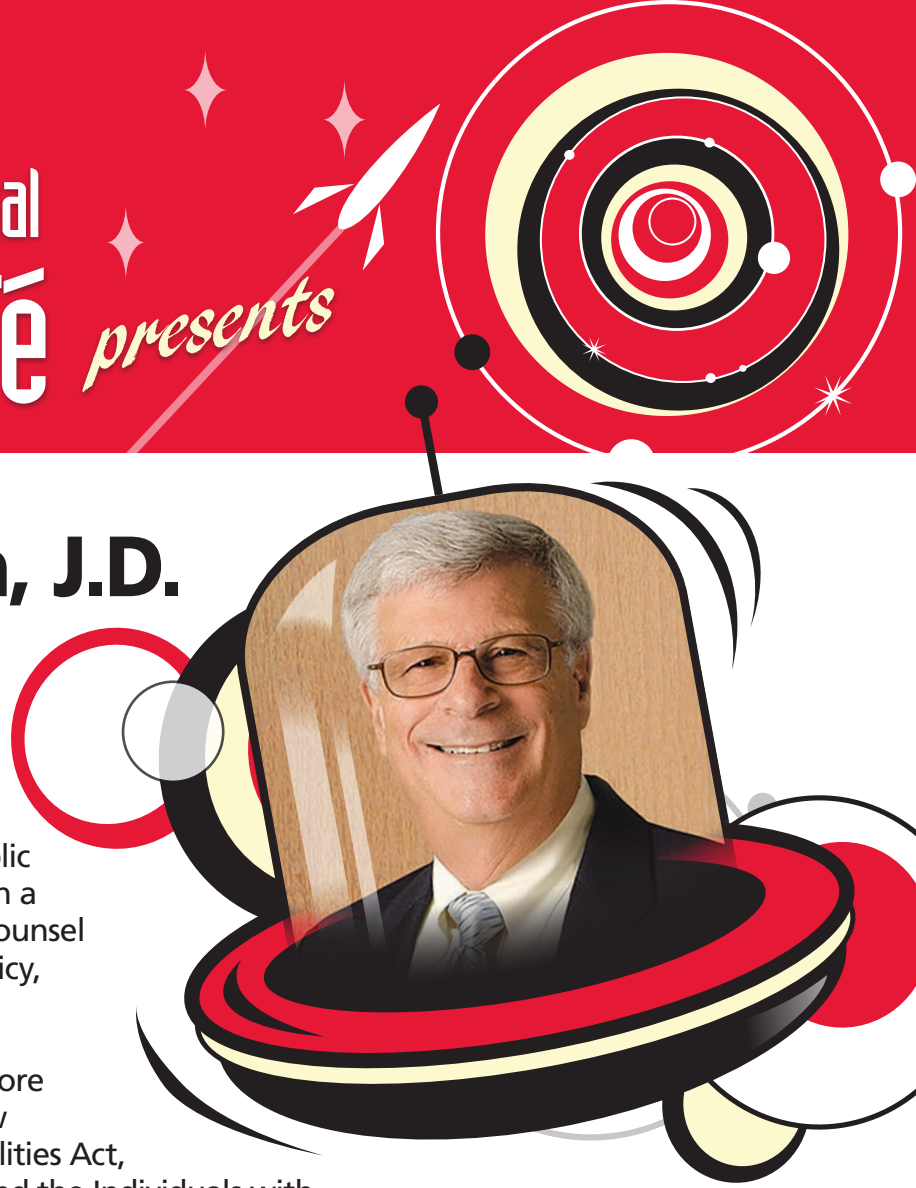
Robert "Bobby" Silverstein is a nationally-recognized attorney with over 45 years of public policy and advocacy experience. For more than a decade, he served as staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, chaired by Senator Tom Harkin.

Bobby was a behind-the-scenes architect of more than 20 disability-related bills enacted into law including the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

Currently, Bobby is a principal in the law firm of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, PC. He has a federal regulatory and legislative practice in the areas of disability and civil rights. Bobby earned his B.S. in Economics, cum laude, from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 1971. He received his J.D. in 1974 from Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Silverstein is the recipient of more than 15 national awards, including the Distinguished Services Award of the President of the United States for his work on the ADA. Bobby has been inducted into the Public Interest Hall of Fame.

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE





First-ever
VIRTUAL 22nd Annual
Family Café



presents



Maysoon Zayid

Comedian, Writer and Disability Advocate

Renowned comedian, actress, writer, and disability advocate Maysoon Zayid jokes that if there were a competition called the Oppression Olympics, she would win gold. "I'm Palestinian, Muslim, I'm a woman of color, I'm disabled," Zayid tells audiences, "and I live in New Jersey." Hilarious, disarming, and with a message that matters, Zayid's comedy and commentary resonate with audiences worldwide. She is the co-founder/co-

executive producer of the New York Arab American Comedy Festival and The Muslim Funny Fest, and her famed TED Talk, "I got 99 problems... palsy is just one" has over 10 million views. As Zayid states in the talk's intro: "I have cerebral palsy, which means I shake all the time. Look. It's exhausting. I'm like Shakira meets Muhammad Ali."

Hailed in *Glamour* as "the most fearless comic alive," Zayid has performed around the world, and headlined both the Arabs Gone Wild Comedy Tour and The Muslims Are Coming Tour, in which comedians toured the U.S. in an effort to counter Islamophobia. Zayid is also a disability advocate who fights to mainstream disabled students worldwide and for disability rights. Her bestselling memoir *Find Another Dream* chronicles her life story in finding her voice and own path to stardom.

Zayid's candid, inspiring, and laugh-out-loud funny talks cover topics ranging from beating the odds, to fostering inclusivity and battling discrimination, to the challenges facing the disability community.

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



So You Think You Want To Start A Self Advocacy Group? Tips, Trials, and Triumphs

Various leaders of the grassroots self-advocacy organizations throughout Florida discuss the ins and outs of starting and running a self-advocacy organization. Get tips and valuable insights from these local leaders who have come together to form a statewide, nonprofit, self-advocacy organization!

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How to Advocate in Your Community for ADA Compliant Public Spaces

An effective disability advocate must know what they can legally expect from the built community and how to express the required non-accessible changes to the people who can make the change. This seminar will teach an overview of the differences between ADA Title 3 for Places of Public Accommodation, ADA Title 2 for local and state government, and the Fair Housing Act, and how they affect the built environment. We will talk about different building types, restrooms, parking, accessible routes, and your individual rights to access and what access looks like. We will follow up with a Q&A where attendees may bring photos to discuss specific items.

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Helping Faith Communities Embrace You and Your Family

Surveys show that faith is of equal importance to people with disabilities and those without. We all are looking for a place of acceptance and belonging. Too often we hear stories of people and families with disabilities who are not welcomed, and sometimes turned away from a faith community. It is tempting to approach faith communities the same way we approach the school system or other service providers. Perhaps there is another way. In this session we will explore grace-based advocacy. We want to build a bridge, not just tear down a wall.

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Access The Vote Florida: An Introduction

Access The Vote Florida (ATVFL) is a state chapter of AAPD's REV UP Campaign. REV UP stands for: Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power! The chapter is a statewide coalition of organizations and self-advocates that are working to raise awareness about issues that impact persons with disabilities, encourage people with disabilities to participate in the voting process, and educate elected officials on issues important to persons with disabilities. The presentation will explain who ATVFL is, what we have done so far, and what we plan to do in the future. The presentation will encourage self-advocates to join and become involved.

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Introduction to the Family-Run Organization Movement: Building a Better Board

We all know that leadership among our family-run organizations is critical if we want to survive, grow, and help families—and a Board that isn't helping to lead the charge is not being the Board it needs to be. Learn what a great Board member does to contribute to the organization. Walk away with tools to help you transform a Board. The Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM) is a new initiative from The Family Café. The idea behind FROM is to engage, support, empower, and advocate for family, youth, and peer-run organizations. The FROM aims to provide a wide range of supports and services to those organizations, so they can better serve their communities, represent the perspectives of families across the state, and attain new levels of participation in the system of care.

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Fair Housing: It's Your Right!

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 is still alive and well, but most people are not aware of their rights under the act. Today, discrimination is more subtle than ever. Learn how to recognize if you have been discriminated against. Also, did you know that persons with disabilities are covered under the Fair Housing Act? You may be eligible to receive a Reasonable Accommodation or Reasonable Modification and not even know it.

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Education and Advocacy as Part of the Journey to a Full Life

Frank Harmon and his mom Terri hope to motivate young parents and self-advocates with the story of how education and advocacy helped Frank break through barriers presented by his disability to accomplish employment and independent living goals. We will begin with parent education and learning how to become an effective parent advocate. We will continue with Frank's own education in an inclusive environment and experiences in paid employment. This workshop is a family perspective to discuss how accessing the resources of systems like the School District, APD, VR, and Social Security to get needed supports can work to create a full life.

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Creation of an Incredible Advocate!

The Partners in Policymaking program has produced some of the most amazing advocates the state of Florida has to offer. Supports, services and laws were and are created because passionate people advocate for what is right! The Florida DD Council's PIP program teaches parents and adults with developmental disabilities the skills they need to influence policymakers, educators, agencies, etc. to operate in the best interest of our community. Attend this session to gain knowledge about this national model, where participants learn from highly recognized speakers and expand their skills to make true system change!

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FDDC Partners in Policymaking
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Legislative Summary for 2020 and How to Educate Legislators for 2021

The presentation begins with an insider's report on the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's 2020 Legislative platform outcomes, along with other legislative outcomes affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Advocacy techniques and strategies will be shared so that individuals can understand how to impact the process for Florida's 2021 legislative session.

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AACID – Advocates for Adult Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Advocates for Adult Children with Intellectual Disabilities: Come learn how this advocate group went from 12 to 200+ family members in just 5 short years. Learn how to establish your own group and the techniques that will make it successful, from its monthly meeting to its outreach in the community.

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Advocacy: An Insider's View

Joe McCann, Policy Manager of The Family Café, offers his perspective on advocacy in the State of Florida. With 25 plus legislative sessions under his belt, as a lobbyist and a staff member of the House and Senate, Joe offers what you should know, and what they don't want you to know, about advocating within the Florida Legislature.

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The ABCs of Family Professional Partnerships and the Florida Family Leader Network (FFLN)

It starts with advocating for our own children with special needs; we then become family leaders working with others; and, we collaborate with professionals who are as passionate as we are about addressing the needs of children and youth with special healthcare needs and medical complexity. Come learn about the Florida Family Leader Network (FFLN), a network of family/youth leaders and professionals who are working together to break down the silos that exist in the systems that serve our children and youth.

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Architectural Barriers: How to Advocate for Equal Access

Have you ever dined at a new restaurant, only to find there is no accessible restroom? Or perhaps you've gone shopping with your family but discovered the store aisles are overcrowded with too little space to pass through with your mobility device? Have you been left out because there was no accessible parking or ramp to allow you into the venue? This session will help you identify when obstacles are a violation of state or federal regulations and give you tips and techniques for addressing the problem, removing barriers, and finding solutions.

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From Me to We: Leadership Beyond the Walls of Our Home

Are you a family member or a person with a disability who wants to become an effective advocate in a group or organization? The expertise of persons with disabilities and their families is essential to guarantee the success of programs serving persons with disabilities. During this session, we'll explore ways to become active participants in organizations that serve children and adults with disabilities. We'll equip you with information that can help you to become a leader. Additionally, this session would be an opportunity for administrators to learn how to become a stronger supporter of persons with disabilities and their families.

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Sibling Advocacy: The New Advocacy Movement

Are you a sibling or caregiver of an individual with a disability? Then this presentation is for you! Welcome to the new advocacy movement in disabilities that is sweeping the nation: sibling advocacy. Learn exactly what sibling advocacy is, why the bond between siblings is so important, what we can do to help young siblings of individuals with disabilities, and what role adult siblings can have in the lives of their siblings. Also learn about national and state sibling advocacy organizations, and how you can get involved.

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Sylvia Collazo
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How to Be an Effective Advocate: Navigating Florida Politics

Learn how to make your voice heard! Effective advocates influence public policy by using facts, establishing relationships, and working with the media to educate government officials. This session will include important advocacy tools for participants who want to learn about the legislative process and educate their lawmakers about issues that are affecting the disability community.

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Sarah Goldman
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Desde el Yo hacia el Nosotros: Liderazgo más allá de nuestro hogar

La experiencia de las personas con discapacidad y sus familias es esencial para garantizar el éxito de los programas que sirven a las personas con discapacidad. Durante esta sesión, exploraremos formas de participar activamente en sistemas que afectan a niños y adultos con discapacidad. Usted obtendrá información que puede ayudarlo a convertirse en un líder. También, esta es una buena oportunidad para que administradores aprendan estrategias para apoyar la participación de personas con discapacidad y sus familias en sus organizaciones.

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Coming Together: Our Many Voices as One

Movements and changes weren't made by one individual. Instead, they were created by a group of dedicated individuals with the same goal in mind, all with different abilities, genders, and races. One example of this is ADA history. I will look back to the pivotal moments of the movement, re-examine how and why they were successful, and relate that to today. We, the disability community, can come together and make an impact within our communities.

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Teaching our Children to Become Self-Advocates

As parents we teach our children important skills to handle real-life situations, such as money management, cooking, and more. Please join me and let's discuss how to fill our toolbox of life with the necessary equipment to become an effective self-advocate. As our children with disabilities transition to adulthood they will need the tools to address everyday situations, as well as circumstances when they are being denied services. We want to make sure they have a seat at the table and no decision is being made about them without them. This will be an interactive presentation that teaches effective strategies when advocating for needed services. In addition, there will be a detailed discussion on the Client Assistance Program and obtaining assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation.

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Disability Rights Florida
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Tallahassee, FL 32308
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Self-Advocacy Isn't Just About Ourselves: A Guide to Speaking Up for People with Various and Differing Disabilities

When a person has a disability, they know what it's like to live with their disability. Meanwhile, many people with disabilities have heard about the importance of speaking up for themselves and the importance of self-advocacy. But how do you speak up for people with disabilities that differ from your disability, and whose life experiences are different than yours? In this presentation, three self-advocates with various hidden disabilities will share their experiences speaking up for people with different disabilities, and offer a "field guide" regarding how to successfully speak up and advocate for people with various types of disabilities.

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ART & MUSIC

Broadway Revue with Synchrony Arts

Synchrony Arts Productions' 25 differently abled actors will present the magical and empowering story of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*—do not miss this riveting tale.

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Greg Allen
Synchrony Arts Productions, LLC
6655 100th Avenue North
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gcreel1719@aol.com

The Role of Music Therapy in Our Neurodiverse World

We will provide information about the services provided by Music Therapists. Topics covered include: what is music therapy, who can benefit from music therapy, and what goals music therapists work on. There will be live interactive/experiential examples with live musical engagement and a Q&A.

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Chris Romero
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Unlocking Speech With Music Therapy

Beachside Music Lessons & Therapy invites you to attend our presentation to learn more about music therapy. This year we will focus on how music therapy can unlock speech for those with autism, Down syndrome, traumatic brain injury, stroke, varying disabilities, and more. Come learn fun ways to help your child learn speech through music at home and enjoy a few fun songs too! We are proud to serve Volusia, Flagler, and some of Orange County with adapted music lessons and music therapy in your home via the Gardiner Scholarship, Staywell and CMS insurance, and private pay.

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Elliott Hughes
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OMG: Open Mic Gumbo!

Microphone? Check. Spotlight? Check. Audience? Check! Calling all poets, singers, musicians, comedians, fanatics, and visual art connoisseurs alike to join the celebration of art therapy! Come share and hear inspiring stories of hope, unconditional love, and perseverance. Learn free poetry techniques designed to provide creative outlets for stress. Are you ready? The stage is waiting!

Charmaine Jennings
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chosenlifespécialists@gmail.com

Walter Jennings
Heard Em Say Youth Arts Collective

Are You a Poet and Don't Know It?

In my junior year in high school I began writing poems and stories in an effort to get some perspective on my life, and as a means of therapy for myself for all that I had to go through during that time with my disabilities and the many challenges I faced, both socially and emotionally. Eventually it turned into a hobby, and from there, a passion. I would like to share the knowledge of that passion with others like me. I will share a couple of my poems along with a brief testimony of myself and my disabilities, and if anyone already has a poem they have composed they are welcome to share it during the workshop.

James Loggins
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Adapted Art Exploration

The arts provide a wonderful way for children with disabilities to express themselves. This session will be free exploration time for you and your child to try out adapted tools and materials. A variety of different materials and tools that are commercially available as well as adaptations you can make at home will be available. Our Arts4All Florida staff will be here to help you and answer questions. All participants will leave with a resource list to continue the art making at home.

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Adaptive Music Instruction: Making Music Accessible to Learners With Disabilities

Adaptive Music Instruction: Making Music Accessible to Learners With Disabilities addresses the long overdue conversation about the landscape of adaptive music instruction and the ways it can radically transform the lives of students with disabilities and teachers alike. Through opportunities for both student-centered and teacher-based learning, a multisensory teaching approach, environmental, activity, and physical adaptations, and an emphasis on genuinely connecting to each student through their preferred method of communication, this presentation outlines exactly how music and the performing arts can be made accessible to all learners, including those with hearing loss.

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2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

The Anime Connection: Exploring the Social Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities from the Anime and Gaming Communities

Many individuals with disabilities enjoy anime and gaming, and belong to various gaming and anime fan communities, where they routinely build lasting friendships, improve their social functioning abilities, and become socially included alongside fellow members. Listen to three individuals with disabilities—who belong to various gaming and anime fan communities—describe various strategies utilized within the gaming and anime fan communities to facilitate social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and how they can be utilized by other community settings, and share how their participation within these communities helped them develop lasting friendships and improve their social functioning abilities.

