

THE

23rd

ANNUAL
family

Paale

FEATURING THE

GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT

ON DISABILITIES

JUNE 11 - 13, 2021
HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

April 15, 2021



Dear Friends:

Welcome to Orlando! As Governor, it is my pleasure to send best wishes to all of those participating in the 23rd Annual Family Café. I hope your time is spent learning, training and networking with this year's presenters.

Floridians with unique abilities play an important role in our communities and enrich our lives. Because of organizations like yours, individuals with disabilities and their families have access to information and resources about lifelong care and services.

The First Lady 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 achieve their dreams.

Best wishes for a productive conference.

Sincerely,

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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Welcome!



THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ

Dear Family Café Attendees,

As you've probably figured out already, things look a little bit different this year. Since 1998, The Annual Family Café has been a three-day statewide event designed to meet the need for information and networking among people with disabilities and/or special health care needs and their families. In 2020, the pandemic came along and forced us to make the whole event virtual. We did our best to create an online Annual Family Café that would bring together the information and resources you've come to expect, but we really missed the feeling of community and shared experience that make The Annual Family Café so vital. Since last June, we've been looking forward to seeing everyone together in Orlando again, and now that moment's finally here. It's been a long two years!

Even though we're back to being together in person again, the coronavirus pandemic is still with us. So, just as we adapted The Annual Family Café to meet the moment in 2020, we've come up with a unique approach that suits the conditions here in 2021. It's an approach that we like to call a "hybrid" event, and it offers people ways to participate both in person AND virtually.

To account for safety protocols and capacity limits at the host hotel, this year's in-person agenda will include 70 breakout sessions, instead of the 200 plus we would have in a typical year. They will be held in larger rooms, so everyone can spread out. We're also running breakout sessions in the Plaza International Ballroom in every time slot, and livestreaming those sessions on Facebook for our virtual audience to enjoy. Whereas we only record a few sessions in a typical year, this year we're recording every single breakout session. That way, people who weren't able to attend in person will be able to view them through our website later.

We're also making our three keynote addresses and The Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities available to both our in-person and virtual audiences by livestreaming them as they happen in Orlando. We've put together a great set of keynotes, with Shane and Hannah Burcaw, whose YouTube channel *Squirmy and Grubs* has more than 850,000 followers, talking about their interabled relationship on Friday; founder and Artistic Director of National Disability Theatre and the first autistic actor to play an autistic character on Broadway, Mickey Rowe, sharing his disability journey on Saturday; and Floridian, self-advocate, and triathlete Chris Nikic and his father and coach Nik Nikic sharing their inspirational message about getting a little bit better every day on Sunday. We're also excited to continue The Family Café's tradition of fostering dialogue and understanding between Floridians with disabilities and our state's elected leaders and policymakers at The Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities on Friday evening. Former Senate President Bill Galvano will be on hand too, to award the very first Family Café Bill Galvano Leadership Award. Whether you're with us in Orlando or watching from home, all of that will be available to view in real time.

Since we can't accommodate the full slate of breakout sessions on site, we're taking a page out of our 2020 playbook and extending 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. It will include recordings of the livestream sessions and the recorded breakout sessions that happen in Orlando, as well as links to videos and materials supplied by presenters that couldn't be accommodated.

On-site attendees will notice a few other changes to the event that have been made necessary by health and safety guidelines. A few add-on activities will be missing, such as the assistive technology room, the sensory room, arts and crafts, self-advocate performances in the foyer during breaks between sessions, and the Saturday night dance. Attendees will still be able to visit the Exhibit Hall, with dozens of booths featuring a wide array of organizations, including a host of self-advocate owned and operated Micro-Enterprises. While our friends from FDOA won't be running their usual Sportsability Sampler adjacent to the Exhibit Hall, they will be offering online activities at SportsAbility.org. We're also requiring everyone on site to wear a mask.

Whether you have chosen to attend in person or join us online, The Family Café Planning Committee sincerely hopes you find the resources, supports, and connections you need to flourish in your community at The 23rd Annual Family Café. We hope that your participation in The 23rd 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 11, 2021

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Barbara Palmer
Director

State Office

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(866-273-2273)

Dear Annual Family Café Attendee:


Welcome to the 23rd Annual Family Café and Governor's Summit on Disabilities. On behalf of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, I urge you to take advantage of the wonderful educational sessions provided by this conference. Due to COVID-19, I encourage you to limit your networking opportunities, especially if you have not been vaccinated. Remember to wear your mask, stay six feet away from others, and wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds. Safety is the key, so stay safe.

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 58,000 people with spina bifida, severe forms of autism, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, cerebral Prader-Willi syndrome, and

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 conference, you will have the chance to share your experiences either in-person or virtually. 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 conference!

Sincerely,


 Barbara Palmer
 Director

<http://apdcares.org>



RON DESANTIS
 GOVERNOR
 SIMONE MARSTILLER
 SECRETARY

June 11, 2021

Dear Family Café Participants:

On behalf of the Agency for Health Care Administration, it is an honor to welcome you to the 23rd Annual Family Café! Our Agency looks forward to collaborating with our partners year after year. Family Café provides a wonderful opportunity to support individuals with disabilities and their families.

We are so glad to be back speaking with you face to face. Our team members will be available during the conference to share information with you on Medicaid services we provide. I encourage you to take the opportunity to learn more about how the Agency for Health Care Administration can assist you and your family. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

I hope you enjoy your time at the Family Café.

Sincerely,



Simone Marsteller
 Secretary

SM/km

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[Youtube.com/AHCAFlorida](https://www.youtube.com/AHCAFlorida)
[Twitter.com/AHCA_FL](https://twitter.com/AHCA_FL)



State Board of Education
 Andy Tuck, Chair
 Marva Johnson, Vice Chair
 Members
 Monesia Brown
 Ben Gibson
 Tom Grady
 Ryan Petty
 Joe York

June 11, 2021

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Family Café and Governor's Summit on Disabilities. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is thrilled to participate in the only cross-disability conference in the nation. Despite the extraordinarily challenging year we have endured, the FDOE has been working to ensure that parents and all students with disabilities are provided a world-class education, including choices and opportunities that will serve them for a lifetime.

Florida continues to lead the nation in innovative programs with record investments for students with disabilities. I would like to share just a few programs that are new or have had funding increased:

- School Choice
 - Governor DeSantis signed HB 7045 that substantially expanded school choice options for thousands of Florida's students and families.
 - \$7.6 million for reading scholarships to improve reading skills for students in public schools grades 3-5.
 - Florida received a \$78 million federal Charter Schools Program grant to support the start-up of new charter schools and provide technical assistance over the next five years.
- Employment Opportunities
 - Participation of the number of students with disabilities in Work-Based Learning Experience Opportunities increased by 121 percent.
 - More than 40,000 Floridians with disabilities have had workforce and job training.
 - The Homebuilders Association for On-the-Job Training program has been expanded.
- Division of Blind Services
 - The first statewide accessibility software program that enabled individuals who are blind or have visual impairments to gain access to software at no cost was created.

