



# I WANT YOU!

## The Family Café CHANGE AGENT NETWORK THEY NEED YOU!

The Change Agent Network is a project of The Family Café and offers an opportunity for advocates and change agents to work collaboratively to transform the system by: combining abilities, skills, ideas, and talents; standing together for meaningful system reform measures; taking the lead in our communities and neighborhoods; sharing Information to help families become effective players within their communities; developing statewide networks to organize and discuss the issues that are most important to families and persons with disabilities; and creating a united position on critical disability policy issues.

### BE PREPARED!

As we approach the height of hurricane season, it shouldn't be hard (especially for those of us in north Florida) to remember the destruction and displacement that is possible with even a moderate hurricane. For those of us who deal with a family member with a disability, a PLAN is critical. Waiting until we find ourselves in the crosshairs of a hurricane is a bad idea for anyone, but for us it can be the difference between life and death. Florida has excellent resources to help us plan for this kind of an emergency. Here are a couple of suggestions from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for those of us who may need a little more time and/or help.

Form a Personal Support Network: These are the people you should involve in your emergency planning that can help you in an emergency situation. They include your nearby family, friends, caregivers, neighbors and co-workers. Be sure to give at least one trusted member of your support network a key to your house or apartment. Also, let members of your support group know where you store your emergency kit. Most importantly, you should not rely on just one person, but have at least three or more people you can call on for help.

Complete a Personal Assessment: Make a list of your personal needs and your resources for meeting them in a disaster environment. You need to take into account what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need before, during and after a disaster such as a hurricane. This should include daily living needs (personal care/personal care equipment, adaptive feeding devices and electricity-dependent equipment), your ability to get around before, during and after a disaster (cleaning up disaster debris, transportation and blocked roads) and evacuating if necessary.



For more tips on how to make sure you're ready for hurricane season, visit the Division of Emergency Management at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability/>.



## **Agency for Persons with Disabilities: Redesign Plan for the iBudget**

As you may have heard, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), in conjunction with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), was directed by this current year's State Budget to develop a plan to redesign the waiver program, and then submit the plan to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for consideration and (ultimately) Legislative approval.

The language went on to require that the following elements be included in the plan:

- (a) Budget predictability – They are to make budget recommendations that must include specific steps to restrict spending to budgeted amounts based on alternatives to the iBudget and four-tiered Medicaid waiver models.*
- (b) Services – The agency shall identify core services that are essential to provide for client health and safety and recommend elimination of coverage for other services that are not affordable based on available resources.*
- (c) Flexibility – the redesign shall be responsive to individual needs and to the extent possible encourage client control over allocated resources for their needs.*
- (d) Support coordination services – the plan shall modify the manner of providing support coordination services to improve management of service utilization and increase accountability and responsiveness to agency priorities.*

Obviously The Family Café, along with many other organizations, will be monitoring this plan very closely. The agency is in the midst of a public comment period and will be holding other hearings in the weeks to come. Stay connected with us for more information as it becomes available.



## Back to School! Are You Transition Ready?

It almost that time of year! Some moms will cry, and some might celebrate, but either way the kids are going back to school. Let's remember that the beginning of a new school year is a good time to review your child's IEP (Individualized Education Program). If your child is around 14, this is the time to start thinking about transition planning, and making a plan for the services and supports needed for a successful change from school to adult life. These are the plans and dreams your child (and you) have for the future. Bring in school personnel for this conversation, but prior to that sit down with your child and ask him or her questions, if appropriate, such as: Based on any chores your child may have, what did they like about the job or chore? What didn't they like? What kind of volunteer experience has your child had, what did they or did they not like about it? Are there any volunteer opportunities available in your community? If not, is there a way to help them learn about the type of work they may or may not like? What kind of job or career would your child like to have someday? What is it they like about certain types of jobs?

Does it seem a little funny to ask a 14 year old what they want to do with the rest of their life? Of course! But what you are really doing here is starting the conversation about a direction . . . about the kinds of things they enjoy and the things that interest them.

Most of us are familiar with the Florida Department of Education's "A Parent's Introduction to Exceptional Student Education in Florida." Now is as good a time as any to review it for sections that weren't particularly relevant a few years back. <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7674/urlt/0064540-eseparent.pdf>.



## The Family Café 2020!

Thank you to those who attended The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Café this past June. With approximately 13,000 people in attendance, it was one of our largest ever! Please check out our website or this link for photographs: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thefamilycafe/albums/72157709410270941>.

Please mark your calendars for The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Café which will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Orlando. Hope to see you there!

# See You Next Year!

AT THE

**22**<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
**Family Café**  
JUNE 5-7, 2020 • ORLANDO

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