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The Woody Pack of Assistive Devices

The Woody Pack of assistive devices has helped many overcome limited hand functioning to live more independently after having a spinal cord injury or other disability. Individuals with limited hand and finger dexterity can use devices in the Woody Pack to overcome daily obstacles from their disability. The devices in an adaptive backpack include a wheelchair side bag, wheelchair cup-holder, adapted fork and spoon, utensil cuff, retractable ID holder, cup with a handle, phone holder, and several other devices. These assistive devices can be requested for free online by an individual with limited dexterity and shipped to your front door at Woodyfoundation.org.

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The Woody Foundation Inc
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(305) 469-2408
Woody@woodyfoundation.org

Lucy Foerster
The Woody Foundation, Inc.
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Lucy@woodyfoundation.org

Apps and Extensions to Access your Environment

It can be difficult coping with the intricacies of everyday life as a student with disabilities. This interactive workshop will allow you to explore many different apps and extensions while assembling a tool kit to assist students in navigating their world and becoming as independent as possible.

Krista Elder
FDLRS
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Home Automation is AT!

Home Automation is the next step in accessibility. What began as a fun novelty has become a big stepping point in a fully accessible home. Smart home devices can reduce or eliminate the need for a full-time personal care attendant by giving the person more freedom in how they perform tasks around their home. Smart home devices can do simple things like tell you who is at the door, operate entertainment devices, and even cook a meal. Join us for a quick demonstration in how Smart Home Automation can be the Assistive Technology you need.

Matt Holloway
FAAST
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Creating Low Tech Toys for Infants and Toddlers

Presented by an Early Steps Family Resource Specialist, this workshop will show you some easy low-tech ideas to help your developing infant or toddler using everyday items around your home, and creating items by recycling. We will also help give you ideas on how to incorporate learning into your everyday routines and activities.

Paula Keyser Burns
Early Steps
480 7th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 767-6705
paula.keyser@jhmi.edu

Using Social Media and Technology to Improve Physical Activity Levels for Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disability

It is well-known that regular physical activity can decrease the likelihood of being overweight or obese as well as other negative health outcomes. Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are more likely to be obese, less likely to be physically active, and at greater risk for health conditions and disease. This session will explore the use of social media and technology to improve self-management and increase physical activity in teens and young adults with I/DD. Examples of successful activities, interventions, and programs will be discussed, as well as practical implications for families.

Kelly Kraiss
Kelly Kraiss Consulting
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Orlando, FL 32804
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Environmental Adaptations and Home Modifications 101

We will discuss how to assess your home environment as it relates to accessibility, mobility, safety, independence, pest control, air quality, and sanitation. The energetic presentation will provide information on funding but will be more focused on the desired experience during the design, pre-construction, construction, and post-construction processes. Understanding the fundamentals of project management as a homeowner, caregiver, and provider during all the phases of home improvement will be shared. There is a golden rule in construction: Measure Twice and Cut Once. We will teach you how to be accurate and on point when it comes to environmental adaptations and home modifications for safety and independence.

Alex Modric
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Loud, Clear, and FREE Assistive Tech Phones for Florida Residents!

Did you know the State of Florida provides FREE amplified and caption phones to people with hearing loss, regardless of income insurance status? Or that Florida Relay Service will not only connect standard phones to specialized devices like TYTs and caption phones, but also offers free Speech-to-Speech and Video-Assisted Speech-to-Speech relay services for people with speech disorders? Maybe you are one of the 20 million Floridians who love texting on your cell phone, but are frustrated you can't hear well enough to make phone calls with it. Over 3 million Floridians have hearing loss. You may be one of them or know someone who is. FTRI can help! This session will review the FTRI program, Assistive Tech phone options, and Florida Relay. The audience will learn multiple ways to access these free, statewide services.

Elissa Moran
Florida Telecommunications Relay
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AUTISM

Wandering and Elopement Behavior: Risk Factors and Strategies

Wandering and elopement behavior is a dangerous but common behavior of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Risk factors associated with wandering and elopement, the purpose or function of wandering and elopement, and strategies are addressed during this session.

Cathy Allore
FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
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Jensen Beach, FL 34957
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callore@fau.edu

Understanding the Cultural Challenges of Hispanic Families with Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

This presentation will explore the cultural challenges of Hispanic families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as their association with the symptomatology and its impact on the children's overall progress and wellbeing. At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to describe factors related to diagnosis of ASD, identify possible underlying explanations for cultural challenges for children with ASD, understand families' struggles with accepting and reaching out for services, and formulate strategies to increase sensitivity to sociocultural differences when assisting families with children diagnosed with ASD.

Esta presentación explorará los desafíos culturales de las familias hispanas de niños diagnosticados con trastorno del espectro autista, así como su asociación con la sintomatología y su impacto en el progreso y el bienestar general de los niños. Al final de la presentación, los participantes podrán describir los factores relacionados con el diagnóstico de espectro autista, identificar posibles explicaciones subyacentes para los desafíos culturales de los niños del espectro autista, comprender las dificultades de las familias para aceptar y buscar servicios, y formular estrategias para aumentar la sensibilidad a las diferencias socioculturales al ayudar a familias con niños diagnosticados con espectro autista.

Yazmin Castellano
University of South Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)
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Not all ABA Programs are Created Equal: How to Identify a Quality Provider

So, your doctor has recommended Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for your son or daughter with autism—now what? The field of behavior analysis has seen dramatic growth in the number of ABA practitioners in the field of behavior analysis, which makes choosing a quality provider to help your child increasingly difficult. This presentation will help parents identify what makes an ABA program “high quality” as well as important questions to ask prospective providers. Parents will also be educated to recognize red flags in order to effectively advocate for the highest quality ABA services for their children.

Barbara Davis
Little Leaves Behavioral Services
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Coping for Kids: Developing a Middle School Emotional Regulation Program

As middle schoolers, especially those with ASD, struggle to find their social identities, they often experience difficulties managing their emotions and making good decisions. Individuals between the ages of 13 and 18 have higher rates of anxiety than any other age group, and the rates of depression and suicide for teens with autism are 28 times higher than that of the general population. Participants will learn how to develop an emotion regulation program for grades six through eight. Training topics include: self-awareness, challenging your thoughts and words, internet safety, peer pressure and bullying, and healthy coping strategies to manage depression or anxiety.

Danielle Liso
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Autism & The Law: How To Prepare Individuals with Autism for Police Contact

This is the first of a two-part series that focuses on what parents/guardians need to know to better prepare their child with autism for law enforcement officer interaction. This session will focus on rules, goals, identification, and issues every parent/guardian needs to be made aware of before contact with a law enforcement officer is made.

Donna Lorman
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Andrew Lorman

Christopher Gonzalez

Autism & The Law: Current Trends Between Individuals with Autism and Police Officers

This is the second of a two-part series that focuses on what parents/guardians need to know to better prepare their child with autism for law enforcement officer interaction. This session will focus on rules, goals, identification, and issues every parent/guardian needs to be made aware of before contact with a law enforcement officer is made.

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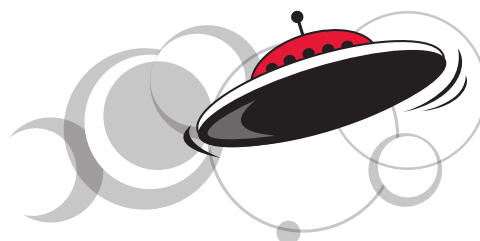
Andrew Lorman

Christopher Gonzalez

Supporting Handwriting Development in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder often demonstrate handwriting difficulties. Research points out the importance of developing handwriting skills in early years. This presentation provides strategies for parents and educators to help children with ASD to improve many elements of handwriting performance (e.g. sequence of letter strokes, letter size, directionality). The presentation also includes strategies for engaging students' gifts and talents into handwriting instruction, and how to gradually build up their handwriting stamina. It addresses technology considerations, specifically when and how typing should be introduced to support students' communication needs. The presentation is based on research-based pedagogical and therapeutic resources.

Elena McLaughlin
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Autism: Home-to-School Connection

How can I help my child with special needs be successful in school and at home? In this session participants will learn about various services available for students with autism and other disabilities. They will explore best practices and methods that can be used at home to extend the learning obtained in the school setting. Participants will explore ideas and review common classroom goals. Parents will learn about the challenges faced with students in the classroom and review steps to help make their child successful. Parents will be provided with strategies to assist students with their behavior at home and school.

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How to Survive the First Year After an Autism Diagnosis

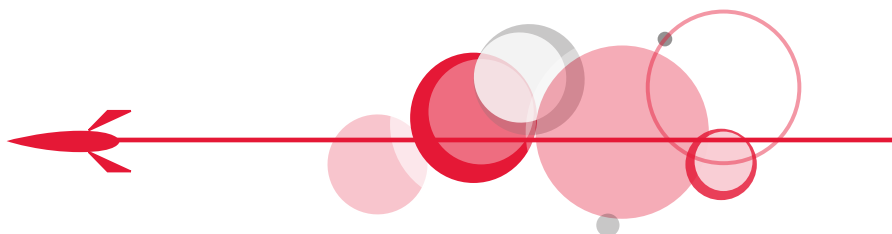
The first year after a diagnosis can be a devastating, gut-wrenching change in a family's life. In this presentation learn tips to work through the "grieving process," find community and personal support for caregivers and family members, and define a new normal in the midst of the chaos. By learning how to navigate the new road map to the special needs life, the first year after a diagnosis can be hopeful rather than daunting, and give new perspective to those working through it.

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Talking Taboo: Relationships, Gender, and Sexuality on the Autism Spectrum

Talking about relationships, gender, and sexuality is often considered taboo in most societies, and even more so regarding the disability communities. It's time to change that and talk about these difficult, and at times, uncomfortable subjects—particularly in relation to the autistic community. With a combination of factual information from various studies, anecdotal information from the local autism community, information from internet ASD communities, and a bit of Q&A between speaker and audience, we can help share and spread useful information to positively impact the community for those on the autism spectrum.

Sarah Sullivan
He & She Sullivan
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Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
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heandshesullivan@gmail.com



BEHAVIOR

A Little About ABA Therapy

Attend this presentation to learn about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. You will learn how this therapy creates behavior change over time, the expected time commitment to see desired changes, and the typical behaviors that are targeted within this therapy. The presenter will also go through interactive exercises to teach you how to think like a Behavior Analyst and collect your own data at home.

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ABA Solutions
7302 Sunshine Circle
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(772) 333-5426
melissa.behaviortherapist@gmail.com

Verbal De-Escalation, How to Reduce Behaviors

Do you believe you can de-escalate someone anywhere or at any time? Communication is the key before, during, and after a crisis. We will go through the process of reducing behaviors through de-escalation.

Jill Hill
Partnership for Child Health
1095 A Philip Randolph Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32206
(904) 376-5983
JillH@coj.net

True Colors: Discovering Your Child's Personality Style

Knowing your True Colors, and how to discover the True Colors of your family, helps us to recognize differences and similarities in communication styles, behaviors, and preferences. True Colors uses the colors of gold, green, blue, and orange to represent the personality characteristics of each of us. This fun and interactive workshop includes individual and group activities that are designed to create an atmosphere of learning and sharing. This is an especially useful model to use in the difficult job of parenting! This workshop is designed to improve communication between parent and child, as well as communication between siblings.

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Marty Massimo
FDLRS
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Clearwater, FL 33759
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One, Two, Three . . . Breathe!

What do I do when I get angry? How can I control my emotions? What happens when I do not get my way? Join us as we share techniques from Conscious Discipline to help restore calm and regain composure. Know the triggers and plan ahead to avoid an outburst. In this presentation, you will learn about calming techniques that can help with self-regulation and can help to defuse situations.

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BIRTH TO AGE FIVE

Let's Talk About Finding Reliable Resources in Early Childhood

This presentation will offer an overview of reliable national, state, and local resources for families of young children with special needs, birth to five years of age. It will provide examples of resources available for this age group covering a wide variety of topics including developmentally appropriate activities, challenging behaviors, IDEA services, specific disabilities, and health and safety. Descriptions will include methods used by family members to locate information, and ideas will be shared regarding key points in distinguishing resources that are reliable from those that might not be. Participants will increase their knowledge of credible early childhood resources for this age group that are relevant to their family's needs.

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Sandra Erickson
TATS- Technical Assistance and Training System
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL
(727) 738-5909
tats-fgcu@ucf.edu

It's Safe to Let Go

This transition workshop guides and prepares parents with children in the Early Intervention Birth to Three program to transition to the School Board's three to five year old program. This workshop will equip parents and their child for a smooth transition when they leave the Early Intervention program.

Audrey Evans
Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center
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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
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a1evans@browardhealth.org

Early Steps of Southwest Florida Playgroup

Take part in activities that help stimulate development. Socialize with families that can relate to what you're experiencing. Find support from other parents and caregivers. Interact with peers. Participate in group play. Gain information on community resources in your area.

Los Juegos de grupo dan la oportunidad a padres y niños de: Socializar con familias que puedan comprender sus experiencias. Obtener información sobre los recursos que existen en su comunidad. Encontrar apoyo en otros padres. Intercambiar ideas y soluciones a los retos que puedan venir en el futuro. Compartir con otros niños. Participar en grupos de juego. Participar en actividades que ayuden a estimular las áreas de desarrollo de sus niños.

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Caitlin Pontbriand
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Fort Myers, FL 33912
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caitlinpontbriand@hpcswf.com

Empowering Families through Playgroup

Have you ever wondered what a toddler learns when participating in a playgroup? Are they really “just playing?” There is so much going on when a child is joining in with a playgroup that you don’t really think about. During our time together we will share information about what developmental activities are appropriate for this age group and why they are important. We will have actual activities that you can explore. And most importantly, we want to share why a playgroup is important, not only for the children but for their families too. We look forward to an interactive session where you can ask questions and share your stories about experiences with your children and playgroups. And you will leave with new ideas of activities that you can do at home as well as strategies to empower you and your family to get the most out of a playgroup.

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“To Infinity and Beyond”—Organizing Your Journey

This workshop will inspire you to get organized and take control of the mountains of paperwork that come along with your child’s unique needs. I will share my strategies and record keeping systems to help you stay organized and better communicate your wants and needs from Early Steps to Adulthood.

Paula Keyser Burns
Early Steps
480 7th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
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Understanding the PLAY Project: Parent Implemented Early Intervention Model

The PLAY Project is a parent implemented early intervention treatment model for children aged 2-6 founded by Dr. Richard Solomon, MD and rooted from the pioneering work of Dr. Stanley Greenspan. This train-the-trainer model empowers families by providing them the skills to build engagement, build language, understand their child’s unique sensory needs, and build social relationships. The PLAY Project is recognized as evidence-based by the National Professional Development Center and multiple research reviews. It is capable of broad implementation which can impact the unmet national need. There is a quiet revolution going on! Come be inspired.

Dorothy Lefford
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dlefford@esnefcfl.org



2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

Transition from Part C to Part B: My Child is in Early Steps and Almost 3 Years Old—Now What?

This presentation will provide information to help families prepare for transition from the Early Steps program to school district or other community programs when their child is three years of age, and to know what to expect during the transition process. The session will include the following:

- Overview of the planning process and the roles of the family and service coordinator
- Options and choices for families
- Activities and timelines of the transition process
- The Transition Conference and what it involves
- Activities following the Transition Conference
- Helpful resources

Debbi Nicolosi
Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS)
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Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 745-9332
tats-fiu@ucf.edu

KISS – Keep it Super Simple: Techniques for Making Learning Meaningful

When children have difficulty accessing and processing basic communication and information, it is our job to KISS – Keep It Super Simple! We will look at learning from the child’s perspective to see how to set up activities. This interactive session will demonstrate and practice techniques to help children to maximize their vision, develop tangible communication systems, and practice hand-under-hand techniques in learning motor tasks. FREE online resources to help further these skills will be shared.

Emily Taylor-Snell
University of Florida, Florida and Virgin Islands Deaf-Blind Collaborative
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etsnell74@gmail.com

CAREGIVERS, SELF-CARE, EMPOWERMENT, & MOTIVATION

The Unseen Special Need

This highly inspiring faith-based session will be unlike any that you may have attended, and is open to anyone who desires to be strengthened and encouraged in their personal development, family, marriage, and relationship. Learn key principles of how to navigate through the challenges of life and to be spiritually equipped to face the “Unseen Special Need” that we may encounter on a daily basis. Many unseen special needs are so deeply hidden that their existence has been locked away. Experience a motivating message to help you live more victoriously over the pressures of life! This session will enable you to move forward, through the power of God! Pastor William Alexander knows first hand having to overcome challenges in life at a young age. His jovial mannerism and unique motivational delivery is a testament to a life that refused to be stifled and hindered by circumstances that few knew he encountered growing up.

William Alexander
William Alexander Ministries
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gotowam@gmail.com

Anger, Disability, and Hope

People often ask me, "Why are they so angry?" Meaning those of us with disabilities. I typically respond, "Because it hurts that much." Many of our hurts are legitimate. We'll take a brief look at Wolfensberger's 18 Wounds of Disability. Eighteen is a big ol' pile of hurt. The good news is we can acknowledge the hurt and get past it. We will share personal stories and talk about ways to admit the hurt without hurting someone else. That will allow us to move forward. The hardest indignities to give up are the ones that are earned.