The FDOE continues to strive to provide opportunities and supports so every student receives a world-class education. Please enjoy the next three days to gather new information and resources. The conference offers a wide variety of presentations and exhibit booths to ensure you get the most up to date information available.

We look forward to many more years of partnerships and a lifetime of continued learning.

Sincerely,

Richard Corcoran
 Commissioner of Education



State Board of Education

Andy Tuck, Chair
 Marva Johnson, Vice Chair
 Members
 Monesia Brown
 Ben Gibson
 Tom Grady
 Ryan Petty
 Joe York

Richard Corcoran

www.fdoe.org
 325 W. Gaines Street | Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 | 850-245-0505

March 29, 2021

Dear Conference Attendees,

If you have a disability that prevents you from achieving employment, independence, and career success in your community, the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) can provide the support and guidance you need. During the 23rd Annual Family Café learn about how VR helps qualified individuals with physical or mental disabilities find, get or keep a better job.

This year's hybrid event is in person and virtual. We have VR staff making several presentations during the conference about the different programs VR offers. They include

- Your Winning Ticket: Making Work Pay – Understanding VR and Social Security
- VR's Recipe for Employment Success
- Increasing Student Engagement with Career Exploration Services, and
- Overview of VR

The goal of VR is to be the first place individuals with disabilities turn to when seeking employment or advancing in current employment and a top resource for employers in need of qualified employees.

Enjoy the Family Café opportunity!

Keep Going,

/s/ Allison Flanagan

Allison Flanagan, MRC, CRC
 VR Director

www.fdoe.org
 325 W. Gaines Street | Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 | 850-245-0505



Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

April 15, 2021

Dear Family Café Participant:

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Family Café Conference! Family Café is a great opportunity to learn about the products, services, and organizations that help all people achieve their greatest potential, regardless of ability.

The Department of Health's mission is to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. The Early Steps Program is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Department to hear about family experiences and ideas as we collaborate to best serve individuals with disabilities and special health care needs.

Even though the Family Café Conference will look different, it is exciting to get together this year for collaboration, networking, and friendship, while also remaining safe. This event will provide the opportunity to gain valuable information and meet lifelong friends that will be of great support long after the conference concludes.

Safe travels and continued success in living your healthiest life.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Karch, MD, MPH, FAAP
Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services



Florida Department of Health
Office of the Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services
4552 State Cypress Way, Bin A-06 • Tallahassee, FL 32309-1701
PHONE: (850)261-4201
FloridaHealth.gov



Michelle Dennard
President & CEO

June 11, 2021

Dear Family Café Attendee,

The CareerSource Florida network is honored to once again partner with the annual Family Café. We know this past year has been challenging for all Floridians, and we hope this year's Family Café event will help deliver valuable information and resources that will help you achieve your goals, as we navigate this recovery together.

At CareerSource Florida, Help is Here to connect talented Floridians like you with rewarding jobs. Our network includes 24 local workforce development boards and 100 career centers statewide where job seekers and employers receive recruiting, hiring and training assistance. Our professionals who specialize in assisting Floridians with disabilities are eager to help job seekers find meaningful work and employers connect with these talented individuals. Find your local team at careersourceflorida.com.

A diverse and inclusive workforce is essential to our state's increasing competitiveness. We all benefit when Floridians find their career pathway and become self-sufficient. If you are looking for employment or if you are an employer seeking to hire, please take advantage of the opportunities, expertise and resources available at The Family Café event and contact the CareerSource Florida network partner in your community for help with your employment and training needs.

Best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

Michelle Dennard
President and CEO

PO Box 13179 • Tallahassee, FL 32317
O: (850) 692-6887 / F: (850) 304-0878
careersourceflorida.com





State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor
Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

Dear attendees:

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Family Café!

As the new Secretary for the Department of Children and Families, I am honored to provide my support for this annual event—one that is full of networking opportunities, training sessions, and impactful presentations that will help to further empower Florida's families.

Protecting Florida's most vulnerable populations is a shared goal between our organizations, and when we come together as a team, we can create meaningful change for individuals living with all types of disabilities in our communities.

On behalf of the entire Department of Children and Families team, I wish you all the best for this year's event.

My best,

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary



STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Kevin Guthrie
Director

June 11, 2021

Dear Family Café Participants:

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Family Café. As the new Director for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, I am honored to take part in this important event. The Division is proud to serve as a partner at this event alongside other incredible agencies and organizations to support Floridians with disabilities. This annual event is an opportunity to network and share valuable resources, and the Division is looking forward to connecting with individuals with disabilities, caretakers and loved ones to assist in disaster education and preparedness.

At the Division, we are dedicated to serving all Floridians before, during and after a disaster. We have officially entered the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which takes place each year from June 1 to November 30, and the Division continues to take the necessary actions to ensure Floridians are prepared. Last year's hurricane season brought record-breaking activity, with the Division preparing for and responding to nine total storms in co-response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Hurricane Sally and Tropical Storm Eta.

The Division expects another active hurricane season this year, which means now is the time to prepare. Preparation begins by developing a personalized disaster preparedness plan and stocking your disaster supply kit. It's important for individuals with special needs to create individualized disaster plans and supply kits to ensure they will be adequately prepared during a disaster. During a disaster, individuals with disabilities are also encouraged to wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help emergency responders identify specific needs. A disaster supply kit, which should last every individual and pet in the household at least seven days, should include nonperishable food, water, medications, contact information for loved ones and medical providers and any other important documents.

In addition to residents' personal preparations, the Division continues to encourage residents with special needs to register with the Special Needs Registry. The Special Needs Registry allows individuals to connect with their local emergency management office and provides first responders with valuable information to keep Floridians safe during a disaster. Individuals can sign up for the Special Needs Registry by visiting FloridaDisaster.org/SNR or by contacting their county's emergency management office.

As the Director for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, I am committed to ensuring that all Floridians have the necessary resources and education to be prepared for a disaster. I look forward to serving Floridians in my new role and if any participant has further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Division.

Sincerely,

Kevin Guthrie
Director

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
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Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and
and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency



THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ 2021 SPONSORS



ABLE United
CareerSource Florida
Children's Medical Services Health Plan
Disability Rights Florida
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
myHana
Sunshine Health
Volunteer Florida



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

CareerSource Florida
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 Healthy Kids Corporation
Florida Youth Council
MPower Consulting
U.S. Military
7-Dippity





MEET THE FAMILY CAFÉ



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.

