



# I WANT YOU!

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

Volume 3, Issue 1

This Newsletter Is A Project Of The Family Cafe

November 2019

**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.**

In this, our final CAN Newsletter of the year, let us be the first to offer you a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and New Year with those who you love and with those who love you!

### 2020 Legislative Session

Don't forget that the upcoming legislative session starts EARLY this year. Session will begin on January 14<sup>th</sup> and will end on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the start of session, there will be a final interim committee week between December 9<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The issue we will be paying close attention to this year will be the "redesign of the iBudget waiver program." This bill will likely start out as a committee bill and should be numbered soon.



In last year's budget, the legislature ordered The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to restructure the Home and Community Based Waiver Program which delivers healthcare to tens of thousands of people with disabilities. At the moment, over 34,000 individuals are served by this program, with another 21,900 on the waiting list.



Specifically, APD was required to improve budget predictability, maintain or improve the services needed for health and safety, ensure the flexibility of clients to select ser-



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services that meet their needs, and improve the support coordination services that promote management of service utilization.

In their redesign plan, the Agency noted that individuals enrolled in the iBudget waiver program should receive services that enable them to have a safe place to live, have a meaningful daily activity, receive medically necessary medical and dental services, receive medically necessary supplies and equipment, and receive the transportation required to access necessary waiver services. They also noted that seventy-one percent (71%) of all individuals enrolled in the iBudget waiver program live with their families or in their own homes. Twenty-nine percent (29%) live in community residential facilities licensed by APD. Living in the community is not only beneficial to the client and their family, on average it is also more cost effective than institutional care.

In their recommendations the Agency laid out the following key elements and suggestions:

- Include the iBudget waiver program in the Social Services Estimating Conference to better project and communicate future waiver expenditures;
- Eliminate the iBudget algorithm and allocation process, and replace them with an assessment tool capable of determining client service needs and funding based upon assessment results (Note: This element can only be implemented when the revised assessment tool has been adopted);
- Centralize the process of determining medical necessity for significant additional needs requests for services to ensure consistency in application of criteria;
- Restructure support coordination services to improve management of service utilization, increase use of natural supports, increase accountability and responsiveness by implementing a robust training and certification process;
- Implement an individual cap that is consistent with the new intermediate care facility (ICF) rate (institutional care) for individuals with severe behavioral needs;
- Implement service limitations for Life Skills Development services;
- Expand the number of APD group homes that qualify for the AHCA Medicaid Assistive Care Services (ACS) to reduce iBudget waiver program residential costs;
- Allow for the transfer of budget authority from AHCA to APD for individuals enrolled on the waiver turning 21 who previously received services through the Medicaid State Plan;
- Implement an ICF service and rate in the AHCA Medicaid program to serve individuals with severe behavioral needs who require services beyond the limits of the iBudget waiver program;
- Increase the resources available to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) and Community Action Team (CAT) programs in order to serve individuals with comorbid mental health and developmental disabilities to address issues early and avoid the need for more costly services;
- Appropriate funding sufficient to provide medically necessary services in the most appropriate setting for all enrolled waiver clients.



An initial round of hearings was already held in both the House and Senate Health Care Appropriations Committees this fall. It's important to remember that the recommended changes suggested by APD, are just that . . . recommendations. The legislative leaders in each body will decide which recommendations (if any) to incorporate into a bill. We will not know about the contents of the bill until it is filed, and The Family Café will provide updates as soon as possible.



## FROM Regional Workshop

In late November the Family Run Organization Movement (FROM) held its first Regional Workshop with fellow Orlando-area family-run organization leaders at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center.

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. 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. 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.

A luncheon was provided during which nationally recognized family-run organization consultant John Ferrone delivered the keynote address, *Building A Board To Brag About*. We all know that leadership among our family-run organizations is critical if we want to survive, grow, and help our families.

We look forward to continuing to grow our FROM membership throughout the state. It is our intention to continue to build a statewide network and develop resources for family-run organizations throughout Florida. In the meantime, please stay tuned for future Regional Workshops in your area. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Joe McCann at The Family Café, Inc. in Tallahassee At (850) 224-4670.

## The Family Café 2020!

**Reminder! The Family Café is now accepting Presentation Proposals and Exhibitor Agreements for The 22nd Annual Family Café, June 5-7, 2020 in Orlando!**

As you know, The Annual Family Café is the nation's largest cross-disability event. Last year's 21st Annual Family Café attracted some 12,842 participants. They had the opportunity to choose from 220+ classroom size breakout sessions that addressed a wide variety of disability-related topics.

The success of The Annual Family Café relies in large part on the participation of knowledgeable, engaged presenters that are willing to share their expertise with our attendees. **Please consider presenting in 2020!**

If you want to reach a large audience of people with disabilities and their families, The 22nd Annual Family Café is the place to do it!

**To submit a proposal, download the Presentation Proposal form from our website at [familycafe.net](http://familycafe.net), complete it, and return it to The Family Cafe by mail, email, or fax; **OR** complete the Presentation Proposal form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22ndAFCPPF>.**

**The deadline to apply is Friday, January 10, 2020.**

**The Family Café is also seeking exhibitors for The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Café.** The Annual Family Cafe is the ideal place to connect thousands of people with disabilities with your product, service, or resource. It brings together a remarkably large audience of people with disabilities and their families, all of whom are searching for solutions to improve their quality of life.

To reserve your place in our Exhibit Hall, simply complete the Exhibitor Form at <https://www.familycafe.net/images/stories/pdf/files/22nd-exhib-form.pdf> and send it back to us by fax to (850) 224-4670 or email to [info@familycafe.net](mailto:info@familycafe.net).



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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! Pictures and video's from the event are available on our website now.

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! Registration will open on Friday, February 14th.

**See You Next Year!**  
AT THE  
**22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL Family Café**  
JUNE 5 - 7, 2020 • ORLANDO

**HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO**  
9801 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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 **The Family Café**



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