Jerry Borton
Luke 14 Exchange, Inc.
3616 Harden Boulevard #163
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 940-3816
Jerry@Luke14Exchange.org

The Victorious Mindset

Whether you win or lose in life, it all begins in the mind. In this faith-based presentation, Trasetta Alexander will share strategies to overcome life's challenges through building a winning mindset. After being diagnosed with breast cancer, she did something unusual: She went zip-lining. Trasetta knew the journey that lay ahead of her would take courage, faith, and most importantly, a victorious mindset. She uses a mix of humor and vulnerability to share the lessons she learned on that tree top obstacle course, which helped her through one of the most difficult times of her life.

Trasetta Alexander
Trasetta Alexander Enterprises
PO Box 3443
Tallahassee, FL 32315
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trasetta@trasettaalexander.com

Parenting for Potential: Using Praise to Foster a Growth Mindset

When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Learn how simple changes in the way you praise your child can make them into more successful students and people.

Naomi Church
Growing Minds Consulting, LLC
5603 Northwest 48th Lane
Tamarac, FL 33319
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Naomi@growingmindsconsulting.com

Systems in Place For Peace of Mind

Making preparation for our children's wellbeing when we are not here may be one of the hardest decisions that we may ever make as parents. Join Staar Fields and her family as they discuss how having a child with special needs has changed their life. We will be presenting on how planning towards the future has brought us peace of mind. Join us as we share the benefits of trusts for families with special needs, planning for the future, and some of our favorite family systems that may work for you! We are encouraging you to Live Your Life to the fullest Outside The Box.

Staar Fields
Give Away Foundation
PO Box 430
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 609-7679
info@giveawayfoundation.org

WheelLifeConnections: Beyond the Chair

What difference would it make in your life if you had an absolutely unshakable confidence in your ability to achieve anything you really put your mind to? What would you dare to dream if you believed in yourself with such deep conviction that you had no fears of failure whatsoever? Join Sara as she takes you through the successes and struggles of living with a physical disability. Learn how having the right support system, internal mindset, and personal determination can break down barriers and lead you to your ultimate goals and dreams!

Sara Gaver
WheelLifeConnections
12337 Wynnfield Lakes Drive, #811
Jacksonville, FL 32246
(386) 690-7530
Wheellifeconnections@gmail.com

Stop, Drop, & S.L.O.W. (Saving Love Our Way)

Do you and your spouse or significant other find yourselves moving fast with no time to slow down? Between doctor visits, therapy appointments, and hospital stays, having children with special needs often feels like being on a roller coaster! Amidst the chaos and noise accompanied with being caregivers, it is easy to forget to take care of one another. Occasionally, we need to be reminded to S.L.O.W. down and get focused. In this session, the co-founders of Support4Caregivers will help you go from giving 10% of yourself to ten different things, to giving 100% of yourself to just one thing.

LaKeesha Hines
Support4Caregivers/Fire Starter Coaching Services
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(813) 850-2352
support4caregivers@live.com

Willie Hines
Support4Caregivers
12335 University Mall Court
Tampa, FL 66945
(813) 850-2352
support4caregivers@live.com

Helping Others: The Secret Sauce

Too often in life, we get bogged down by our circumstances. During these seasons our natural inclination is to withdraw as we convince ourselves things won't get better. However, it's during these times that God calls us to look for opportunities to serve others. If we shift our perspective, it is truly amazing to see how much more joyful our lives can become. Arizona Jenkins and Tim Mann provide a glimpse of what God can do when two friends from diverse backgrounds join forces and allow God to use them to make a difference.

Arizona Jenkins
New Horizons Support Group
1017 East 24th Avenue
Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 494-0111
ajenkins52@tampabay.rr.com

Tim Mann
Relevant Church
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Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 808-1795
tim@relevantchurch.com

Pink Art Party

CALLING ALL LADIES! Prepare for the pink art party with a powerful purpose! Get ready to “Sip-and-Share” as colorful companions COME ALIVE! Join us as we use creative visual art to expose and express the emotional, spiritual, and physical journeys you and other women are on and the challenges faced daily. Certified Life Coach Specialists will lead the charge to help you explore the huge impact of caring for your loved ones with special needs.

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Chosen Life Specialists, LLC
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chosenlifespecialists@gmail.com

LaKeesha Hines
Support4Caregivers/Fire Starter Coaching Services
12335 University Mall Court
Tampa, FL 66945
(813) 850-2352
support4caregivers@live.com

Reclaiming Your Forgotten Powers

In this session, participants will consider their life’s journey through the eyes and souls of the Hero’s Journey, a pattern of events identified by historian Joseph Campbell—one that lives in all of us. Much like the many movies that feature such characters, its essence is the storyline in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Star Wars*, *The Lion King*, and *Batman*. Consideration will be given to the fact that we often get stuck along the way, i.e. in the darkness of the belly of the whale, in continual cycles of trials and tribulations, inability to find an appropriate mentor, or never returning back home to share one’s story and give back to others. Understanding or Recognizing (one or the other), these processes will help participants move forward in their own Hero’s Journey. And like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, they will begin to reclaim their forgotten powers.

Paula Petry
Light of Heart Sanctuary
(305) 807-7594
paula@paulapetry.com

My Quest for Rest

Our journey as caregivers can certainly consume our physical, mental, and emotional strength. Caring for our loved ones while managing our own personal lives can be quite overwhelming at times. We may even fail to recognize that our own well-being can be at risk! As a caregiver myself, I will share REST QUEST: a daily intentional search to manage caregiver stress and prevent burnout. Using personal experiences and practical ways, we will explore how we can recharge and recover our strength by taking time to care for ourselves. Taking time to care for ourselves is not a luxury, but a necessity! Come and start your own quest for rest!

Linda Santana Arroyo
Rest Quest
Largo, FL 33773
Linda@MyRestQuest.com

Seven Keys to Unlock Your Child's Potential: Real Life Lessons Learned from Raising a Child with Special Needs

This presentation provides information and practical tips learned from raising a child with special needs. Explore real-life situations backed up with positive solutions. "Seven Keys" will help you unlock your child's potential, learn the key to acceptance, and discover the ABC's of what being an advocate means. Learn where to find resources and how to contact them. Chantai Snellgrove, founder of Parenting Special Needs Magazine, shares her experiences of the challenges that crossed her path and how she discovered a better way to handle them. Get helpful tips and solutions to the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.

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Parenting Special Needs Magazine
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The Sixty Minute Moms' Retreat: 2020 Wellness Clarity

Much will be accomplished within the time span of this session. An absolutely exciting opportunity awaits all women desiring to experience a relaxing informational and inspirational fellowship to energize your Spirit, Mind, and Body. Many can relate to the feeling of being overwhelmed and depleted sometimes, whether you are a mom or female caregiver. This nurturing session explores avenues to strengthen and equip us to better care for ourselves and others. It is imperative that we continue to nourish the greatness within us and maintain a sense of priority and urgency about it because it is easy to put ourselves on the backburner when it comes to the needs of the family. Ladies, look forward to a power-packed hour of sheer encouragement for your wellbeing!

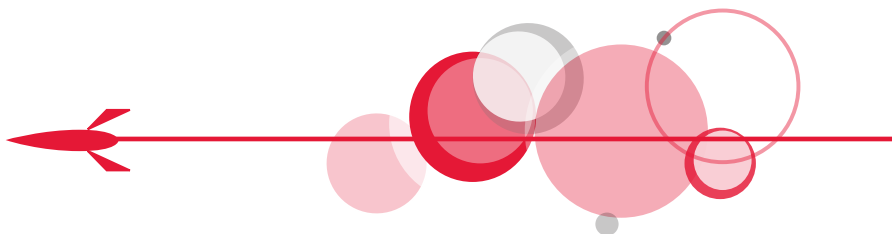
Malverna Streater
Team Streater Seminars
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Tallahassee, Florida 32311
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Dadvocacy

This workshop stresses the importance of father participation in all aspects of their children's lives. What are the barriers and what are the benefits? A team approach with both parents is always best. Learn to do non-emotional, clearly documented, collaborative business.

Wilbur Hawke
South Florida Parent Center
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wilbur@sfptc.org



IEP for Dads

Come learn about the procedural process outlined in IDEA and why as a parent you have to do more than just show up for your child to be successful and benefit from an educational experience. The IEP is the document that determines services and placement using a repetitive procedural process.

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Transition for Dads

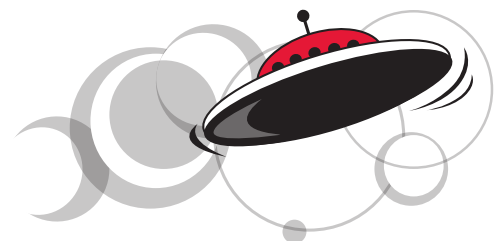
Successful transition is an ongoing process planning for independence from birth. My goal is to help you understand the importance of planning how to do non-emotional, clearly documented, collaborative business with a focus on outcomes. Not personal—just business.

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Special Needs Dad 365

Jon and his wife Allison are the proud parents of twin sisters Olivia and Hailey. Olivia, aka Livy, was born with a brain malformation that resulted in epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and other disabilities. Livy's first seizure occurred only hours after birth. She spent the first nine months of her life at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Boston Children's Hospital, and the Suncoast Hospice House in Largo. As a result of their family's experiences, Jon and Allison founded "Livy's Hope," which created an awareness and fundraising effort called "Lemonade for Livy," and the epilepsy education and empowerment program "Kids Crew" as ways to give back. Both are now national campaigns managed by the Epilepsy Foundation. Livy's Hope also raises money to help fill funding gaps at special needs schools, so students have the chance to live to their fullest potential. Jon maintains a website where he routinely shares what it's like to be a dad to Livy, what she endures, how their family deals with her disabilities, how Hailey has been impacted, and much more. The Scheinmans live and breathe their family's motto "Don't Give Up. Give Back." every day. Their philosophy is to persevere in the hardest of times . . . and to never give up hope. Join Jon in this session as he shares his story, and describes his perspective and experience as a husband and a father.

Jonathan Scheinman
Livy's Hope
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26 Healthy Marriage and Relationship Tips for Dads

If love is patient and love is kind . . . then what are impatience and unkindness in a marriage? Frustration, irritability, and a whole lot of other “stuff” can creep up like a flash flood! Just like a hurricane preparedness class teaches you to be equipped before the storm hits, couples need to know how to insulate their marriage and relationship so that they can survive any storm that will mount in their lives. You are welcome to come and experience a lively discussion and learn tips that can help you get through mild thunder showers to turbulent tornadoes in your life. Don't let your marriage be swallowed up by a relationship sinkhole, caving in without any notice.

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Championship Coaching Tips for Dads

Motivational Coach Bob Streater, III offers encouraging and inspirational advice to audiences of all ages. He tailors his presentation to jumpstart a dad's journey to becoming the father he has always wanted to be through a faith-based foundation. Bob brings more than thirty years of marriage and being a parent of a special needs child. Laughter is good medicine. Prepare to laugh and learn together.

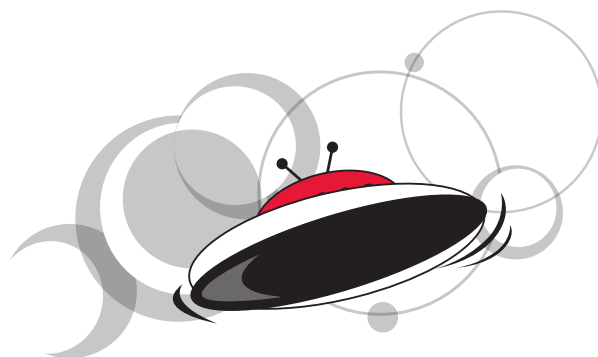
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Just for Dads

This is your opportunity to talk about your kids, to discuss the good and the bad and the struggles that you had this past year. Also, this is your chance to share your successes from this last year.

Tim Turner
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2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE





DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Let's Get Ready! Planning Together for Emergencies Sesame Street Disaster Preparedness for Children

If we are hit with a disaster or a hurricane are your children able to help you with items that need to be added to their disaster go kit? This session will help motivate children of all ages to understand why it is important to help the family plan for disasters. Children will learn how important it is to help mom and dad by knowing their name, phone number, and where they live so that they can summon help during a disaster if an emergency happens while at home. The children will also learn how to help their parents during a disaster and what they will need to put in their disaster go kit.

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Mary Carter
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Tactile / Hands-on Disaster Preparedness, Evacuation Planning and Kit Building for Persons with Access and Functional Needs, on a Low Budget, Through Recycling and Free Items

Are you ready to evacuate if your area is hit with a hurricane or disaster? Do you know what to take with you? Do you have your disaster go kit ready to take with you on a moment's notice? Did you know that you have everything in your house to use or take with you to build your go kit? In this session we will cover how to build an evacuation disaster kit for each member of your family, through the use of hands-on materials. We will also cover how to plan for year-round disasters. You will learn how to think outside of the box, how to use recycling, and all about the free items you have in your house that can be used in your disaster evacuation kit. You will learn how to reuse items you have in your house that are lost, forgotten, and abandoned in your disaster go kit. You will also learn how to use items you can get for free to add to your disaster evacuation kit, and then finally, how to plan for disasters in the event you have to evacuate or shelter in place.

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Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

This session will address lessons learned from recent disasters and the information needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster emergencies. It will provide useful information and tools to ensure you and your family are safe during the disasters that can occur in Florida. Preparedness is key to survival, and this workshop will include tips for personal disaster planning, the roles and responsibilities of government at all levels, and solutions for the challenges people and communities face. APD staff with many years of Disaster training and experience in planning and response will be presenting this session.

Karen Hagan
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
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Apoyo Inmediato: Cómo sobrevivir un huracán cuando se tiene un impedimento. La experiencia de un ser humano después del huracán Irma

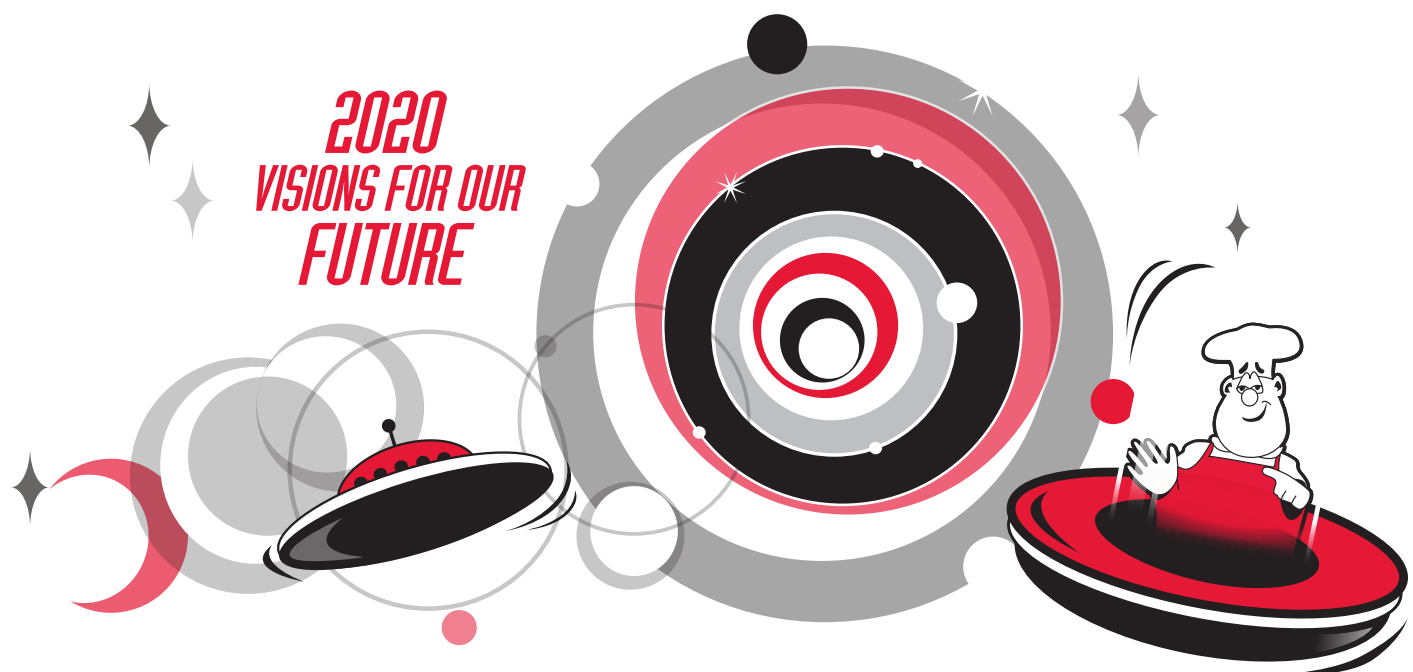
Reglas de cómo una persona impedida puede enfrentar un huracán. Imagina cuan difícil es para una viuda impedida con un hijo sobrevivir un huracán. Una vez escuchan el aviso que un huracán se acerca, ¿qué opciones tiene para actuar con la cabeza fría? ¿Qué sería mejor para salvarse? ¿Qué opciones hay disponibles? ¿Vamos a un refugio especial? ¿Abandonamos nuestra casa? ¿Tenemos suficiente comida y agua? Los participantes recibirán información útil para el huracán. ¿Qué hace después de un huracán? Aprenda cómo investigar las técnicas de beneficios, de recuperación y apoyo. Esta presentación la preparará a usted para el próximo Michael.

Christine Rudd
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On Demand Advocacy: One Person's Experience After Hurricane Irma

This presentation will enhance your advocacy skills when dealing with hurricanes and having a disability. Imagine what it's like for a disabled widow and her young child during a hurricane advisory. What options are available? Do we shelter-in-place? Evacuate? Do we have enough food and water? Participants will receive a checklist to assist with these difficult decisions and more. What do you do after a hurricane? Learn how to navigate the various aspects of recovery benefits and supports. This presentation will prepare you for the next Hurricane Michael.