Board of Directors

Jim DeBeaugrine, Board Chair

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Staar Fields

Jeannie Forthuber

Eddie Hall

Yolanda Herrera

Lou Ann Long

Ana Maria Rodriguez

Sharon Land Rousey

Angelita Salado

Katherine Smith

Tim Turner

Gil Williams

Staff

Lori Fahey, President and CEO

Jeremy Countryman, Program Director

Jesse Hansen, Northwest RDC Coordinator

Joe McCann, Policy Manager

Sarah Uptagrafft, Financial Administrator

Niki Germain, Youth Advisor

EXHIBITORS

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ABLE United

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Ability Medical Supply

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Beds By George

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BlackBack Writing Program

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CareerSource Florida

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Collaborative Corner for Exceptional Children/Special Needs Guidance Group

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anielsen@collaborativecorner.org
www.collaborativecorner.org

Conductive Education Center of Orlando

931 South Semoran Boulevard, Suite 220
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www.ceco.org

Disability Rights Florida

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paular@drflorida.org
www.disabilityrightsflorida.org

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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www.rehabworks.org

EmployU

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www.employu.org

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www.heavendropt.org

Family Care Council Florida

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FDLRS - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System

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www.fdlrs.org

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology

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Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

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Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education

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Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)

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Florida KidCare

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EXHIBITORS

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Florida's Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)

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Friendly Shoes

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FSU'S University of Choice

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Hawaiian Moon

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MyHana Autism

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Noah's Ark of Central Florida

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Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office

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Our City Beautiful

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hope@our-city-beautiful.com
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Project 10: Transition Education Network

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RMTC-D/HH, FIMC-VI, FAVI

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Springbrook Behavioral Health System

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www.springbrookautismbehavioral.com

Step Up For Students

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www.stepupforstudents.org

The Columbus Organization

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The Family Café, Inc.

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The Florida Youth Council

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MICRO-ENTERPRISES

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Autism Art by Drew & Tiffany

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B and R Custom Cups

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Becky's Beads & Magnets

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EXHIBITORS

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Dotty's Freckles

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Ferocio, The Last Dragon on Earth

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Florida Gardiner Scholarship Parents and Providers a Facebook Group

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www.facebook.com/uocfsu

Helpertunity, Inc.

562 Azalea Bloom Drive
Apopka, FL 32712
(407) 234-4768
eileen@helpertunity.org
www.helpertunity.org

Incredible Memories Travel

2934 Bayshore Pointe Drive
Tampa, FL 33611
(520) 730-3114
kristy@incrediblememoriestravel.com
www.incrediblememoriestravel.com

James Williams, Presenter & Author with Autism

1827 Sunnyside Circle
Northbrook, IL 60062
(224) 628-6629
jmw820@comcast.net
www.jamesmw.com

Jeepin for Autism/Florida Autism Resources

822 Morning Side Drive
Cocoa, FL 32922
(321) 704-9750
flasdgroup@gmail.com
www.floridasfamilyfun.com

KatGirl and Friends Inc.

200 177th Drive, Apartment 211
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
(305) 785-3903
katmagnoli@gmail.com
www.katgirlandfriends.com

Lanno Sweet Shop

1089 South Kirkman Road, 190
Orlando, FL 32811
(407) 866-2578
cara.blonder@yahoo.com

Larissa Grabois MT-BA, Musician, Songwriter, Author and Presenter with Autism

150 Prospect Street
Leonia, NJ 07605
(201) 966-0862
lara.grabois@gmail.com
www.larissagmusic.info

Melissa's Honeybee Meadow

62 Sanctuary Avenue
DeBary, FL 32713
(386) 561-1417
melissahoneybeemeadow@gmail.com
www.melissahoneybeemeadow.com

Mike's Mission

12754 Robin Cherney Way, Apartment 83
Orlando, FL 32828
(305) 619-9585
mikeditauro@aol.com
www.facebook.com/groups/mikedsmission

Our Superhero Life, LLC

2650 Northeast 107th Terrace
Branson, FL 32621
(352) 284-3013
oursuperherolife@gmail.com
www.oursuperherolife.com

Parents Helping Parents of Florida/Marion County Disability Alliance

923 Northeast 6th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 615-6003
shawn.mcda@gmail.com

Perler Art and Custom Gifts

207 Amber Boulevard
Auburndale, FL 33823
(863) 662-1250
perler.crazy.creations@gmail.com

Reenie's Breads

8467 Bayou Boardwalk, Apartment 103
Seminole, FL 33777
(727) 641-7947
adrienneburleigh@gmail.com

Rudd Disability Solutions

2000 Cheney Highway, Suite 103 #297
Titusville, FL 32780
(407) 697-1297
rudd.disabilitysolutions@gmail.com
www.rudddisabilitysolutions.com

Southern Creations Face Painting & Airbrush Tattoos

221 Fiji Palm Lane
Plant City, FL 33566
(727) 599-1009
burnsidelisa@hotmail.com

Special Compass

2114 North Flamingo Road
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026
(305) 297-5328
jim@specialcompass.org
www.specialcompass.org

Stand Up for Independence

334 Indian Grove Drive
Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 475-9284
sufi.florida@gmail.com

Sugar Skull Sweets

221 Fiji Palm Lane
Plant City, FL 33566
(727) 599-1009
burnsidelisa@hotmail.com

Willio Wisps

3664 Biltmore Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32311
(804) 221-2807
williowisps@gmail.com
www.williowisps.com

Xceptional Xcessories

16120 Southwest 21st Court
Ocala, FL 34473
(863) 258-6624
grbxedwards@gmail.com

THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ

AT-A-GLANCE



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.



Sessions presented in Spanish, or with Spanish-speaking presenters, are printed in RED.
Sesiones que se presentan en español, o con el español que hablan los presentadores, están impresos en color ROJO.

Family changing rooms are located in Silver Spring on the Convention Level.



FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Opening Session and Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Let's Explore the Music of the Special Interests Commonly Shared by Individuals with Disabilities

Florida Ballroom A



ABC's of Special Needs Trusts and Guardianship

Florida Ballroom B



On Demand Advocacy: One Person's Experience After Hurricane Irma/Apoyo Inmediato: Cómo sobrevivir un huracán cuando se tiene un impedimento. La experiencia de un ser humano después del huracán Irma.

Florida Ballroom C

A Collaborative Approach to Supporting the Individual Needs of Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or Blind/Visually Impaired in Inclusive Environments

Orlando Ballroom L



Introduction to Wellness Recovery Action Planning

Orlando Ballroom M



Your Child Has Received a Diagnosis: What Next?

Orlando Ballroom N

Meet Victoria Gaitanis, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education

Plaza International Ballroom

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Communication & Customer Service

Florida Ballroom A



The ABC's and 123's of SNT's

Florida Ballroom B



Imagine Making Your Dreams Come True!

Florida Ballroom C



What is Medically Complex Daycare?

Orlando Ballroom L

Social Emotional Learning — Finding Calm in the Chaos

Orlando Ballroom M

Dispute Resolution and Monitoring: When You Disagree with the School District

Orlando Ballroom N



Life Care Planning: Making the Future More Secure for your Dependent with Special Needs

Plaza International Ballroom

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Using Neurological Signs to Guide Therapy

Florida Ballroom A



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

Florida Ballroom B



A Question and Answer Series on Children’s Early Intervention Services in Florida

Florida Ballroom C

Routine-Based Learning for Students with Visual Impairments

Orlando Ballroom L

A Review of the Educational Challenges of Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Orlando Ballroom M



Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Orlando Ballroom N

Meet the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

Plaza International Ballroom

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The 23rd Annual Governor’s Summit on Disabilities
Plaza International Ballroom

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Registration Open, Registration Desk
Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
Registration Open, Registration Desk

11:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Going to College During COVID-19

Florida Ballroom A

Essential Legal Planning for Special Needs Families

Florida Ballroom B

McKay Scholarship Program and Gardiner Scholarship Program

Florida Ballroom C



AT Funding Solutions with FFAST

Orlando Ballroom L

The Wallet Card: A Tool for Successful Interactions with First Responders

Orlando Ballroom M



COVID-19 Update and Individuals with Disabilities

Orlando Ballroom N



Benefits and Tax Savings for Families with Special Needs

Plaza International Ballroom

1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Organizing Your Journey and Not Losing Your Cool

Florida Ballroom A

Hospital Homebound 101

Florida Ballroom B

Everything You Need to Know About The Gardiner Scholarship

Florida Ballroom C

5 Steps to Getting a Crystal Clear, Transparent, IEP

Orlando Ballroom L

No Barriers — We All Have a Book Inside to Share

Orlando Ballroom M

A Behavioral Approach to Dual Diagnoses

Orlando Ballroom N

Meet APD Director Barbara Palmer

Plaza International Ballroom

2:30 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Autism & The Law: Preparing Your Child with Autism
for Law Enforcement Officer Contact**

Florida Ballroom A



Ticket to Work, Strategically Preparing for Employment

Florida Ballroom B

The Criminal Justice System and People with Disabilities

Florida Ballroom C



**Family Care Council Florida — Information, Inspiration, Get Some,
Give Some — Support for a Lifetime**

Orlando Ballroom L

Wandering and Elopement: Risk Factors and Strategies

Orlando Ballroom M

Eligibility for Participation in APD Services

Orlando Ballroom N



Using Everyday Items to Help Developing Infants and Toddlers

Plaza International Ballroom

4:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Communication Tips: Working and Communicating
Positively with School Staff**

Florida Ballroom A



Debunking Myths about Saving in the Disability Community

Florida Ballroom B



Come Chat with The Florida Youth Council

Florida Ballroom C

Access Points — Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS) for Families

Orlando Ballroom L



Mental Health/Self Care — Salud Mental/Cuidado Propio

Orlando Ballroom M



Let Us Help You with Your Vision for the Future

Orlando Ballroom N



The Power of Inclusion: Race & Disability

Plaza International Ballroom

5:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

What Parents Need to Know About Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Florida Ballroom A

Autism After the Diagnosis and Beyond — Helping Parents Create Better Outcomes

Florida Ballroom B



Employ to Empower: Discovering Abilities, Building Independence

Florida Ballroom C

Using Your Superpowers to Create Your Best Superhero Life

Orlando Ballroom L

From Non-Verbal to TV: An Autism Unscripted Life

Orlando Ballroom M

Search for Resources

Orlando Ballroom N



A Conversation About Mental Illness

Plaza International Ballroom

SUNDAY◆◆

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom

9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Stand Up for Independence

Florida Ballroom A

Life is a Train Ride: My Autism Journey, Told through Music

Florida Ballroom B



26 Healthy Marriage and Relationship Tips for Dads

Florida Ballroom C

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

Orlando Ballroom L

Letting Go: Time to Land the Helicopter

Orlando Ballroom M



AT is Where It's At!

Orlando Ballroom N



The Anime Connection: Utilizing Anime and Related Media to Teach Disability Awareness

Plaza International Ballroom

10:30 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

An Overview of the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

Florida Ballroom A



Provide for Your Special Needs and Plan for Your Retirement? Not Impossible!

Florida Ballroom B



Sibling Session

Florida Ballroom C



Making Arts Programming Accessible

Orlando Ballroom L



Accessible Memories

Orlando Ballroom M

Social Learning Groups for Unique People of All Ages: Help Your Child Gain Insight and Effectiveness in the Social World

Orlando Ballroom N



Influencing Policymakers Like Your Life Depends on It

Plaza International Ballroom

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom

Closing and Door Prizes, Plaza International Ballroom

FRIDAY

JUNE 11, 2021

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. · Plaza International Ballroom

What It's Like To Be In An Interabled Relationship

Shane and Hannah Burcaw are relationship vloggers on a mission to change the way society understands disability. On their YouTube channel, *Squirmy and Grubs*, which has gained 850,000+ subscribers and worldwide media attention, the couple shares a hilarious and authentic examination of what it's like to be in an interabled relationship. Shane lives with a form of muscular dystrophy that requires him to use an electric wheelchair. Hannah is able-bodied and provides the majority of Shane's daily care.

In addition to their work on YouTube, the couple is co-authoring a nonfiction collection of love stories that involve people with disabilities. Shane and Hannah speak across the country from universities to elementary schools to Fortune 500 companies. They live in Minneapolis, MN with their fluffy goldendoodle, Chloe.

Together, they are really no different than any other couple. They argue, they laugh (a lot), and they support each other. But even while posting hundreds of hours of video about their life together—traveling, going on dates, figuring out adulthood—society still has a hard time accepting their love. The duo's presentation will focus on the true reality of being in an interabled relationship, including some highlights and lowlights from their own personal love story. Their intention is to identify and debunk the damaging misconceptions and stigmas that society holds about disability.

A limited number of complimentary copies of Shane's most recent book, Strangers Assume My Girlfriend Is My Nurse, will be available at this keynote!



Shane and
Hannah Burcaw



FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Registration Open, Registration Desk
Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
Opening Session and Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
Registration Open, Registration Desk
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
The 23rd Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities, Plaza International Ballroom

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Let's Explore the Music of the Special Interests Commonly Shared by Individuals with Disabilities

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom A

Many people with disabilities enjoy a special interest or passion that routinely contributes to their well-being. Although some of these special interests are viewed negatively as "random inappropriate obsessions" by many non-disabled people, people with varying disabilities often share many special interests in common, many of which have a musical side to them. Watch a recorderist and vocalist with hidden disabilities as they perform music from various special interests shared by people with disabilities all around the U.S. and elsewhere, while describing the origins of each special interest featured and what they represent to people with various disabilities.

James Williams
Wisconsin's Community of Practice on Autism
Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities
1827 Sunnyside Circle
Northbrook, IL 60062
(224) 628-6629
jmw820@comcast.net

Hailey Buxton
6420 62nd Street North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
(727) 515-8233
kbuxton@tampabay.rr.com



ABC's of Special Needs Trusts and Guardianship

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

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
tiffany@hoytbryan.com

Peggy Hoyt
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(407) 977-8080
Peggy@hoytbryan.com



On Demand Advocacy: One Person's Experience After Hurricane Irma/Apoyo Inmediato: Cómo sobrevivir un huracán cuando se tiene un impedimento. La experiencia de un ser humano después del huracán Irma.