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Be prepared – have a family emergency plan!
Assess your capabilities, as well as your needs, and
create a plan that will ensure your family's safety during an
emergency or a disaster.

Checklist

- Build a disaster supply kit
- Identify a support network
- Complete an Emergency Health Card (EHC)
- Arrange an out-of-town contact
- Stay informed on local disaster procedures
- Develop a plan for service animals/pets

Disaster Supply Kit

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food (3-day supply)
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- NOAA Weather Radio
- First aid kit
- Medications and medical supplies (2-week supply)
- Medical records and primary care physician contact information
- Supplies and paperwork for service animals/pets

Visit *FloridaDisaster.org* to build a customized
family emergency plan.



volunteerflorida

Volunteer Florida is the state's lead agency for mobilizing volunteers and directing donations before, during and after disasters.

The Emergency Management department is also responsible for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15 Volunteers and Donations for the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Other duties include:

- Managing the Florida Disaster Fund
- Coordinating with Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and local and state government agencies to meet volunteer and donation needs
- Administering Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Providing training and presentations on volunteer and donations management

**For more information, please visit
*VolunteerFlorida.org.***

EDUCATION

To Be or Not To Be a Manifestation, That is the Question

A Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) is required when a public-school student with a disability, covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, is considered for a significant change of placement due to suspension/expulsion. We will focus on how to prepare for a manifestation determination, what constitutes a significant change of placement, and what the legal requirements and rights of the individual student with (or suspected of having) a disability are. This presentation will outline and highlight steps you can take to acquire behavioral supports for your child, such as Functional Behavioral Assessments and Positive Behavioral Intervention Plans. In addition, this presentation will include scenarios and strategies, relevant case law, regulations, and state and federal laws that govern the process and provide procedural safeguards/due process for students with disabilities to afford them access to a free appropriate public education.

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Ann Siegel
Disability Rights Florida
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Welcome to the Wonderful World of Extended School Year Services

Are you a parent of an ESE student with an IEP? Do you know that your student has the right to education beyond the regular school day/year? This presentation is just for you. We will focus on educating parents on their student's rights to education beyond the regular school day/year. Topics will include how to determine whether a child is eligible for ESY services, and if so, what amount and duration of services the school should be providing. Our goal is to equip the attendees with the basic knowledge to be prepared to handle discussions with a school district related to the provision of ESY services.

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What Credentials Can my Kid with an Intellectual Disability Earn in College?

Florida has 16 colleges with credential-earning programs for students with intellectual disabilities. In this presentation I will describe the college programs available across the state for this population. I will also provide attendees a new 12 page brief that explains what parents need to know when looking at the various college programs and the questions they will want to ask. I will provide families with national and state resources to enable them to expect the best opportunities for their sons and daughters.

Kathleen Becht
University of Central Florida
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Orlando, FL 32816
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kathleen.becht@ucf.edu

From Label to Able: Including Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Inclusion for students with disabilities is more than just receiving academic instruction in the general education classroom. All contexts of general education should be considered when planning services for students with disabilities, especially for students with significant cognitive disabilities. This session addresses some of the beliefs and misconceptions that can be barriers to inclusion, as well as effective strategies and meaningful discussion that can lead to solutions.

Kelly Claude
Florida Inclusion Network
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kclaude@contactfin.com

A Parent's Tool Kit for Actively Engaging in the IEP Process

Parents will assemble a tool kit of educationally relevant documentation—the nuts and bolts—and activities that will assist in maintaining records and promoting positive communication, allowing teams to work collaboratively. The tool kit will be utilized so that parents can be prepared, actively listen, and become a better voice for their cause during IEP meetings. Parents, as project managers, will possess the “tools of the trade” allowing them to actively engage in the planning of their child’s educational career and be equal members of the IEP team.

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Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System
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rebecca.cox@heartlanded.org

Joyce Worth Dean
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System
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joyce.dean@heartlanded.org

How Can You Help Your Child With Special Needs Learn English as a Second Language in School?/¿Cómo puede ayudar a su hijo/a con necesidades especiales aprender inglés con Segundo idioma?

The Parent Leadership Council (PLC) is a group organized at each school, or at the district level, composed in the majority of parents of English Language Learners (ELL) students. Parents are provided with leadership training and orientation to the district’s ELL Program monitoring and involvement procedures. They are informed of the opportunity to be represented on existing school and district advisory committees, such as revision of special needs education policies. Councils are consulted prior to submission of the ELL district plans to the State. Join our discussion on how you can help your child as part of the PLC.

El Parent Leadership Council (PLC) es un grupo organizado en cada escuela o a nivel de distrito compuesto en su mayoría de padres de aprendices del lenguaje inglés ELL). A los padres se le provee entrenamiento de liderato y orientación sobre el proceso de monitoria y involucimiento del Programa ELL. Se les informa sobre las oportunidades de ser representados en sus respectivas escuelas y en los comités de asesoramiento de distrito, incluyendo en la revisión de políticas sobre la educación especial. El distrito consulta con los comités antes de someter los planes de ELL al gobierno estatal.

Roberto Cruz
Florida Rural Legal Services
1322 East Memorial Boulevard, Suite 101
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 583-8605
Roberto.Cruz@frls.org

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Your Exceptional Family

Want to know the role of PTA and exceptional children? Come learn about PTA and how we are advocating for exceptional children and families across the state. We will be sharing resources and information on ESE programs available in schools and through Florida PTA.

Angie Gallo
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vp.education@floridapta.org

Toni Nielson
Florida Parent Teacher Association
1747 Orlando Central Parkway
Orlando, FL 32809
(863) 2798-325
exceptional.child@floridapta.org

Going to College and Excelling as a Student with a Disability

Attendees will learn from current students with disabilities at Florida State University (FSU) who are excelling and overcoming barriers within a preeminent institution. The students will reflect on their experiences and discuss what types of challenges a person with a disability might encounter with regards to their university experience. Attendees will learn how to become "otherwise qualified" to attend and to thrive in a college environment. Negative perceptions of ability present substantial barriers in the educational attainment of diversely abled students. The students in this presentation will describe how they have overcome these negative perceptions and succeed in a fast-paced, competitive academic environment.

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James Howell
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Tyler Bruefach
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Transitioning from Middle to High School: What Parents and Students Need to Know

When students transition from middle school to high school, many changes are ahead of them. The course work increases, social pressures increase, and the focus on postsecondary outcomes becomes more of a reality with every passing year. This presentation will focus on strategies and information for students and parents that can ensure a successful transition from middle school to high school.

Jayne Lynn Joslyn
Pinellas County Schools
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Gracie Joslyn
Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School
jaymejoslyn@gmail.com

Taming Your IEP Dragon: A Parent's Guide to Surviving the IEP Process

This workshop will discuss the importance of the IEP and explain to participants the five areas they need to understand to make them effective members of an IEP team, and to be able to appropriately represent their children in this process. The five areas being discussed are Education, Preparation, Attitude, Collaboration, and Involvement. The session will link these together with the IEP process and the roles of other participants to create an understanding of the IEP, the parents' roles, the roles of the other members of an IEP team, and how all parties must be able to work together to create a strong, effective IEP team that can produce an effective IEP.

Mark Keith
Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
207 San Marco Avenue
Saint Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 827-2731
mark.keith@rmtcdhh.org

Inclusive Postsecondary Education: Choosing the Right Program

The number of inclusive postsecondary programs is growing in Florida. In this presentation, information will be shared on Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs, including the credentials offered and the differences between programs.

Paula Kohler Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities 4221 Andromeda Loop North, UCF Teaching Academy, Room 420 Orlando, FL 32816 (407) 823-5225 paula.kohler@ucf.edu	Janice Seabrooks-Blackmore, PhD Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities 4221 Andromeda Loop North, UCF Teaching Academy, Room 420 Orlando, FL 32816 (407) 823-5225 janice.seabrooks-blackmore@ucf.edu	Drew Andrews Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities 4221 Andromeda Loop North, UCF Teaching Academy, Room 420 Orlando, FL 32816 (407) 823-6115 drew.andrews@ucf.edu
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Creating an ESE Advisory Council

Are you interested in developing an ESE Parent Advisory Council within your school district? Would you like your voice heard on ESE student education matters? Creating an ESE Parent Advisory Council within your district is a way to work with the school district to better improve the ESE educational systems. The role of the committee is not only to share your experiences but also to advise and suggest on ESE. If you are interested in creating this type of committee this presentation is for you.

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Jessica Brattain
Florida Department of Education BEESS
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Family Future Planning

Family Future Planning is an introductory presentation perfect for families of late elementary to early high school students with disabilities. It explains post-secondary learning accommodations, guardianship options, and comprehensive financial planning. This is a parent-to-parent presentation offered by parents who have lived through this with their own children.

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Ven Sequenzia
Autism Society of Florida
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Sanford, FL 32771
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Navigating the Road Blocks, When the IEP Team Cannot Agree

What happens when you are at an IEP meeting and you cannot agree? Who gets to decide? It can be a difficult and frustrating process for parents and students, and you need to understand how to resolve disagreements and what is the best tool to use when faced with conflict resolution. Due Process is a long and emotional process and not always the best way to resolve the issue. Learn strategies to resolve disagreements within the IEP Team. We will discuss the “how to” regarding informal conflict resolution and mediation, and how and when to draft State Complaints, Office of Civil Rights Complaints and request for Due Process Hearings. The presentation will allow for open dialogue between presenter and participants.

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Why Not Consider Education After High School?! A 20/20 Vision of Future Possibilities!

More than ever before, students across the disability community are transitioning on to some type of continuing education after high school—and the opportunities abound! Looking back with 20/20 hindsight, two recent postsecondary graduates and self-advocates, Mac Starnes and Emily Starnes Bridges, and their Mom, Linda, provide 20 ideas (and more!) as you and your family envision future learning possibilities. Over the years we’ve presented workshops across the country, providing current research, practical strategies, and encouraging words on topics ranging from advocacy, to transition issues, and more. We look forward to sharing information and resources as you consider the many types of postsecondary pursuits for cross-disability abilities!

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Florida Department of Health
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Florida Standards Access Points for Families

An overview of the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment will be presented to better acquaint families with the means in which students with significant cognitive disabilities are assessed. Participants will navigate through Florida's model of alternate academic achievement standards for students with a significant cognitive disability and will have the opportunity to become familiar with the current Florida Standards Access Points and Essential Understandings.

Chelsea Strickland
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Getting Started with Literacy

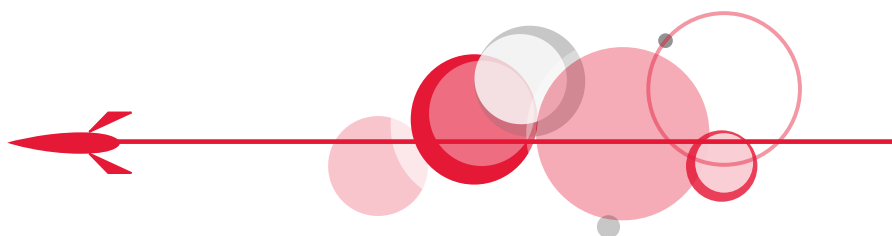
Often, having ideas of how to connect with a young person with multiple needs, including vision and hearing loss or intellectual delays, poses so many challenges that literacy seems like a distant dream. This session will highlight a FREE Literacy Website that can offer support to families and educators in their goal of making literacy accessible. Participants will complete a simple Pre-test Checklist to find their starting point, ranging from "Building a Foundation" for those with little or no formal communication, through "Pre-" and "Emergent Literacy" levels. We will explore website layout and some simple activities to get started. Free books to adapt into Story Boxes and Tangible Books, on a first come, first served basis.

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A Question and Answer Series on Exceptional Student Education in Florida

This session is for parents, students, and families involved in exceptional education in Florida. Families will have an opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversation about special education services with an expert panel. Panel members include the Florida Department of Education, Disability Rights Florida, and the Family Network on Disabilities. This session is sponsored by the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services and moderated by the Family Network on Disabilities.

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Structured Literacy and Instructional Approaches that Best Help Students with Dyslexia

This session will provide an overview of Structured Literacy, the literary elements involved, and the reasoning behind teaching the components of reading in a structured approach rather than a balanced approach. Each of the literary elements will be explained, and a demonstration of how the skills build upon each other will be provided. Parents will gain a better understanding of the literary terminology and feel more confident in discussing reading successes and barriers to produce the best outcomes for their child.

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McKay Scholarship Program and Gardiner Scholarship Program

The Department of Education's Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will present information about the John M. McKay Scholarship Program and the Gardiner Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities. These programs were established to provide Florida parents and students with additional education options, and they operate under the premise that parents should make decisions regarding their children's education. The programs offer student-directed funding and parent-directed choices. The presentation will include a discussion of eligibility requirements, application options, approved uses for scholarship funds, and parent responsibilities under the programs.

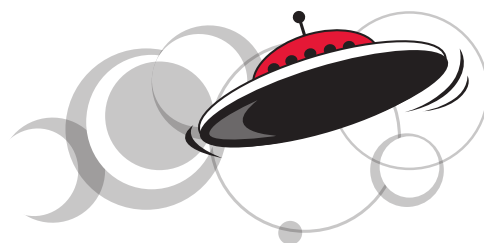
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Bridging the Gap for Struggling Readers K-5

Struggling students are everywhere and the gap keeps getting bigger and bigger each year. Approximately only 30 percent of Florida 3rd graders can proficiently read by the day of testing. Together we can close the gap one child at a time with hands-on interactive activities and passages on a level that will boost your child's confidence. Instead of focusing on what your child can't do, shine on what they can. Use the growth mindset that your child is not proficient yet, but will be one day. Come learn some cool engaging study habits to motivate your young reader.

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EMPLOYMENT

A Self-Advocate's Roadmap to Employment

Want to work? You CAN! Join two self-advocates as they discuss their journeys to employment. In this session, Sarah and Amanda will discuss challenges faced along the way, how to advocate for accommodations in the workplace, how to navigate employment-related policies, and how to access programs that can assist one in gaining financial independence.

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What Employers Really Expect—You're Not in ESE Land Anymore!

Learn how to compete with typical peers for employment. We'll discuss common challenges, keys to success in the workplace, and resources for success. An ability to handle anxiety in the workplace, participate as a team member, help to create a pleasant environment, ask for assistance, and manage time to complete tasks effectively are exceedingly important toward goals for successful long term employment. Teachers, providers, and stakeholders—learn what employers are really looking for, discover how to give job seekers an edge over others in the workplace, and learn how to turn challenges into advantages toward long-term employment.

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Your Winning Ticket: Making Work Pay by Understanding Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Security

In this session, we will discuss the employment of persons with disabilities and the impact of employment on Social Security benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, and Medicaid waivers. We will discuss basic information about the Ticket to Work Program, work incentives and Partnership Plus, and reveal how they can ultimately be a path toward financial stability. Experts from Vocational Rehabilitation and Disability Rights Florida will discuss how benefits can be affected but maintained through Ticket to Work, SSI and SSDI employment support programs, and the use of trusts for maintaining Medicaid eligibility, all in plain and understandable language.

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Stop Your Frustrations! CDC+ Background Screening Clearinghouse Basics

One of the many benefits of CDC+ is the ability to recruit your own employees. Although this is an empowering action, it comes with responsibility that can seem overwhelming at times. However, the process isn't as difficult as it may seem! This session is for potential and current CDC+ participants and is designed to help you learn about and navigate through the background screening Clearinghouse system with ease. We will discuss the registration process, navigational tabs, and address questions related to the Clearinghouse. We will discuss how to complete screenings, how to select and what to send to a LiveScan Vendor, and address general questions related to screenings in the Clearinghouse.

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Let's Get Started! Navigating Training, Education, Job Readiness, and Employment Opportunities through the Workforce System

Do you want to go to school, get a job, or learn how to navigate the workforce development system? Let CareerSource Broward and CareerSource Palm Beach County provide you with an overview of the workforce development system while showing you the nuts and bolts on how the workforce development system can assist you with obtaining training and employment. Attendees will gain an understanding of how to connect with various training, education, and job readiness opportunities provided through their local CareerSource Centers.

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CareerSource Central Florida's Ticket to Work Program—Serving Our Friends with Unique Abilities

CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) champions local talent to recognize their potential, explore their options, and pursue their passion. Through the support of devoted career consultants and community partnerships with local businesses, colleges, and training programs, CSCF helps students and career seekers develop a customized plan to achieve their individual goals. As an approved employment network with the Social Security Administration, CSCF is a proud partner of Ticket to Work, a program designed to help career seekers with disabilities explore their interests, pursue their passion, and increase their income. Learn how CSCF strategically serves this special population.

Janee Olds
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Yes, I Can Work! Navigating Vocational Rehabilitation Services with a Perfect Vision for the Future

Planning for the future is very important and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) has an extensive array of services and programs available to individuals of all ages—"young" and "not-so-young." This presentation will review the services that can be customized to meet individuals' employment and training needs so that each person receives the support they need for success. It will highlight the new and expanded services available for youth as well as Supported Employment Services. This session will also allow time to answer audience questions, as well as provide an opportunity for individuals to learn how to apply for and receive VR services.

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HEALTH

Florida KidCare: Taking Confusion Out of Insurance Coverage for Kids

Florida KidCare is the state's high quality, low-cost health and dental insurance program for kids. Within the Florida KidCare brand, there are four programs: Medicaid for Children (covers children birth through the age of eighteen), MediKids (covers children one through four), Florida Healthy Kids (covers children five through the age of eighteen), and Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan (CMS) (covers children birth through the age of eighteen with special health care needs). CMS is specifically designed to assist families in coordinating complex care for their special needs child(ren). The CMS Plan costs \$15-\$20 per month, based on income. Eligibility is based on the household size, household annual income, age of the child, and the special health care need(s). Another Florida KidCare added benefit is the Behavioral Health Network (BNet). BNet is for children ages 5-18 with serious mental health or substance use needs who are insured by KidCare (CMS Plan or Florida Healthy Kids). This presentation will give an overview of Florida KidCare, with a focus on the CMS Plan. Florida KidCare is great insurance for kids and one less worry for parents. Most of our families pay \$15- \$20 a month for all the kids in the household. With over 330,000 uninsured children living in Florida, our goal is to decrease that number and spread awareness of our programs.

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2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

A Life-Span Approach for Individuals With Cerebral Palsy

Maintaining overall health and staying active with a disability can be overwhelming. This presentation about CECO's Adult Day program will provide insights of an educational approach that addresses unmet rehabilitative, educational, and self-sufficiency needs of students with severe physical and cognitive disabilities. Attendees will learn about the structure of the program, and strategies that the staff utilizes to help maintain health and well-being of adults with CP. The presenters will provide insights about the meaningful activities that program participants perform daily, including gross-and fine-motor tasks, activities to work on different job skills, and life skills.

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Managing Oral Health Care and Access to the Oral Health Care System for Individuals with Special Health Care Needs

This presentation will provide information on new oral health materials, services, or techniques that can benefit individuals with special health care needs. This presentation will also update the current insurance environment to help individuals, parents, and caregivers navigate the system to increase access to oral health services, including sedation services

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Physical Therapy Utilizing Hippotherapy: How Horses Help Humans

Hippotherapy is a modality used by physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech/language pathologists by utilizing a horse's movement for means of achieving rehabilitative, functional goals. The horse's pelvis and hips move in the same way as the human pelvis and hips move for walking, and the horse provides a means of aggressive core strengthening to the human body. This helps produce functional gains in core strengthening, walking, balance, proprioception, sensory input, range of motion, and so much more.

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24 Hour Postural Care – Implementing Supportive Lying Positioning, A Hands-On “How-To” Workshop

Postural care does not end when we lie down. Those who need support to maintain good positioning in sitting and standing usually need it when lying down as well. Gain hands-on experience with night/rest-time postural supports in this presentation. Try various postural support systems (Jenx Dreama Bed, Simple Stuff Works supports, Sleepform, and simple household items) to provide supportive, symmetrical/optimal positioning in lying positions. Understand how comfort, thermal regulation, and safety concerns related to reflux, seizures, sensory regulation, and pain may interfere with sleep, deformity, and function. No affiliation or financial support is provided from any company.

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Fun with Food: Techniques to Encourage Healthier Eating

Join University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension faculty to learn new ways to encourage healthier eating and new food introduction through hands-on techniques. Oftentimes, textures, tastes, smells, color, and temperature can be barriers to eating a well-balanced diet. This session will address basic concepts of nutrition while showcasing activities that can be implemented to help those with food selectivity. Participants should come prepared to experiment with new methods to address the barriers that food selective persons face.

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Spasticity Management in Cerebral Palsy

Gain a better understanding of spasticity, treatments, and ways to help your child. A physical therapist will give you ways to help your child at home. A physician will provide an overview of spasticity and current medical treatment options.

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LEGAL

Protecting the Right to Decide: Supported Decision-Making in Florida

We all need help making decisions. Unfortunately, people with disabilities who may need additional supports are mistakenly labeled “incompetent.” This can lead people who could make their own decisions with support to lose their rights and end up under guardianship. During this session we will teach you about a legal alternative to guardianship called Supported Decision-Making. This will allow people with disabilities to determine who they want to support them and provide the needed help in all aspects of their life. Michael Lincoln, with the assistance of Disability Rights Florida, was the first person in Florida to terminate a guardianship using Supported Decision-Making. He will give you a brief synopsis of his experience going through the process.

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Michael Lincoln-McCreight
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Beyond the Bell: Access to Activities Beyond the Classroom

Learn how federal and state laws prohibit public and private educational and community programs such as extracurricular activities, after school programs, and summer camps from excluding your child based on their disability. You will gain an understanding of the legal obligations these programs must follow to ensure equal access for children with disabilities; you will also acquire basic skills that will enable you to effectively advocate for your child’s right to participate in and enjoy the social benefits of activities beyond the classroom.

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Getting It All In Order

Oftentimes family members know that they need to plan for the future, but it can be overwhelming to think about where to start the discussion. This presentation will give families the big picture of the many topics, subjects, and resources to explore, plan for, and protect our child or loved one with special needs. We will discuss the basics of estate planning, including powers of attorney, advanced directives, and wills and trusts, particularly special needs trusts. We will discuss incorporating the financial plan with the legal plan and then what to consider about guardianship. Finally, we will discuss the public benefits programs to know about, such as the various Social Security and Medicaid programs.

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Supported Decision Making and Guardianship Alternatives

This session will address empowering individuals in making an informed choice in the decision process regarding life choices. Topics will include self-determination, the supported decision-making process, the requirements for the guardianship, and the guardianship advocate process. The main goal of our presentation is to equip the attendees with the basic knowledge of the rights of the adult who may require assistance in making decisions in his/her life.

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Top 10 Ways Florida Family Law Cases Involving Children with Special Needs are Unique

Florida family law, special education law, and guardianship law do not directly align. The unique needs and rights of children with disabilities are often overlooked by Florida's family court system. This presentation is designed to educate parents and professionals of the top 10 ways parenting plans (aka custody) and child support cases in Florida involving special needs children are different, and what can be done to ensure the children's needs are being properly addressed.

Sarah Kay
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The ABCs and 123s of SNTs

What is a Special Needs Trust (SNT) and why should families consider creating one? A Special Needs Trust is created to protect resources for an individual with a disability. Contrary to popular belief, Special Needs Trusts can be easy and affordable. We will discuss the various types of SNTs and how they can preserve the valuable public benefits for our loved one with a disability. Attendees will learn cost-effective ways to establish these trusts and provide for a sound, reliable plan to look after their financial legacy for their special family member.

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The Criminal Justice System and People with Disabilities

Adults and children with disabilities, some as young as five years old, are discriminated against and mistreated every day in the criminal justice system. They experience higher arrest rates, higher conviction rates, stiffer penalties, and a lack of accommodations in jails. This problem is one of truly epidemic proportions, but it is rarely covered by the media. This seminar will give a brief overview on the current situation facing people with disabilities in the criminal justice system as well as current and proposed solutions to the issue.

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Are You Prepared to Go Before the Office of Fair Hearings or Office of Appeal Hearings to Present Your Medicaid Fair Hearing?

Have you received a denial, reduction, or termination of services by a Medicaid Managed Care Company, eQHealth, the Agency for Health Care Administration, or the Agency for Persons with Disabilities? If so, come and discover advocacy tips to prepare you for a Medicaid Fair Hearing before the Florida Office of Fair Hearings or Office of Appeal Hearings. You will learn key differences between the Office of Fair Hearings and the Office of Appeal Hearings, how to initiate an appeal for a service denial, reduction, or termination, what to do before the hearing, and how to present your case.

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What You Need to Know about Guardian Advocacy and Special Needs Planning - A Legal Perspective

Come learn the ins and out of Guardian Advocacy, including when it is needed and how the process works. You will also learn what other legal documents you, your family, and loved ones should have in place to ease any transition if someone is unable or unwilling to continue to serve as a guardian due to personal choices or a death in the family. Learn about special needs trusts and when they are a good idea! Are you the caregiver for the person or property of a minor child or adult who is developmentally disabled or adjudicated incompetent by a mental health professional or by law? Do you want legal standing to make decisions on their behalf? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, join Attorney Kimberly Soto for this talk!

Kimberly Soto
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Guardianship: Who Needs One?

What is a Florida Guardianship and who needs one? This presentation by two attorneys will explain the legal requirements of guardianship and give a broad overview of the different types and levels of Florida Guardianship, which will include affected rights of the ward for minors and adults, how they are most commonly used, how to prepare to become guardian, who can serve as a guardian, and how a guardianship may benefit you or your loved one.

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FAMILY

Man Laws for Moms: Understanding Dads and Why We Do What We Do

This workshop explores reasons why dads do the things that they do related to family involvement. The session looks at why dads sometimes seem to disengage from emotional or stressful family situations. Then the session will look at strategies that can be used to help encourage dad to be more involved with a child with special needs and the additional responsibilities that often surround raising the child.

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Moms to Moms

When we are together as mothers, sharing our experiences as parents of our children with special needs, it feels good! We can empathize and be compassionate to each other and our unique situation. Overtly, we have something in common (our children). We can also learn, laugh, and build friendships. Here is your opportunity to experience all that is mentioned above. You are invited to join us for an interactive, informal, and relaxing conversation. Let's talk about experiences and concerns of interest to you.

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Raising a Disabled Child with a Partner Who is in Denial

Raising a disabled child with a partner who is accepting of the child's disability can be challenging. Co-parenting with a partner who is in denial of the child's disability can present even more challenges. As a parent in this situation, I will share some of the challenges faced, as well as some of the strategies that worked for me along the way. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with others who may be in the same situation.

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2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



MENTAL HEALTH

How Executive Functions and Anxiety Impact Your Educational Journey

There has been a rise of students with a medical diagnosis of anxiety disorder, which may increase everyday and educational challenges. Educators should provide student-centered approaches to help them succeed. Additionally, students can explore their own strengths and weaknesses in higher cognitive processes to understand executive functions. This approach supports self-advocacy to empower the student for academic success. This session will discuss the executive function challenges that students may face and how self-awareness may link the missing piece of the puzzle for success in learning. This content will be valuable for educators, caregivers, or the student.

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Mental Fitness and Overcoming the 'Enemy Inside' You

Ewing Sarcoma survivor Brandi L. Benson—a disabled U.S. Army veteran, entrepreneur, inspirational speaker, and author of the acclaimed book *The Enemy Inside Me*—will share actionable tips and first-hand advice that patients, caregivers, or family members struggling with “an enemy” in whatever form can use to improve their overall mental health and to manage a disability. Brandi will share her powerful story about overcoming physical disability and her journey to become a Paralympian. Through this presentation, attendees will learn how to effectively battle the trauma of a life-changing diagnosis or physical disability.

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Trauma, Recovery, and Resiliency

Psychological trauma is the harm that occurs to the mind because of a distressing event. It's often the result of an overwhelming amount of stress that exceeds one's ability to cope, or understand the emotions involved with that experience. The guiding principles of trauma recovery are the restoration of safety and empowerment. The goal is to live in the present without being overwhelmed by the thoughts and feelings of the past. Resiliency is a person's ability to overcome adversity and continue his or her normal development. These topics will be discussed during this presentation.

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Office Space: Mental Wellness in the Workplace

Mental Wellness in the workplace can be difficult or next to impossible for an individual who struggles with a mental health disorder. As the workplace can be a triggering environment, a source of trauma, or even a place for discrimination based on one's disorder, it can lead an individual to relapse, hospitalization, and possibly termination. Learning ways to balance these issues and maintain one's wellness, including healthy coping mechanisms, can really allow one to have great success and continued wellness.

Jeanine Hoff
Where is the Sunshine?
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A Conversation about Mental Health

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Founded in 1979, it includes affiliates in every state and more than 1,100 local communities who join together to fulfill the NAMI mission through support, advocacy, education, and research. NAMI Greater Orlando is one of many affiliates under NAMI. This presentation is a Conversation About Mental Health. We will touch on health and illness, knowing the signs, facts vs fiction, getting help, breaking down stigma, mental health in the workplace, and what you can do.

Paula Kegelman
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Florida's Behavioral Health System for Children, Youth, and Young Adults

Florida's behavioral health system has undergone significant changes over the last five years, resulting in a system that is confusing and challenging for parents, caregivers, and professionals assisting them. This presentation will provide an overview of Florida's current behavioral health system for children, youth, and young adults from the agencies involved in funding services: the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Agency for Healthcare Administration, and the Department of Children and Families. Participants will learn about what agencies provide behavioral health services and how to access them. In addition, the presenters will provide resource information targeted to parents, caregivers, and youth.

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Intro to W.R.A.P.

The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®) is a personalized wellness and recovery system born out of and rooted in the principle of self-determination. WRAP® is a wellness and recovery approach that helps people to: 1) decrease and prevent intrusive or troubling feelings and behaviors; 2) increase personal empowerment; 3) improve quality of life; and 4) achieve their own life goals and dreams. Working with a WRAP® can help individuals to monitor uncomfortable and distressing feelings and behaviors and, through planned responses, reduce, modify, or eliminate those feelings. A WRAP® also includes plans for responses from others when an individual cannot make decisions, take care of him/herself, and/or keep him/herself safe. The person who experiences symptoms is the one who develops their personal WRAP. The person may choose to have supporters and health care professionals help them create their WRAP, but the individual remains in control of the process. Key WRAP® concepts and values will be illustrated through examples from the lives of the co-facilitators and participants.

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Youth Mental Health

One in five youth will be diagnosed with a mental health disorder this year. Do you know the signs and symptoms? It is normal for children and youth to experience various types of emotional distress as they develop and mature. When symptoms persist, it may be time to seek professional help. Increasingly more individuals meet criteria for a lifetime mental disorder. Do you know where to begin to find help? Come learn the signs and symptoms of various mental health disorders. Learn tips to help youth de-escalate and various types of help.

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Parenting a Child With Anxiety

This workshop will provide tips for parents and caregivers to help their child manage his or her anxiety. The session will have interactive activities and materials to take and use with your child.

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Terri Hill
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Parenting During a Pandemic: Managing the Stress of “Doing it All”

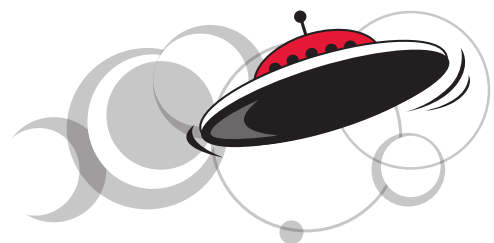
Anxiety, uncertainty and physical distancing policies related to COVID-19 have caused unique stressors for parents. Parents, burdened by increased financial and community pressures, face the additional stressors of balancing work, children’s schooling, household responsibilities, and personal relationships, with increased childcare needs. In fact, a study of parents quarantined with their children found that 28% of parents had a trauma-related disorder post-quarantine, as opposed to 6% of those not quarantined (Sprang et al., 2013), highlighting the importance of learning effective ways to manage parental distress during this pandemic. This webinar will provide parents dealing with the very understandable stress of “doing it all” for themselves and their children under varying physical distancing policies with an overview of helpful strategies taken from effective cognitive-behavioral and acceptance-oriented psychotherapies. These effective strategies may help parents reduce stress, model helpful coping behaviors for children and better tolerate the uncertainty inherent in these uncertain times.

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Effective Strategies for Managing Child Anxiety and Distress about COVID-19

COVID-19 has presented unique challenges to children and adolescents. This devastating pandemic has caused them to leave their friends and schoolbooks behind and stay “safer at home” with their families. In doing so, physical distancing policies may also lead some children to fear, worry or stress about the scope of the current virus and its impact, or mourn the loss of social activities, sports and other milestones. Still others may be experiencing grief or trauma due to the loss of family members or have fears about relatives falling ill. When our children are again reunited with their friends and schoolbooks, the fears, withdrawal, excess screen time, grief and irritability associated with this period may take time to fade away and require patient caregivers to support such transitions. While keeping your children safe, what are things you can do to help prepare them to “be brave” right now and in this new future of gradual reconciliation? In this webinar, we will discuss strategies taken from evidence-based cognitive-behavioral treatments that are known to significantly reduce anxiety and associated, problematic avoidance, and discuss how such strategies can be reinforced to assist your children in coping with both current fears and anxiety that may be encountered in the future.

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Resources for Military Families

Families are relocating more often. Being part of a military family can be filled with many surprises, challenges, and opportunities. Part of the military life is moving to new locations every few years or even more frequently. This can be a bit more complex when there's a child in the family who has a disability. Fortunately, there is assistance available to support military families. Join us in a series of virtual discussions to learn about policy and resources. We are here to help!

Florida Military OneSource Consultant
Call: 800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.mil

EFMP: Parenting a Special Needs Child while Serving in the Military and Beyond

This session will provide priceless resources that will safeguard your child's future. Not only will you will learn ways to supplement your military benefits but you will learn the importance of preparing and planning beyond adulthood to safeguard and maximize your child's benefits and well-being. You will learn how the EFMP Program can support your family; how TRICARE cares for your child while you are on active duty and beyond; how you can ensure your child remains your dependent for life; how you can provide financial stability and protect your child legally beyond adulthood; and, how you can apply for local and federal services such as APD and Social Security.

Cheryl B. McGrew, M.Ed.
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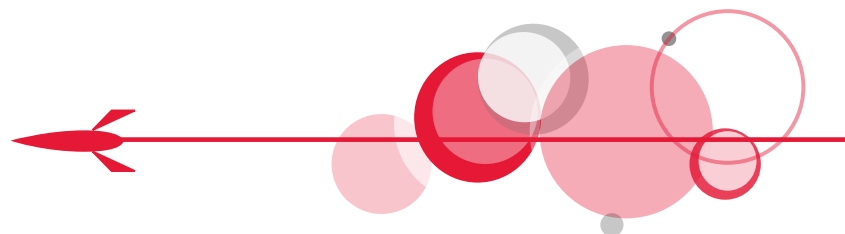
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Trai Murray
Exceptional Family Member Program Liaison
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Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay
Comm: 912-573-1079 DSN: 573-1079

The School Liaison Program and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

Participants will learn about the School Liaison (SL) program and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. SLs serve as the primary liaison between commands, schools and military parents pertaining to PreK-12th grade educational issues. The School Liaison implements 7 Core Areas designed to assist families with all of their PreK-12th grade needs. The Military Interstate Compact was created to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families due to frequent moves and deployment of parents.