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

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 Michael.

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.

Christinne Rudd
Florida Self Advocates Network'D (FL SAND)
2000 Cheney Highway, Suite 103, #297
Titusville, FL 32780
(407) 697-1297
weiland613@gmail.com

A Collaborative Approach to Supporting the Individual Needs of Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or Blind/Visually Impaired in Inclusive Environments

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

This session will share how families can support their child with sensory loss to increase positive outcomes through collaborative efforts between teachers, project staff, and others. Join the Florida Inclusion Network, the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, and the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing to learn more about inclusive strategies in the least restrictive environment. As discretionary projects of the Florida Department of Education, all services, support, and resources are provided free of charge to Florida stakeholders.

Kelly Claude
Florida Inclusion Network
Florida State University, Suite 4500
University Center Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 645-7593
kclaude@contactfin.com

Cheri Hart
Florida Instructional Materials
Center for the Visually Impaired
4210 West Bay Villa Avenue
Tampa, FL 33611
(813) 837-7826
chart@fimcvi.org

Scott Walsh
Resource Materials and Technology
Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
207 San Marco Avenue
Saint Augustine, FL 32084
(800) 356-6731
scott.walsh@rmtcdhh.org



Introduction to Wellness Recovery Action Planning

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

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.

Crystal Gery
Northwest Florida Health Network
1352 South Boulevard
Chipley, FL 32428
(850) 866-3203
crystal.miles@nwfhealth.org

Emily Day
Florida Department of Children and Families,
Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
117 South Boulevard
Bonifay, FL 32425
(850) 380-7141
emily.day@myflfamilies.com



Your Child Has Received a Diagnosis: What Next?

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

Navigating the world of parenting isn't easy. This journey becomes even more complex when your child receives a developmental disability diagnosis such as ADHD or Autism Spectrum Disorder. At Collaborative Corner for Exceptional Children, we aim to help you understand the next steps to take, including information about the diagnosis, recommended therapies, and how to find credible resources, both online and locally. This presentation, focused mostly on early intervention, is most applicable for families of newly diagnosed children under age 5.

Karen Hans
Collaborative Corner for Exceptional Children
535 Seaside Cove Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787
(407) 451-2455
karen@collaborativecorner.org

Amy Nielsen
Collaborative Corner for Exceptional Children
1312 Bancroft Drive
Longwood, FL 32779
(352) 322-0605
anielsen@collaborativecorner.org

Meet Victoria Gaitanis, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education

Friday, June 11
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

Ms. Gaitanis will provide participants with an update on the latest outcomes, initiatives, and activities of the bureau, which administers education programs for students with disabilities, coordinates student services throughout the state, and participates in multiple inter-agency efforts designed to strengthen the quality and variety of services available to students with special needs.

Victoria Gaitanis
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 614
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(250) 245-0475
victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Communication & Customer Service

Friday, June 11
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom A

The Communication & Customer Service presentation will provide a concise delivery of recommendations that will assist with the building of strong relationships between service providers and customers. The presentation will specifically highlight the importance of having exceptional communication behaviors that promote the exchange of goals and ideas related to achieving expected outcomes. In addition to the highlights we will identify recommendations that support effective communication, along with the commitment of service providers to provide high levels of customer service. Finally, we will discuss the benefits of empowering participants, families, and providers with communication tools needed to achieve desired outcomes.

Byron Johnson
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
4823 Legacy Street
Milton, FL 32570
(850) 485-2228
byron.johnson@vr.fldoe.org



The ABC's and 123's of SNT's

Friday, June 11
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

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 what you may have heard, 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.

Kole Long
Guardian Trust
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Clearwater, FL 33756
(800) 669-2499
kole@guardiantrusts.org

THE 23RD ANNUAL
FAMILY CAFÉ





Imagine Making Your Dreams Come True!

Friday, June 11
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

Dog Treat Chef Allison Fogarty will share her entrepreneurial journey about her company called Doggy Delights by Allison LLC. Are you considering becoming an entrepreneur? Allison will share some questions to consider before starting out. Allison is a young woman with Down syndrome who has lived with many health issues. She is a 40 Under 40 Orlando Business Journal Honoree. She has been on *The Rachael Ray Show*, been featured in *STYLE* and *Woman's World* magazines, and appeared in local TV and print media.

Allison Fogarty
Doggy Delights by Allison
3586 La Jolla Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
(407) 205-8893
doggydelightsbyallison@gmail.com

Patricia Fogarty
Doggy Delights by Allison
3586 La Jolla Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
(407) 205-8893
doggydelightsbyallison@gmail.com



What is Medically Complex Daycare?

Friday, June 11
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

In this session we will take you through a discussion to understand the options available to help your child who has medical conditions that require more services than are provided in a regular daycare center. PPEC services, better known as Medical Daycare, is one of the most underutilized Medicaid programs to help children and families/foster parents. Whether a child needs assistance with breathing, managing seizures, tube feedings, and many other conditions, a PPEC provides a fun and safe environment with stimulating activities to promote physical and social development for those children who need it most.

Max Hahnen
Spark Pediatrics
15050 Northwest 79th Court, Suite 201
Miami Lakes, FL 33016
(954) 756-1546
maxh@sparkpediatrics.com

Jimmy Tercero
Spark Pediatrics
3030 Dyer Boulevard, Suite 3028-3040
Kissimmee, FL 34741
(407) 675-7430
jimmyt@sparkpediatrics.com

Social Emotional Learning — Finding Calm in the Chaos

Friday, June 11
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

This workshop focuses on promoting the social emotional development of children. Emphasis is placed on the importance of helping families assist their children in understanding and expressing their emotions.

Michelle Surman
FDLRS/SPRINGS
3881 Northwest 155th Street
Reddick, FL 32686
(352) 671-6051
michelle.surman@marion.k12.fl.us

Terri Hill
FDLRS/SPRINGS
3881 Northwest 155th Street
Reddick, FL 32686
(352) 671-6051
terri.hill@marion.k12.fl.us

Dispute Resolution and Monitoring: When You Disagree with the School District

Friday, June 11

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Orlando Ballroom N

The Dispute Resolution section within the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services will present on the procedural safeguards, specifically the dispute resolution options, available to parents and stakeholders. In addition, the section will present on early and local resolution strategies for public agencies to consider.