Ms. Elaine LaJeunesse
Team Eglin School Liaison
96 Mission Support Group
310 W. Van Matre Ave.
Ste 252 Bldg. 210
Eglin AFB, Florida 32542
(850) 882-4319
www.EGLINLife.com



MISCELLANEOUS

Service Animals in Action!

Attendees will learn what tasks service animals can perform as well as what laws apply to various life settings. They will have a chance to ask questions and see a demo.

Carol Christopherson
Florida Service Dogs, Inc.
PO Box 14810
Jacksonville, FL 32238
(800) 549-2600
buddynme@bellsouth.net

Niki Christopherson
PO Box 14897 Yellow Water Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32238

Service Animals: Your Rights and Responsibilities

This session will be an overview of service animals as defined by Florida and Federal statutes, including the definition of a service animal, differences between a service animal, therapy animal, and emotional support animal, public access rights for Service Animal owners, and responsibilities of Service Animal owners.

Howard Moon
17347 Southeast 111th Avenue
Summerfield, FL 34491
(352) 427-5935
howardocala@gmail.com

Living with Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders

Living with epilepsy and seizure disorders can be challenging. Understanding your condition, including the latest research advances, and learning how to find and use the various resources available to you can empower individuals with epilepsy and their families. Seizure disorders can affect many facets of day-to-day life. We will discuss strategies for dealing with issues like work and education, physical and emotional well-being, reproduction and child-rearing, and social relationships.

Jaime Sagona
(407) 319-3049
jaime.sagona@gmail.com

Kimberly Spire-Oh
Law Office of
Kimberly Spire-Oh, PA
2749 Exchange Court
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
(561) 307-9620
kimberly@ksolawfirm.com

Andrew Sagona
(407) 319-0615
andrew.sagona@gmail.com

Before My Final Breath

Before My Final Breath is an introduction to the death industry and options for Florida families. Everyone will die at some point in time, either by age, illness, or accident. Knowing what you want and planning for your death is extremely important for parents of children with disabilities. This presentation covers traditional and alternative options. It will demonstrate the ease of keeping your money with your family in lieu of pre-need sales options.

Sarah Sequenzia
1601 East Kaley Street, Room 119
Orlando, FL 32807
(321) 228-9772
sarah.sequenzia@ocps.net



4-H For Every Youth: Building Head, Heart, Hands, & Health

In Florida, 4-H serves over 200,000 youth, ages 5 to 18 plus, in community clubs and camps. Our program outreach accommodates youth with diverse abilities in inclusive, safe environments. 4-H learning activities increase youths' knowledge in Science/STEM, Healthy Living, and Leadership, while simultaneously developing their life skills such as independence and decision-making. Families will enjoy hands-on activities while learning what Florida 4-H offers differently-abled youth.

Noelle Guay
UF/IFAS Extension Palm Beach
County
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West Palm Beach, FL 33415
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noelle.guay@ufl.edu

Nancy Moores
UF/IFAS Extension Hernando
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PO Box 15427
Brooksville, FL 34604
(352) 540-6229
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Jessica Sprain
UF/IFAS Osceola County
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane
Kissimmee, FL 34744
(321) 697-3000
jsprain@ufl.edu

How to Become an Athlete Leader for Special Olympics of Florida

Learn how to become an athlete leader with Special Olympics of Florida.

David Helseth
Special Olympics of Indian River County
642 17th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 633-1592
davidhelseth@icloud.com

Accessible Travel 101: How to Explore the World with a Disability

Some people with disabilities were avid travelers before wheelchair life or experiencing health problems. Others have never traveled, either due to fear of the unknown, or the belief that their disability will prevent them from leaving home. Fortunately, destinations around the world and the travel sector have made great strides in accessibility that have made world travel possible for a greater number of people with disabilities. In this session, attendees will learn how accessible travel is possible, what to expect when traveling with a disability, and how to overcome common fears associated with accessible travel.

Sylvia Longmire
Spin the Globe
1741 Travertine Terrace
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 221-1818
sylvia@spintheglobe.net

Using Youth Sports To Build More Than Just Fitness

Youth sports are ubiquitous in American society, yet many people with disabilities or special health care needs are precluded from participating. While this has obvious, negative impacts on their ability to gain physical fitness, it also impacts other aspects of their lives. This presentation will discuss the opportunity to gain valuable ancillary benefits from youth sports, including social skills, teamwork, perseverance, and confidence. It will highlight a unique program offered throughout Florida that supplements the typical youth sports coaching model with peer-based, 1:1 mentoring to ensure safe, successful participation.

David Robinson
Florida Youth Soccer Association
7207 Pine Valley Street
Bradenton, FL 34202
(941) 704-5470
drobinson@fysa.com

ROUNDTABLES

Autism Roundtable

One of the best ways to link parents/caregivers of children under the autism spectrum with current resources and education is to speak to someone who has “been there” and “done that.” This year at the annual conference the Family Cafe Delegates will be hosting round-table conversations where parents can network with other parents to share valuable experiences and proven strategies that have worked for them. If you are new to parenting a child with autism or have a particular challenge your family is facing, this session may provide the support and guidance you need. Come and make new friends!

Una de las mejores maneras de vincular a los padres/cuidadores de niños bajo el espectro del autismo con los recursos y la educación actuales es hablar con alguien que «ha estado allí» y «ha hecho eso». Este año, en la conferencia anual, los delegados de Family Cafe organizarán conversaciones de mesa redonda donde los padres pueden establecer contactos con otros padres para compartir experiencias valiosas y estrategias comprobadas que les han funcionado. Si es nuevo en la crianza de un hijo con autismo o tiene un desafío particular que enfrenta su familia, esta sesión puede brindarle el apoyo y la orientación que necesita. Ven y haz nuevos amigos!

Cindy Borroto
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Miami, FL 33015
(786) 797-6234
cindy1231@bellsouth.net

Maureen Morris
3206 Antigua Drive
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 380-4676
solarflair1@comcast.net

22q Roundtable

Do you or someone you love have 22q11.2 Syndrome? Whether you know it as 22q, VCFS, DiGeorge, or Shprintzen Syndrome, it is now believed to be the second most common genetic syndrome (1:1,000 live births). Yet most people have never heard of it! Come talk with parents and people with 22q who will understand. We will share our experiences and help you answer questions, gather information, and meet others facing similar situations. Learn more about what the future holds for you or your loved one, while becoming part of our 22q family.

Maria Kneipple
Florida 22q Families
2920 Southwest 80th Avenue
Miami, FL 33155
(305) 519-4059
miami22q@gmail.com

Kristina Buchholtz
Florida 22q Families
445 Northeast 35th Street
Boca Raton, FL 33917
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kristinabuchholtz@hotmail.com

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Roundtable

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome is a rare specific chromosomal abnormality. APD now serves those with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome (PMS). This session will give an introduction to this syndrome, which is characterized by low muscle tone, absent to severely delayed speech, moderate to profound intellectual disability, motor delays, symptoms of autism spectrum disorder and epilepsy. This is a chance for families to connect with each other, network, and share experiences and resources.

Vicki Kurkimilis
2025 Cape Heather Circle
Cape Coral, FL 33991
(239) 340-4247
VickiKurkimilis@gmail.com

Brittany McLarney
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
Foundation
PO Box 1153
Osprey, FL 34229
(941) 485-8000
Brittany@pmsf.org

Courtney Camarillo
18222 Oriole Road
Fort Myers, FL 33967
(239) 822-7403
CourtneyCamarillo99@gmail.com

Down Syndrome Roundtable

Are you looking for a chance to network with other families who have a family member with Down Syndrome? This is an opportunity for families to connect with each other, share their experiences, and offer information and support to one another. Sometimes the best education you can get is from another parent or caregiver. If you would like to talk about your experiences with Down Syndrome, join us for this informal conversation time.

Irene Nicola
2509 Wood Oak Drive
Sarasota, FL 34232
(941) 724-5964
srqmom@yahoo.com

Cerebral Palsy Roundtable

Are you looking for a chance to network with other families? This is a chance for families to connect with each other and share their experiences. Sometimes, the best education you can get is from another parent or caregiver. If you'd like to talk about your experience with cerebral palsy, join us for this informal conversation. Where you can ask questions or just listen and be.

Cathy Seacrist
3600 Arthur Street
Hollywood, FL 33021
(954) 632-0510
cathybear143@aol.com

The Icebreaker Initiative: Multiple Disability Roundtable

At this breakout session, families and children with multiple special needs are encouraged to share their stories, remain strong, and unite as a movement. Revealing our trials will attract others who relate to this lifestyle. With a stronger understanding of our surroundings, we help keep each other informed to build a supportive community.

Hermine Wilson-Lang
150 Northeast 79th Street, #209
Miami, FL 33138
(917) 459-2965
herminewilson123@gmail.com

Roundtable on Special Needs Housing and Employment

This roundtable discussion will address available housing solutions for persons with disabilities, expectations, and discussion of what you would want in a special needs independent living facility. Next Step's purpose is to provide a housing community for low-income persons with special needs with services and employment opportunities in the Seminole County Florida Area.

Carol Sharisky
Next Step Seminole
1801 Walsh Street
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 971-1796
mullucan@msn.com



SMART MONEY

Unlocking the Mystery of Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts

This informative workshop is designed for parents, guardians and advocates of individuals with special needs. Attorneys Sarah AuMiller and Peggy Hoyt will discuss the importance of legal and estate planning for families with special needs. A family member with special needs creates an added layer of complexity to estate planning—the need for advanced trust planning and guardianship. In this workshop, you will learn the basics of special needs trusts—both first party and third party trusts, including why they are important for protecting government benefit eligibility and providing lifetime protection for vulnerable individuals. We will also explore both guardianship and guardian advocacy—when each is appropriate, and why they are essential for the protection of your loved ones.

Sarah AuMiller
The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan
254 Plaza Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 977-8080
Info@HoytBryan.com

Strategies to Become an Employable Job Candidate

National Disability Institute, World Services for the Blind, and the National Association of Certified Credit Counselors will conduct a workshop on the financial capability of adults with disabilities. The workshop will specifically address actionable tasks that individuals with disabilities can do to access the education, resources, and tools they need to build credit, understand benefits, manage money with confidence, and become improved candidates for employment opportunities in the community.

Nancy Boutot
National Disability Institute
23 Lamar Lane
Palm Coast, FL 32137
(904) 687-9188
nboutot@ndi-inc.org

Sharon Giovinazzo
World Services for the Blind
2811 Fair Park Boulevard
Little Rock, AR 72204
sgiovinazzo@wsblind.org

Heather Aiello
National Association of Certified
Credit Counselors
(321) 725-3497
haiello@nacc.us

Your Credit Report: What is Good and Bad Debt?

This presentation will be a combination of the My Money Financial Literacy Program from the Florida Department of Financial Services (FDFS) and a how-to on understanding credit and the credit system. The FDFS developed the My Money Program to provide information and resources to empower individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers to work towards financial independence.

Tara Davis
Regions Bank
3621 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32311
(850) 701-8332
tara.davis@regions.com

Provide Financially For Your Child & Plan Your Retirement Too? NOT IMPOSSIBLE!

Don't miss this knowledgeable, engaging, interactive, and often humorous presentation. Craig Eppy will navigate how to create a special needs plan AND save for your retirement, touching on such topics as:

- ABLÉ accounts
- Protection of government benefits
- Wills
- Trusts
- HIPAA laws and how they can affect direction of care
- Health care surrogates
- Letters of Intent
- Living wills
- Durable power of attorney
- Funding a special needs trust
- Guardianship options
- Accepting a financial gift—what not to do

An hour of your time = a lifetime of information!

Craig Eppy
The Eppy Group
500 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 1800
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394
(954) 271-7888
c.eppy@eppygroup.com

ABLE United 101

In this presentation, you'll learn how ABLÉ accounts provide an opportunity to save tax-free without impacting eligibility for public benefits like Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. You can contribute what you can, when you can, all with the help of family and friends – and the funds can be used at any time to pay for qualified disability expenses like doctor's appointments, transportation, housing, education and even everyday living expenses like groceries.

We invite you to join us, ask questions, and most importantly, learn how you can start Achieving a Better Life Experience through ABLÉ United (and receive a \$75 deposit into your new ABLÉ account!)

John Finch
ABLE United
1801 Hermitage Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 413-1411
john.finch@ableunited.com

The Basics on ABLE Accounts 2.0

ABLE United, Florida's qualified ABLE program, provides new opportunities for people with disabilities and can change the way you plan for short-term expenditures and establish long-term savings. In this session, you'll learn about how ABLE United could benefit you or your loved ones, how ABLE United helps you save without negatively impacting federal benefits, and how ABLE United differs from other savings options such as Special Needs Trusts.

John Finch
ABLE United
1801 Hermitage Boulevard
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(850) 413-1411
john.finch@ableunited.com

Benefits and Tax Savings for Families with Special Needs

Parents of children with special needs incur a variety of expenses, including therapies, educational training, tutoring, personal care aides, transportation, home modifications, medical supplies and specialized diets. Many of these expenses may be tax deductible, but are often overlooked by tax professionals who are unfamiliar with the types and categorization of qualified expenses. Learn how to identify these often missed tax deductions and other tools to save on your family's federal income tax. You will also get updates on the new ABLE 529 account, which will allow \$100,000 in savings while retaining SSI and Medicaid benefits, and the Affordable Care Act.

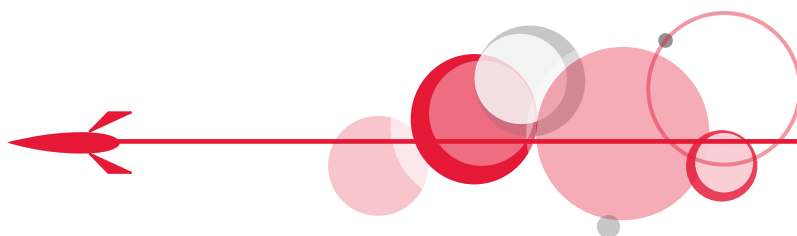
Karen Greenberg
Prosperity Life Planning, Inc.
4673 Brady Boulevard
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 638-6945
kfgreenberg@cs.com

Jaret Vogel
Prosperity Life Planning, Inc.
4673 Brady Boulevard
Delray Beach, FL 33445
jaretlvogel@aol.com

Preparing for Adulting: WIOA, Transition, and Finances for Students with Disabilities

This session will focus on empowering individuals in making an informed choice regarding a young adult's transitional life choices. Topics include: transition, Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, Ticket to Work Program, Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Protected Medicaid, and Postsecondary Education Services and Support. The main goal of our presentation is to equip the attendees with the basic knowledge of services and programs for the transition-aged student/adult.

Felicia Jordan
Disability Rights Florida
1930 Harrison Street, Suite 104
Hollywood, FL 33020
(850) 488-9071
feliciaj@disabilityrightsflorida.org



Your Dependent With Special Needs: Making Their Future More Secure

Families with children and other dependents with special needs, no matter what the age or disability, face many serious questions about how to best prepare for their future well-being. This workshop addresses such critical issues as protecting government benefit eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, creating Special Needs Trusts, the importance of a Will, Guardianship, Financial Strategies, and considering a Letter of Intent. The workshop will also address ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for qualified individuals with disabilities and their families. Taking steps now can help arrange for a loved one's well-being today and tomorrow.

Douglas Vogel
MassMutual SpecialCare
370 West Camino Gardens Boulevard, Suite 305
Boca Raton, FL 33432
(561) 757-6767
dvogal@financialguide.com

STATE AGENCIES, SERVICES, & RESOURCES

Family Care Council—For A Lifetime of Support

If anyone in your family has a developmental disability, or if you have a developmental disability and are living in Florida, you should know your local Family Care Council. **DON'T MISS THIS SESSION!** In 1993, the Florida Legislature created the Family Care Councils, with one in each Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) service area. The council advises APD and helps develop plans for delivery of family support services. We like to consider ourselves the "Best Guide" for the families. Our mission is to educate and empower individuals, and that is what we do. In this session you will learn more about Family Care Council Florida and its local chapters, get your questions answered, and clear up any myths and legends. Come meet your area Chairs and find support with others. Come learn about us and get involved. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our special loved ones. **WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!**

Sandra Ames
Family Care Council
25000 Southwest 162nd Avenue
Homestead, FL 33031
(305) 281-1842
sandmom@att.net

Social Security Presents: Charting a Course to SSDI Work Incentives

This session will focus on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) employment support provisions that assist beneficiaries in moving from benefit dependency to independence. We will discuss work incentives designed to help beneficiaries enter, re-enter, or stay in the workforce by protecting their eligibility for cash payments and/or healthcare.

Elizabeth Baez-Beatey
Social Security Administration
7186 Bonneval Road, Suite 1
Jacksonville, FL 32257
elizabeth.baez-beatey@ssa.gov

Social Security Presents: Skip the Line, Report Wages Online

This information session will provide step-by-step instructions on how to report wages online using Social Security's online wage reporting system. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries and their representative payees, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, their spouses, parents, sponsors, and representative payees can now report wages online.