Julian Moreira
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of
Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
julian.moreira@fldoe.org

Jacqueline Roumou
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of
Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
jacqueline.roumou@fldoe.org



Life Care Planning: Making the Future More Secure for your Dependent with Special Needs

Friday, June 11

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Plaza International Ballroom

This workshop will discuss what a Life Care Plan is and the steps recommended to create one for a loved one with special needs. As a caregiver of a dependent with special needs the single most important issue on your mind, regardless of the age of the dependent, is what will happen to your dependent after you're gone. This workshop will address such critical issues as protecting government benefit eligibility, creating Special Needs Trusts, the importance of a Will, Guardianship, Financial Strategies including ABLE Accounts, and preparing Letters of Intent. You will learn about the comprehensive steps, available resources, and necessary tools to help develop your personal agenda. Following the planning stages can help ensure the type of care and quality of life for your 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
dvoel@financialguide.com

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Using Neurological Signs to Guide Therapy

Friday, June 11

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Florida Ballroom A

This presentation will discuss a bottom up approach guide to therapy. The participant will learn about fight/flight/freeze and the effects of chronic stress on development.

Cheryl Albright
All Ages Therapy Services
3210 46th Drive East
Bradenton, FL 34203
(941) 702-2035
cheryl@soultosoulyogasrq.com



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

Friday, June 11
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

Come learn the ins and outs 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
The Soto Law Office, P.A.
415 Montgomery Road, Suite 111
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
(321) 972-2279
ksoto@thesotolawoffice.com



A Question and Answer Series on Children’s Early Intervention Services in Florida

Friday, June 11
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

This is a session where parents, family members, or caretakers can learn more about the services offered through the Department of Health and more specifically Early Intervention Services in Florida. Families will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversation regarding the Early Interventions Services provided in Florida. Dr. Robert Karch, Deputy Secretary for Children’s Medical Services, will represent the Florida Department of Health during this session.

Robert Karch
Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A06
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-4213
lindsey.felt@flhealth.gov

THE 23RD ANNUAL
FAMILY CAFÉ



Routine-Based Learning for Students with Visual Impairments

Friday, June 11

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Orlando Ballroom L

Routine-based learning provides the most effective way to teach students with a visual impairment that are very young or have multiple impairments. New skills learned are purposeful and significant for children and their caregivers when developmental interventions are embedded in the child's daily routines and activities in both the school and home settings. Children learn new skills because they are predictable, functional, and arise multiple times throughout the day. Join us for a discussion on using routine-based learning embedded within naturally occurring activities.

Kay Ratzlaff

Florida Instructional Materials Center Visually Impaired

4210 West Bay Villa Avenue

Tampa, FL 33611

(813) 837-7826

kratzlaff@fimcvi.org

Cheri Hart

Florida Instructional Materials Center Visually Impaired

4210 West Bay Villa Avenue

Tampa, FL 33611

(813) 837-7826

chart@fimcvi.org

A Review of the Educational Challenges of Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Friday, June 11

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Orlando Ballroom M

This presentation will explore the educational challenges of Hispanic children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their association with the symptomatology and its impact on the children's overall academic performance. At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

- describe symptoms associated with ASD
- identify educational challenges for children diagnosed with ASD
- understand Hispanic families' acculturation process
- formulate strategies to increase sensitivity about sociocultural differences when implementing educational interventions

Yazmin Castellano

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at University of South Florida

3299 USF Banyan Circle

Tampa, FL 33613

(813) 974-0335

ycastellano@usf.edu

THE 23RD ANNUAL
FAMILY CAFÉ





Disaster Preparedness, Response, & Recovery

Friday, June 11

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Orlando Ballroom N

This session will highlight lessons learned from recent disasters, including the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the information needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from these emergencies. It will provide useful information and tools to ensure you and your family know what to do to stay 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, inclusion in local emergency preparedness efforts, and solutions for the challenges people and communities face. APD staff with many years of disaster training and experience in planning, response, and recovery will be presenting this session.

Karen Hagan

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

4030 Esplanade Way

Tallahassee, FL 32399

karen.hagan@apdcares.org

Meet the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

Friday, June 11

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Plaza International Ballroom

Meet the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and learn about the many services VR has to offer eligible youth and adults who are interested in developing a meaningful career. Participants will learn about the many services and supports available through VR that are customized to meet the individual's employment goals. Open discussion is encouraged.

Allison Flanagan, MRC, CRC

Division Director

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

325 W. Gaines St., Suite 1144

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

(850) 245-3285

allison.flanagan@vr.fldoe.org



FRIDAY

JUNE 11, 2021

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Plaza International Ballroom

The 23rd Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities



Governor Ron DeSantis

Join us for The 23rd Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities, featuring Governor Ron DeSantis. Ever since The 1st Annual Family Café in June of 1999, creating a space where our attendees can connect with the elected officials and policymakers whose actions so profoundly impact individuals with disabilities and their families has been a cornerstone of The Annual Family Café. We're excited to continue the tradition in 2021.

The Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities presents a unique opportunity to hear from the leader of the Executive branch of our state government, as well as representatives of the many State Agencies that are responsible for implementing his vision for the state's disability community. 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 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 23rd Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities!

The 23rd Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities will feature a musical performance by singer/songwriter and parent of a child with autism Staar Fields.

She is excited to spread her message of hope and encouragement with everyone at The Annual Family Café. For more information, visit staarfields.com.



FRIDAY

JUNE 11, 2021

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. · Plaza International Ballroom

The Family Café Bill Galvano Leadership Award

The Family Café is pleased to welcome former Florida Senate President and long-time friend of The Family Café, Bill Galvano.

In recognition of his commitment to meaningful lives in the community for Floridians with disabilities, and his extensive public policy work to that end, The Family Café has created The Family Café Bill Galvano Leadership Award. This award will be given annually to an elected official, policy maker, or public servant who has made an especially significant contribution to the well-being of Floridians with disabilities and bringing The Family Café's organizational mission to life.

The Family Café believes strongly in advocacy, and the ability of motivated individuals to change policy to make the world a better, more inclusive place for every citizen. While advocacy is essential, real progress can't be made without public servants that are ready and willing to be the audience for that advocacy voice, and act on what that voice teaches them.

The Family Café Bill Galvano Leadership Award has been created to recognize such people, public servants that don't just hear disability advocates, but truly listen to them, and take it upon themselves to partner with people with disabilities and their families to create real change.

2021 Bill Galvano Leadership Award Recipient

The Family Café is pleased to name Florida Representative Scott Plakon as the first-ever recipient of The Family Café Bill Galvano Leadership Award.

Rep. Plakon has served in the Florida House from 2008 through 2012, and again from 2014 through the current term. During his tenure, he has advocated for the priorities of Floridians with disabilities, and has also been a champion of The Family Café as the House sponsor of its state funding for the majority of his time in office.

We are deeply grateful for his leadership and critical support of The Family Café's mission to serve Floridians with disabilities.



Former Fla. Senate President Bill Galvano



Florida Representative Scott Plakon

SATURDAY

JUNE 12, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. · Plaza International Ballroom

Differences And Perceived Weaknesses Are Actually Our Strengths

The Family Café welcomes actor, director, public speaker, and founder and Artistic Director of National Disability Theatre, Mickey Rowe.