Elizabeth Baez-Beatey
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Meet the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

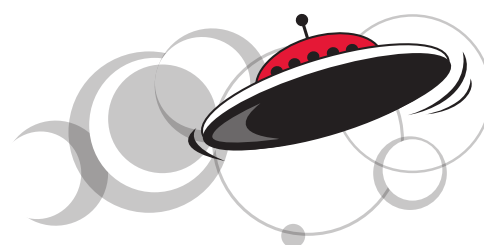
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is Florida's premier employment agency for people with disabilities. Come and learn about the many services VR has to offer people with disabilities when seeking a job, and for employers needing qualified employees, from Director Allison Flanagan. She will provide information on the many services and supports available in the VR process, starting with a referral, to the application steps, eligibility determination, IPE development, services, and placement to successful job outcomes. She will provide an overview of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, known as WIOA, requirements for students with disabilities, the activities of the VR Ombudsman Office, Centers for Independent Living, vendor registration, and more. Allison believes she is fortunate to be working with talented staff and community partners to provide services that focus on employability, work behaviors, and other skills that prepare individuals with disabilities to work.

Allison Flanagan
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
4070 Esplanade Way, Second Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-3285
allison.flanagan@vr.fldoe.org

Panel of Experts, Parent and Child Perspectives: Navigating Disability Systems, Education, Employment, and Life Experiences With Vision Loss

This session will feature a panel of parents and children with visual impairments and explore their unique perspectives on living with vision loss. Panelists varying from children to adulthood will share an overview of their experiences with disability systems, school services, employment, and general community agencies. This question and answer session will allow panel members to share personal experiences, advice, and resources with attendees. Families will have an opportunity to engage in conversations and share their viewpoint in what the future holds educationally, vocationally, and functionally for your child with visual impairments. This session is sponsored and moderated by the Division of Blind Services.

Mireya Hernandez
Division of Blind Services
415 South Armenia Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 871-7190
mireya.hernandez@dbs.fldoe.org



Electronic Visit Verification and Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) Program

This session is for current CDC+ Participants. The CDC+ Program is consumer driven and offers greater flexibility so you can have increased independence and more control over services. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is a new federal requirement for providers who are delivering Medicaid services. This session will discuss the federal requirements of EVV, as well as how to use the CDC+ EVV System.

Larry Hill
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
larry.hill@apdcares.org

Introduction to Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) Program

Have you ever wondered what CDC+ is and if it is right for you? The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will provide an overview of the CDC+ program. This presentation will provide you with an introduction to CDC+ and give a brief overview of program requirements. Bring any questions you have about CDC+ and we'll be happy to answer as many as time will allow.

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Agency for Persons with Disabilities
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Self-Determination and Service Providers: Advocating through Life's Journeys

This panel will discuss the challenges and successes of individuals who have had ups and downs along the path of life and who have found some innovative ways to live their lives. The panel will also discuss the importance of speaking up for yourself and working in partnership with service providers. The challenges of school, work, and the realities of day-to-day life and navigating through the decisions that make each person's life unique will be discussed. Focus on self-determination: how do you keep yourself on that path and in control of your life? Audience participation is encouraged. Natalie Jean is the APD Ombudsman and will serve as the moderator.

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Robyn Stawski
New Tampa Family YMCA
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Rebecca Crosby
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Sara Canali
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Sebring, FL 33870
canali60@embarqmail.com

Zero Tolerance: Stopping the Silent Epidemic

The Zero Tolerance Initiative represents an aggressive and proactive multi-pronged approach to dealing with all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and sexual exploitation committed against individuals with developmental disabilities, using national research and data to determine ways to improve training and education, monitoring, and quality improvement activities, and to implement changes to operating procedures and processes within the agency. Individuals with developmental disabilities are at a higher risk of being victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and/or sexual misconduct. Awareness and understanding are key to developing and implementing preventative measures to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of these very vulnerable individuals. This presentation will provide information on how we can work together to address the silent epidemic of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and sexual misconduct committed against individuals living with disabilities.

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cassandra.jenkins@apdcares.org

Let Us Help You with Your Vision for the Future

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities have an array of services and programs available to assist youth and adults to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain competitive integrated employment. This session will share information about how these two programs work together and their roles in helping youth and adults reach their employment goals. There will be time allotted for questions and answers as well as an opportunity to learn how to apply for and receive services.

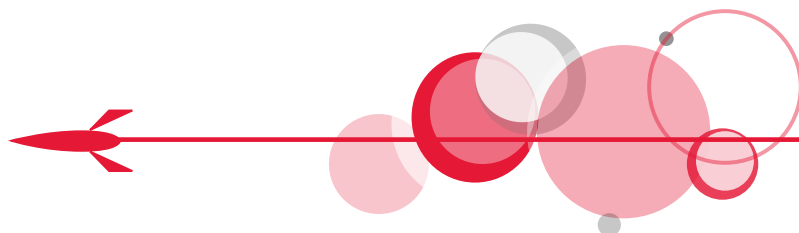
Kiersten Lee
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4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
kiersten.lee@apdcares.org

Jan Pearce
Vocational Rehabilitation
4050 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399
jan.pearce@vr.fldoe.org

APD iConnect

This presentation will provide an update of the APD iConnect project implementation. Specific information will include clarification of that overall project implementation schedule, and detailed information regarding the implementation of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). Attendees will learn how the implementation of EVV will impact service delivery for respite and personal support services. Individuals and their families will learn about the APD iConnect EVV mobile application. Additional information will be provided regarding additional APD iConnect functionalities scheduled for implementation in the summer of 2020.

Shelia Mott
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 363-1235
shelia.mott@apdcares.org



Meet APD Director Barbara Palmer

Barbara Palmer was appointed director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in August 2012. APD serves more than 55,000 people with developmental disabilities in Florida. APD also supports its customers so they may go to work and earn a living. Come and hear about Director Palmer's future priorities for the agency.

Barbara Palmer
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
barbara.palmer@apdcares.org

Eligibility for Participation in APD Services

This session will provide helpful information about the application and eligibility determination process to receive services from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), the criteria for placement on the agency's Waiting List and assignment of a Waiting List Priority Category, and the enrollment requirements for participation in Florida's Medicaid Individual Budgeting (iBudget) waiver. The session will also include a high-level description of the types of services available to APD clients who are on the Waiting List and services available to individuals enrolled on the iBudget waiver.

Esta sesión proporcionará información útil sobre el proceso de solicitud y determinación de elegibilidad para recibir servicios de la Agencia para Personas con Discapacidades («APD»), los criterios para la colocación en la Lista de espera de la agencia y la asignación de una Categoría de prioridad de la Lista de espera, y la inscripción requisitos para participar en la exención de Presupuesto Individual de Medicaid (iBudget) de Florida. La sesión también incluirá una descripción de alto nivel de los tipos de servicios disponibles para los clientes de APD que están en la Lista de espera y los servicios disponibles para las personas inscritas en la exención de iBudget.

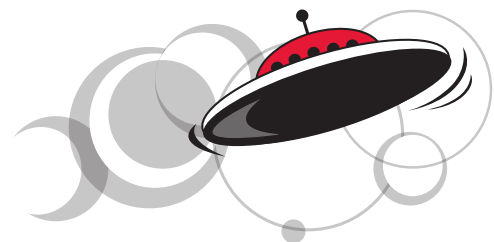
Liesl Ramos
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Amanda Soule
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amanda.soule@apdcares.org

Social Security Presents: Can a Plan to Achieve Self Support Help Me?

This informational session will focus on the Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS), focusing on developing an individual plan for disabled beneficiaries receiving Social Security benefits.

Carolyn Smith
Social Security Administration
SEPSC/WSU-PASS Cadre
1200 Reverend Abraham Woods Jr. Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35285
carolyn.d.smith@ssa.gov



Concejo de Apoyo Familiar – Por Una Vida Entera de Apoyo

Si alguien en su familia tiene una discapacidad del desarrollo o si usted tiene una discapacidad del desarrollo y vive en Florida, debe conocer a su Consejo de Cuidado Familiar local, **NO SE PIERDA ESTA SESIÓN**. En 1993, la Legislatura de Florida creó el Family Care Council, uno en cada una de las áreas de servicio de la Agencia para Personas con Discapacidades (APO). El consejo asesora a APO, ayuda a desarrollar planes para la prestación de servicios de apoyo familiar y nos gusta considerarnos la «Mejor Guía» para las familias. Nuestra misión es educar y capacitar a las personas y eso es lo que hacemos. Aprenderá más sobre Family Care Council Florida y los capítulos locales recibirán respuestas a sus preguntas y aclararán mitos y leyendas. Ven a conocer a los presidentes de tu área y encuentra apoyo con los demás. Ven a conocernos y participa. Juntos podemos marcar la diferencia en la vida de nuestros seres queridos especiales. ¡No podemos esperar para conocerte!

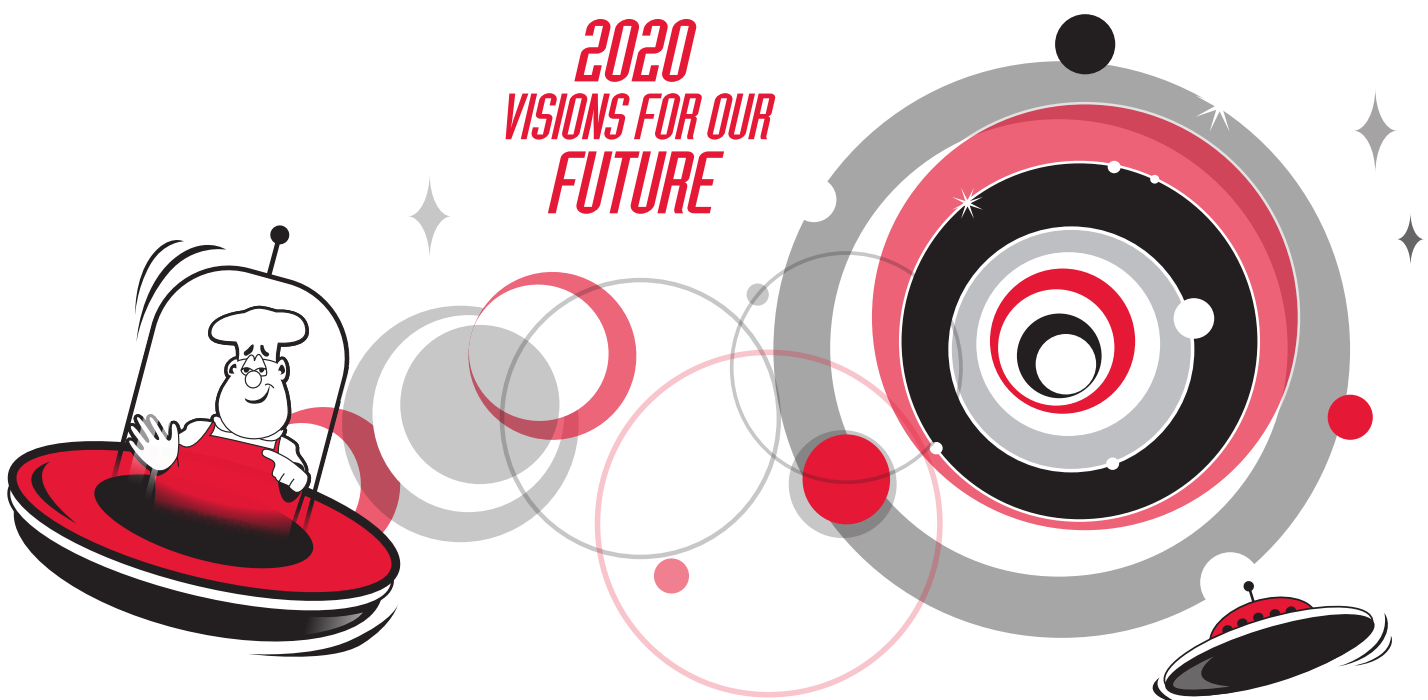
Denise Torres
The Arc Jacksonville
1050 North Davis Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 355-0155
dtorres@arcjacksonville.org

Sandra Ames
Family Care Council
25000 Southwest 162nd Avenue
Homestead, FL 33031
(305) 281-1842
sandmom@att.net

Social Security Presents: Navigating SSI Work Incentives and Income Exclusions

This session will focus on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) employment support provisions that assist recipients in moving from benefit dependency to independence. Join us for a discussion of work incentives designed to help recipients enter, re-enter, or stay in the workforce by protecting their eligibility for cash payments and/or healthcare.

Tina Williams
Social Security Administration
7185 Bonneval Boulevard, Suite 1
Jacksonville, FL 32256
tina.louise.williams@ssa.gov



TRANSITION & SOCIAL LIFE

How to Prepare Your Loved One for Independent Living

Falon Alo, Executive Director of Noah's Ark of Central Florida and the Villages at Noah's Landing, will discuss some key areas of focus for preparing your loved one to live independently. The presentation will also give a brief overview of life at the Villages at Noah's Landing and the application process.

Falon Alo
Noah's Ark of Central Florida
500 Inspiration Drive
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 867-0804
falon@noahsarkflorida.org

Become a Bigger Fish: How to Market Your Most Dateable Self to Potential Partners

As people with disabilities, we want the same things as our able bodied peers—to enjoy an active social life, date, and find love. But we also know that can be easier said than done. The goal of this presentation is to show you how to market your best qualities as a potential dater while safely and creatively navigating some of the pitfalls you may experience. Above all else, we'll show you how to make dating fun!

Como personas con discapacidades, queremos las mismas cosas que nuestros compañeros capaces: disfrutar de una vida social activa, tener citas y encontrar el amor. Pero también sabemos que puede ser más fácil decirlo que hacerlo. El objetivo de esta presentación es mostrarle cómo comercializar sus mejores cualidades como fechador potencial mientras navega de manera segura y creativa por algunos de los escollos que puede experimentar. ¡Sobre todo, le mostraremos cómo hacer que las citas sean divertidas!

Rebecca Crosby
The Ride or Die Queen
10706 Preserve Lake Drive, Apartment 103
Tampa, FL 33626
(407) 927-1787
rebeccacrosby@gmail.com

Victor Soto
Hillsborough County Mosquito Control
10706 Preserve Lake Drive, Apartment 103
Tampa, FL 33626
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vsoto05@gmail.com

Transition Basics: Information for Families and Others Who Support Students with Disabilities

This presentation includes topics that are of interest to families of youth who are transition age (14 - 22) or approaching transition age. These topics include the importance of family involvement; transition services; individual educational plan (IEP) components; self-advocacy and self-determination; responsibilities of schools, families, and students; and resources supporting family involvement in transition planning. Through this session, families will better understand the secondary transition process and how best to support their youth to achieve post-school success.

Tracy Dempsey
Project 10: Transition Education Network
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tracydempsey@usfsp.edu

Franklin Coker
Project 10: Transition Education Network
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Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
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fjcoker@usfsp.edu

Supported Living as a Housing Option

Finding housing options for our young adults with disabilities can be overwhelming and confusing. Supported Living may be an option that you aren't that familiar with. We will talk about what supported living is and what it can look like. We will also talk about funding for this housing option.

Vicki Kurkimilis
2025 Cape Heather Circle
Cape Coral, FL 33991
(239) 340-4247
VickiKurkimilis@gmail.com

Michael Peters
Advanced Options LLC
6025 Taylor Road, Unit 107
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 347-7494
mpeters@honorhc.com

What's Out There? A Look at Transition-Related Resources in Florida and Beyond

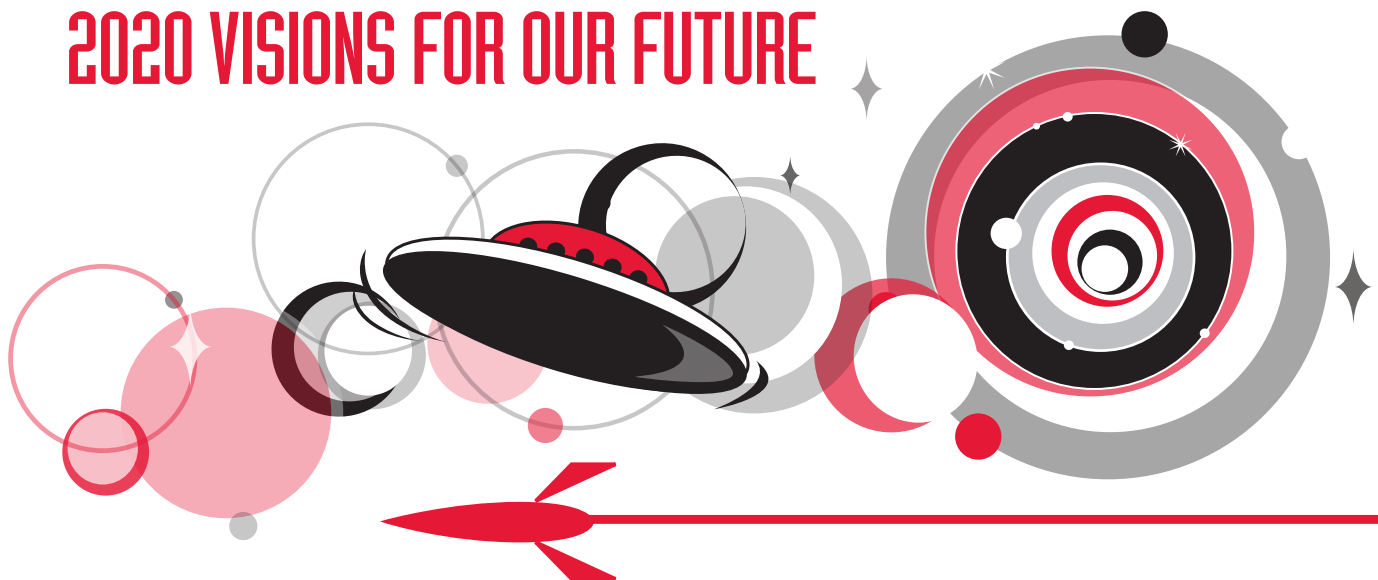
The goal of the presentation is to assist transitioning students with disabilities, their families, and other community partners to identify available resources and work together to access resources appropriate to the student's specific needs. This presentation will share information about resources for students with disabilities related to postsecondary education and training, employment, and benefits planning; transfer of rights at age 18 and resources related to guardianship and other decision-making alternatives; and educational opportunities and community resources that support secondary transition.