Mickey was the epicenter of significant publicity when he became the first autistic actor to play Christopher Boone, the lead role in the Tony Award winning play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." This also made him the first autistic actor to ever play any autistic character in a professional performance setting.

His casting in the lead role of "Curious Incident" led to a multitude of high-profile interviews and speaking engagements. He has been featured in *The New York Times*, *PBS*, *Teen Vogue*, *Playbill*, *NPR*, *CNN*, *Huffington Post*, and *Salon*, and has keynoted at organizations including the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Yale School of Drama, The Gershwin Theatre on Broadway, the DAC of the South Korean government, and more.

As an autistic child and through school Mickey had no friends, but found sanctuary as an audience member in theater and the performing arts. Mickey's tenacious pursuit of his goals, and his belief that our differences and perceived weaknesses are actually our strengths have allowed him to live his dream. As an autistic man Mickey is also a husband and a father, learning how to effectively communicate in the face of differences through all types of relationships, professional and romantic.

Mickey is the founder and Artistic Director of National Disability Theatre, which works in partnership with Tony Award winning companies to re-imagine disability and universal design as key storytelling and design elements, showcasing that people can be successful not just in spite of their challenges, but also because of them. National Disability Theatre's productions feature only professional artists, artisans, and designers with disabilities.

Mickey Rowe



SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration Open, Registration Desk
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Registration Open, Registration Desk
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Going to College During COVID-19

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom A

Attendees will learn from current students at Florida State University (FSU) who are excelling and overcoming barriers within a preeminent institution. Students will share their firsthand experiences with college during the COVID era. 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 with academics, student life, and social activities. The panelists are representatives of the University of Choice (UoC) Initiative, a student organization that advocates for people with diverse abilities, fosters inclusive spaces, and establishes alternative frameworks for understanding diverse abilities. These students' unique viewpoints are critical to understanding how students with disabilities navigate college life for several reasons. First, stigmatization continues to perpetuate negative perceptions of non-normative abilities. Those who identify as having a disability might expect devaluation and discrimination from their instructors and peers, whether current or prospective college students. It is therefore important to examine how current college students establish a sense of community at their institutions. Second, the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly altered social interactions among college students, college learning environments, and the types of ableism that pervade them. For example, learning remotely hinders students' abilities to befriend and collaborate with their peers. Online learning introduces novel barriers to course-accessibility due to instructors' experience with remote course loads and the novel barriers and technology accessibility. However, online course loads could simultaneously provide a more accessible learning experience to students by removing previous obstacles encountered in traditional classrooms. The students in this segment will describe how to navigate college in the current state of college campuses.

JR Harding
Florida State University
821 Academic Way PO Box 3061110
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 644-4294
jharding@fsu.edu

Tyler Bruefach
University of Choice Initiative

Carly Fulcher
University of Choice Initiative

Mira Galantis
University of Choice Initiative

Nora Mark
University of Choice Initiative

Jessica Dixon
University of Choice Initiative

Essential Legal Planning for Special Needs Families

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

We will discuss the legal documents necessary for a person with a disability as well as for those that make up the support system around the individual. Among the documents discussed will be Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives, Wills, and Special Needs Trusts. We will cover the basic public assistance programs available including the various Social Security programs and Medicaid and the Medicaid Waiver program. Finally we will discuss guardianship and how alternatives to guardianship should be considered.

Travis Finchum
Special Needs Lawyers, PA
901 Chestnut Street, Suite C
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 443-7898
kimarie@specialneedslawyers.com

McKay Scholarship Program and Gardiner Scholarship Program

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

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.

Rashawn Williams
Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent
Education and Parental Choice
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1044
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0502
rashawn.williams@fldoe.org

Raina Turner
Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent
Education and Parental Choice
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1044
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0502
raina.turner@fldoe.org



AT Funding Solutions with FFAST

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

Join FFAST to learn about the state of Florida's alternative financing program which may help you purchase the AT that you want or need. When insurance, benefits, or grants won't cover your AT, where can you turn? FFAST offers a program that may be the solution. Get all of your questions answered about this program that has provided over \$2 million in loans to hundreds of individuals throughout the state to help them increase their independence at home, at work, and in their community.

Eric Reed
FFAST, Inc.
820 East Park Avenue, Suite D-200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 487-3278 x104
ereed@faastinc.org

The Wallet Card: A Tool for Successful Interactions with First Responders

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

This is a training for high-functioning teenagers and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) and their families about how to interact successfully with first responders. The presentation will introduce the Wallet Card. The purpose of the Wallet Card is to assist an individual who may have difficulties communicating or expressing themselves in an emergency situation and to assist first responders in identifying an individual's disability related needs to help them better understand the circumstances.

Deborah Dietz
Disability Independence Group
2990 Southwest 35th Avenue
Miami, FL 33133
(305) 669-2822
debbie@justdigit.org

Matthew Dietz
Disability Independence Group
2990 Southwest 35th Avenue
Miami, FL 33133
(305) 669-2822
mdietz@justdigit.org



COVID-19 Update and Individuals with Disabilities

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Health, and the Division of Emergency Management have been collaborating since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure individuals with disabilities were a part of the planning and response to this public health emergency. State Access Director Bryan Russell has hosted regular conference calls with disability organizations to ensure the disability community was kept up to date. APD, the Centers for Independent Living, the Arc and others were important participants in these calls. APD worked with state agency partners to ensure PPE, testing and vaccines were made available to APD consumers and information on access to important services was provided to the partners, stakeholders, providers, caregivers, and the disability community. Find out the latest COVID-19 information as it relates to individuals with disabilities.

Karen Hagan
Director of Policy and Emergency Management
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
850-412-0085
Karen.Hagan@apdcares.org

Bryan Russell
Manager/Disability and Health Program
State Access Coordinator, ESF-6 (Mass Care)
Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention
Florida Department of Health
(850) 901-6620
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THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ



Benefits and Tax Savings for Families with Special Needs

Saturday, June 12
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

Parents of children with special needs incur a variety of expenses for their child or adult, including therapies, educational training, personal care aides, transportation, home modifications, medical supplies, and special diets. Many of these expenses may be tax deductible, but are often overlooked by other tax professionals, who are unfamiliar with the types and categorization of qualified expenses. These unique tax benefits may entitle parents to additional refunds. Learn how to identify these often-missed tax deductions, and other tools available to save on your family's federal and state income taxes. Includes an important overview of Life Planning tools for the most protected future for your child, including information on public benefits, trusts, guardianships, Medicaid, SSI and SSDI. Also, updates on all the A.B.L.E. 529 accounts across the United States, which allow up to \$100,000 in savings while still retaining SSI and Medicaid.

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
(561) 239-0054
jaretlvogel@aol.com

1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Organizing Your Journey and Not Losing Your Cool

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom A

This workshop will inspire you to get organized and take control of all things 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 infancy to adulthood.