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(850) 745-1373
tracydempsey@usfsp.edu

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



What Will They Do When I'm Gone: Ensuring Affordable Housing for Your Loved One

Attendees will learn about housing resources in Florida, the importance of the ROOF Community Land Trust (CLT), and how it works to ensure the safety and well-being of their loved ones. The presenter will share valuable information and tips on CLTs and how they ensure affordable housing for the future, how to make a home accessible, planning for success in independent living, support services for living in inclusive settings, and where to learn more. Goals of the ROOF CLT: Goal 1—Provide a solution for aging parents of adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who want to have their loved one continue to live in their home after the parents pass away; Goal 2—Provide permanent supportive rental housing; Goal 3—Provide home-ownership opportunities.

Sheryl Soukup
Residential Options of Florida
3050 Horseshoe Drive North, Suite 285
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 774-7663
riley@soukupstrategicsolutions.com

Beyond Transition: Life as a 30-Something Adult with Dual Sensory Loss

When the schools talk about "transition age," they refer to age 14-21, and possibly up to 26 years of age. This panel of young adults in their 30s share their experiences transitioning from high school, getting some form of post-secondary training, moving into the workforce, and breaking into adult life with combined vision and hearing loss. They will share their stories of self-determination, strides, and set-backs as they endeavor to have rich and satisfying lives. Come share their journeys and lessons learned!

Emily Taylor-Snell
University of Florida, Florida and Virgin Islands Deaf-
Blind Collaborative
34747 Prairie Ridge Way
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
(813) 817-1873
etsnell74@gmail.com

Divya Goel
Jeremy Best
CJ Howard III
Tiffany Morales

Seeing the Future Without Limits: Successful Transition to Adulthood and Employment

For parents of teens with disabilities it may seem that pursuing employment is an impossible dream. But what if the impossible dream were possible? What if successful transition to adulthood with a high school education and/or a career that provides self-sufficiency were possible? Come join us for a conversation about raising the bar on expectations for transition to adulthood. Let's chase the impossible dream together by exploring Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Blind Services, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, accommodations, and more.

Wendy Vance
Disability Rights Florida
2423 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
wendyv@drflorida.org

Carolina Trigo
Disability Rights Florida
1930 Harrison Street, Suite 104
Hollywood, FL 33020
carolinat@drflorida.org



Sibshop

Sibshops are evidence of the loving concern the family member who will have the longest-lasting relationship with a person with a disability has. However, for the kids who attend them, Sibshops are pedal-to-the-metal events where they will meet other siblings (usually for the first time), have fun, laugh, talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sibling with special needs, play some great games, learn something about the services their brothers and sister receive, and have more fun.

Cheryl Albright
Soul To Soul Yoga
3210 47th Drive East
Bradenton, FL 34203
(585) 781-4826
cheryl@soultosoulyogasrq.com

Learn to be a Dungeon Guide

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This is an interactive workshop to teach youth to be a Dungeon Guide for role players who explore a dungeon. In this workshop for youth ages 14 to 22, youth will learn the basic principles of role playing (like Dungeons & Dragons, but this is not D&D). A very simple version of role playing will be shared, and participants will prepare to be the Dungeon Guide for characters during Session 3: Exploring the Castle Ruins and Dungeon. Participants will learn the rules, understand the example story, learn how to create a dungeon of their own, and practice how to guide a group of adventurers through the scenario. Space is limited to 20 participants. This event is intended for youth who are independent, as the presence of adult caregivers may dissuade other youth from feeling comfortable in their role and expressing themselves. Dungeon Dice, rules, graph paper, a ruler, and a pencil will be provided. This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing, and members of The Florida Youth Council.

John Ferrone
Ferrone Associates
1126 Country Club Drive
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 462-0244
jferrone@ferroneassociates.com

Create a Character and Learn to Role Play

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This is an interactive workshop to teach youth how to role play and how to build a character. In this workshop for youth ages 10 to 22, youth will learn the basic principles of role playing (like Dungeons & Dragons, but this is not D&D). A very simple version of role playing will be shared, and each youth will then create a character and practice role playing using the rules. By the end of the workshop, youth will be ready to participate in Session 3: Exploring the Castle Ruins and Dungeon using the character they have created. Space is limited to 100 youth. This event is intended for youth who are independent, as the presence of adult caregivers may dissuade other youth from feeling comfortable in their role and expressing themselves. Dungeon Dice, rules, character sheet, and pencil will be provided. This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing, and members of The Florida Youth Council.

John Ferrone
Ferrone Associates
1126 Country Club Drive
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 462-0244
jferrone@ferroneassociates.com

Exploring the Castle Ruins and Dungeon

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This extended session is three hours and will consist of youth who attended Session 1 to learn to be a Dungeon Guide along with youth who attended Session 2 to create a Character. Youth must have attended one or the other to participate in Session 3. Youth will either be a Dungeon Guide who will host the adventure, or a Character who will go on the adventure. Small groups will be created, each with a Dungeon Guide and Characters, and they will be supervised, coached and supported as they play the role playing game they have learned in Sessions 1 and 2. This event is intended for youth who are independent, as the presence of adult caregivers may dissuade other youth from feeling comfortable in their role and expressing themselves. Don't forget to bring your Dungeon Dice from Session 1 or 2! This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing, and members of The Florida Youth Council.

John Ferrone
Ferrone Associates
1126 Country Club Drive
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 462-0244
jferrone@ferroneassociates.com

Come Chat with the FYC

Come sit and talk with The Florida Youth Council. We would love to get to know you while you learn about what The Florida Youth Council is, what we do, and who we are as individual council members.

Natasha Germain
The Family Café -
Florida Youth Council
820 East Park Avenue,
Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 224-4670
ngermain@familycafe.net

John Howard Baldino
Florida Youth Council

Derek Carraway
Florida Youth Council

Christina Waldron
Florida Youth Council

Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Alexander Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council

Serena Wetmore
Florida Youth Council

Dakota Smoot
Florida Youth Council

Emma Massey
Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman
Florida Youth Council

Disability History and Awareness

In this session we will talk about disability history and awareness. We'll discuss important moments when individuals with disabilities fought for their rights throughout history. We'll help you gain an understanding of the importance of advocating for yourself and others with disabilities. If you forget your history, you're bound to repeat it.

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Florida Youth Council
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ngermain@familycafe.net

Derek Carraway
Florida Youth Council

Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Alexander Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council

How Having A Sibling Affected My Childhood

For a young person with a disability, growing up with a sibling who does not have a disability can affect them deeply. It can also be a challenging experience for the sibling who doesn't have a disability. The person on either side can feel misunderstood, or like their sibling is receiving special treatment. This session will have siblings with disabilities and siblings without disabilities, and explore how it affected both sides growing up.

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Alexander Gonzalez
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Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council

IEP Jeopardy

It's all fun and games! We want to test your knowledge of IEP meetings and/or IEP facts. The Florida Youth Council will be exploring our IEP guide with you as we play Jeopardy. Everyone likes games. So let's play and win some candy!

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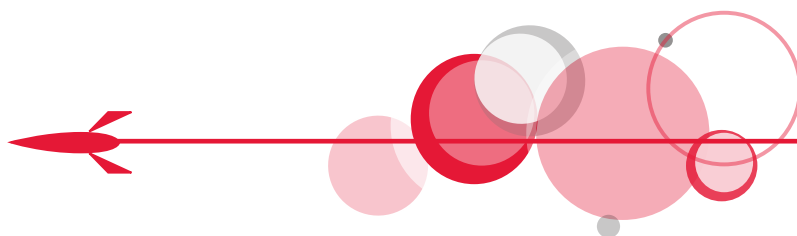
Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council

You're On Your Own. Awesome . . . Wow: Paloma's Dream

Born with Peter's Anomaly, 14-year-old Paloma will share her experiences, including helping secure fundraising for kids like her, being an independent teen, navigating the Florida Instructional Manuals Center for the Visually Impaired, and writing the award-winning book *Paloma's Dream: The True Story of One Girl's Mission to Help Kids, Inspire Activism, and Survive Middle School*. Come, connect, and be inspired.

Paloma Rambana
Paloma's Dream
9918 Buck Point Road
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(850) 544-9970
elizabeth@rambana.com





First-ever
VIRTUAL

22nd Annual
Family Café

presents

Samantha Lebron Ms. Wheelchair Florida 2020

Samantha, a 33-year-old with cerebral palsy, devotes her time to advocating on behalf of others with disabilities and making meaningful connections with non-profit organizations in Tampa that foster this community's independence.

She is currently involved with three organizations, the Grow Group, All People's Life Center and Self Reliance; a Center for Independent Living. The center focuses on teaching life skills that are necessary for youth transitioning out of high school to live independently in their community just like Samantha did.

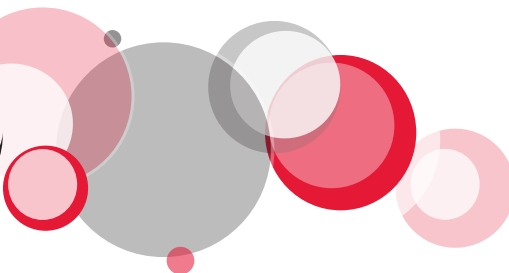
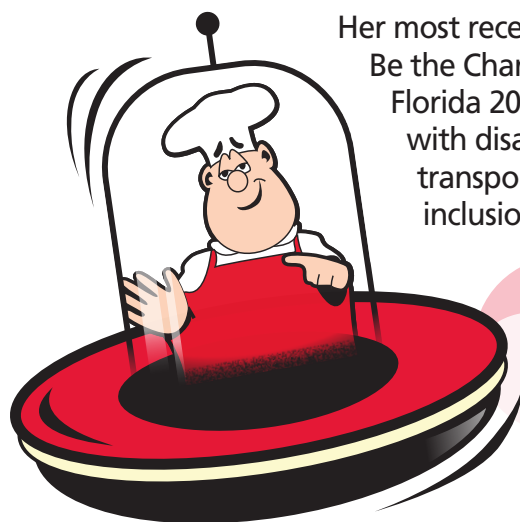
As an ambassador and spokesperson for ABLE United, she shares the importance of the ABLE Act and purpose for ABLE accounts. To spread the message that people with disabilities can save for their futures without jeopardizing their federal benefits eligibility.

She is also a certified Work Incentives Practitioner where she does benefit planning with people living with disabilities who want to work. In her spare time, she participates in adaptive sports, including swimming, golf, waterskiing, para-badminton, kayaking, archery, tennis, and table tennis with Paralympic Sport Tampa Bay. Recently, she was recruited to be on the Paralympic USA Table Tennis team.



Samantha Lebron

Her most recent achievement is she was just crowned at the 47th Annual Be the Change...Be Empowered Conference and Gala as Ms. Wheelchair Florida 2020. Transportation is one of the largest barriers for those living with disabilities. With her platform, Samantha hopes she can expand transportation services for all while continuing to promote diversity, inclusion, and awareness for the disabled community.



ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Watch for Entertainment Videos During the Virtual Annual Family Café!

Musical Performances by: The Pyramid Players
Noah Arazashvili

Adaptive Yoga with Cheryl Albright



Book readings by authors:
JR Harding • Tony Hernandez-Pumarejo
Kat Magnoli • Paloma Rambana

Everyone Can Zumba with Paula Keyser Burns



My First Workout with Michelle Miller

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

JOB HUNTING? WE SHOULD TALK.

The CareerSource Florida network of nearly 100 career centers have professional Disability Specialists and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists available to help you find the right training or land a great job.

**CONNECT WITH EMPLOYMENT
SPECIALISTS STATEWIDE**

abilitieswork.employflorida.com
(844) 245-3405



A proud partner of the **AmericanJobCenter** network

CareerSource Florida is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Disponible en Español.



Florida's Disability Savings Program

ABLE United, Florida's qualified ABLE program, was designed specifically for Floridians diagnosed with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, cognitive and development disabilities, as well as mental health disorders.

ABLE accounts are a tax-free savings and investment account that generally do not impact eligibility for public benefit programs such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. The best part is, anybody can contribute, and funds can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses like doctor's appointments, transportation, housing, education, and even everyday living expenses including groceries.

We hope that while you're at home, you'll consider adding enrolling in an ABLE United account to your to-do list and make saving for you or your loved one part of your daily, weekly or monthly routine.



GET STARTED SAVING TODAY

Complete enrollment online, contribute at least \$25 and use the Family Café promo code **FAMILY75** before June 30 to:

- Get \$75 in your new ABLE account
- Receive an ABLE United prize pack



sunshine health[™]

Sunshine Health is proud to support **Family Café** in providing resources and opportunities to people with disabilities and their families.

Activities and Providers

- **Live Alligators & Crocodiles:** Gatorland (gatorland.com)
- **Archery:** FL Fish and Wildlife Commission (myfwc.com)
- **Water-Skiing:** Ann's Angels (annsangelsawf.org)
- **Tennis:** United States Tennis Association (usta.com)
- **SCUBA:** Life Worth Leading (lifeworthleading.org)
- **Track Chair:** Tracked Mobility (trackchairrentals.com)
- **Surfing:** Oceans of Hope Foundation (oceansofhopefoundation.org)
- **Canoeing:** Removing the Barriers Initiative (removingthebarriers.org)
- **Biking:** Buddy Bike (buddybike.com)
- **Boating:** Bird Dog Boats (birddogboats.com)



Rubber Ducky Race

Get into the *Virtual* Rubber Ducky Race and take a chance to win real prizes!

For more info visit:
fdoa.org/cafe-sampler



#VirtualFamilyCafe #SportsAbilitySampler

First-ever
VIRTUAL

Family CAFÉ

2020 VISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

THE 13TH ANNUAL **YOUTH** SUMMIT

A CONFERENCE FOR
YOUTH & EMERGING
LEADERS WITH
DISABILITIES



AS SUMMER COMES TO AN END, JOIN
THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL FOR ONE BIG
LAST HURRAH AT **THE 13TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT
(AYS) ON JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 2020 IN ORLANDO!**

The Annual Youth Summit is a place for **young people with disabilities between the ages of 15 and 30** from communities across the state of Florida to come together to learn, share, and network. This two-day event is hosted by The Florida Youth Council, a group of youth and emerging leaders with disabilities who have a passion for encouraging leadership and advocacy among their peers. The FYC is all about youth empowerment and youth involvement, and the entire Annual Youth Summit is planned **by youth, for youth!**

The 13th Annual Youth Summit will bring together over **200 youth** and emerging leaders to attend engaging youth-only sessions on a wide variety of topics, including transition, workplace preparedness, and post-secondary schooling. We also have a great, youth-friendly keynote and fun social activities planned for The Summit, including a dance party to cap off the festivities. There will be plenty of opportunities for attendees to network, and share their thoughts, experiences, and aspirations.

The 13th Annual Youth Summit will be held at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando **July 31 - August 1, 2020**. If you are not requesting financial assistance please contact The Florida Hotel and Conference Center directly at **407-859-1500** to make reservations. The room rate is **\$109 per night**. Limited financial assistance is available.

WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!



For more information
about the event, or to register,
contact **The Florida Youth Council** and **The Family Café**
at **888-309-2233**, or visit **www.FloridaYouthCouncil.com**

ADVOCACY EQUALITY DIGNITY

Disability Rights Florida assists people with disabilities to solve disability-related problems. We will provide you with the necessary tools and information to advocate for your rights. However, certain issues may require our legal assistance. We are here to help you with:

- Disputes involving Medicaid, SSDI, and SSI eligibility;
- Discrimination in housing, architectural barriers, effective and accessible communication, service animals, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and access to programs and services;
- Abuse, neglect, and rights violations in an institution, prison or jail;
- Access to mental health and support services that provide individualized treatment;

- Rights to a least restrictive environment, community integration, privacy, choice, dignity, and other rights;
- Barriers to a free and appropriate education, K-12 special education, transition services, and post-secondary education;
- Investigation of stolen or misused funds, exploitation, or neglect by representative payees;
- Voting registration, vote casting, and accessible polling places;
- Access to assistive technology;
- Supported Decision-Making as an alternative to guardianship.

If we cannot be of direct assistance, we refer people to other sources of help.

800-342-0823

TDD 800-346-4127

www.DisabilityRightsFlorida.org



Disability Rights
FLORIDA

Join the momentum!

Take part in The Family Café's newest program,
the Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM)!

The Mission of FROM is to engage, support, empower and advocate for family, youth and peer-run organizations.

FROM will provide a wide range of supports and services, including leadership training, governance enhancement, program support, monthly collaborative forums, a program newsletter, and other resources to help organizations attain new levels of participation in the system of care.

Local family-run organizations are a critical part of the service delivery system, bringing families and youth together, connecting them with information, resources, and each other. FROM is here to help them thrive!

To join and get more information please see the FROM link at www.familycafe.net or call 850-224-4670



FROM
Family Run Organization Movement
"Moving families forward. From our family to yours."



See You Next Year!



at the **23rd** annual

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