Paula Burns
West Central Early Steps
480 7th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 767-4403
paula.burns@jhmi.edu

Hospital Homebound 101

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

From time to time, children must be educated in a hospital or homebound setting due to a diagnosis, condition, and/or illness that restricts their activities for an extended period of time. If your child may benefit from services in the Hospital/Homebound setting, please join me as I present an overview of state requirements for Hospital/Homebound services that will include how a student is found eligible, the services and programs provided, possible settings, and the roles and responsibilities of the educator, parent, and student.

Patricia Strickland
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(250) 245-0475
patricia.strickland@fldoe.org

Everything You Need to Know About The Gardiner Scholarship

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

This workshop will review qualifications and how parents would apply for the Gardiner Scholarship. It will also cover any legislative updates that impact qualifications or any other areas that may benefit children using the Gardiner Scholarship.

Paula Nelson
Step Up For Students
PO Box 54429
Jacksonville, FL 32245
1 (877) 735-7837
info@sufs.org

5 Steps to Getting a Crystal Clear, Transparent IEP

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

Does your child's IEP lack transparency? Does it seem to ask more questions than it answers? If so, then this is the session for you! Far too often parents come out of an IEP meeting wondering what just happened and if these meetings really make a difference in their child's learning. This interactive, organized, deep-dive review of the IEP process will help YOU become an empowered advocate for your child's next IEP meeting!

Stacey Hoaglund
Family Network on Disabilities of Broward, Inc
5505 Southwest 119th Avenue
Cooper City, FL 33330
(954) 261-3703
staceyhoaglund@gmail.com

No Barriers — We All Have a Book Inside to Share

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

All of us have a story to share. Unique life experiences and challenges have shaped us into who we are. This includes anyone with a disability. However, sometimes perceived barriers can stop us from capturing and sharing our life story. Arizona Jenkins was determined to share his story with the help of an unlikely assistant! Maybe his approach will inspire you to share your story.

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

Tim Mann
Relevant Church
1704 North 16th Street
Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 808-1795
tim@relevantchurch.com

A Behavioral Approach to Dual Diagnoses

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), known as a highly effective approach for helping children with Autism, is not limited to age or diagnosis. This session will provide an overview of ABA and basic strategies including functional assessment and intervention planning. Additional challenges faced when someone is dually diagnosed with ID/DD and a MH diagnosis will be discussed. These challenges include determining what is "behavioral" versus "psychiatric," and how to encourage collaboration between psychiatrists, psychologists, behavior analysts, and other supporters. Finally, approaches for supporting people with ID/DD who are also diagnosed with dementia, OCD, and borderline personality disorder will be shared.

Melissa Richards
The Columbus Organization
499 North State Road, Suite 2065
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
(615) 500-8222
mrichards@columbusorg.com

Meet APD Director Barbara Palmer

Saturday, June 12
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

Barbara Palmer was appointed director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in August 2012. APD serves more than 57,000 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 are for the agency.

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

2:30 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Autism & The Law: Preparing Your Child with Autism for Law Enforcement Officer Contact

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom A

This is an introduction to 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
Autism Society of Greater Orlando
1650 Sand Lake Road, Suite 240
Orlando, FL 32809
(407) 616-6201
dlorman@asgo.org

Hector Gonzalez
Bal Harbour Police Department
655 96th Street
Surfside, FL 33154
(305) 528-0995hgonzalez@
balharbourfl.gov

Chris Gonzalez
Autism Society of Greater Orlando
Drew Lorman
Self-Advocate
Autism Society of Greater Orlando
1650 Sand Lake Road, Suite 240
Orlando, FL 32809
(407) 855-0235
dlorman@asgo.org



Ticket to Work, Strategically Preparing for Employment

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

As approved Employment Networks (EN) with the Social Security Administration, CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) and CareerSource Flagler Volusia (CSFV) are proud partners of Ticket to Work, a program designed to assist career seekers with disabilities to increase their income and self-sufficiency. Through the support of career consultants and community partnerships with local businesses, colleges, and training programs, CSCF and CSFV assist career seekers in developing their customized plans to achieve individual employment goals. Attendees will gain an understanding of how the CareerSource Florida network can help our customers navigate their way through the employment process and into the future.

Allysoun Gallup
CareerSource Flagler Volusia
20 Airport Road, Suite E
Palm Coast, FL 32164
(386) 313-5601
allysougallup@careersourcecfv.com

Shinara Hughes
CareerSource Central Florida
1209 West Airport Boulevard
Sanford, FL 32773
(407) 531-1222 x4709
shughes@careersourcecf.com

The Criminal Justice System and People with Disabilities

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

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.

Andrew Sagona
9020 Northwest 8th Street, Apartment 507
Miami, FL 33172
(407) 319-0615
andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com



Family Care Council Florida — Information, Inspiration, Get Some, Give Some — Support for a Lifetime

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

We missed meeting you in 2020 and hope you will join us at the 2021 Family Cafe. If anyone in your family has a developmental disability, or if you have a developmental disability and live in Florida, you should know your local Family Care Council. THIS SESSION IS FOR YOU! Established in 1993 by the Florida Legislature there is a Family Care Council in each area throughout the State that the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) serves. The Council advises APD and helps develop plans for delivery of family support services. Passionate members of the council like to consider ourselves the "Best Guide" for families. Our mission is to educate and empower individuals. We get it done! 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 you have heard. 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. If you are a self-advocate that wants to get more involved, this is a great way to do it. We hope to meet you all in person in 2021.

Denise Torres
Family Care Council Florida
12301 Kernan Forest Boulevard, Apartment 207
Jacksonville, FL 32225
(904) 710-0636
dtorres@arcjacksonville.org

Dina Justice
Family Care Council Florida
Sandy Ames
Family Care Council Area 11

Wandering and Elopement: Risk Factors and Strategies

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

Wandering and elopement behavior is a dangerous but common behavior of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related disabilities. Risk factors associated with wandering and elopement, the purpose or function of wandering and elopement, and strategies will be discussed.

Cathy Allore
FAU-Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431
(561) 213-5751 callore@fau.edu

Eligibility for Participation in APD Services

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

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.

Liesl Ramos
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
liesl.ramos@apdcares.org



Using Everyday Items to Help Developing Infants and Toddlers

Saturday, June 12
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

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 Burns
West Central Early Steps
480 7th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 767-4403
paula.burns@jhmi.edu



4:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Communication Tips: Working and Communicating Positively with School Staff

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom A

This session will explore ways that families can collaborate and communicate with their child's teachers, school administrators, other professionals, and support staff. Join the Florida Inclusion Network to learn and practice positive ways to communicate clearly, work together for a smooth school year, and show support and willingness to partner with the school to benefit your child. This session includes resources and materials to share. As discretionary projects of the Florida Department of Education, all services, support, and resources are provided free of charge to Florida stakeholders.

Kelly Claude
Florida Inclusion Network
Florida State University, 4500 University Center Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 645-7593
kclaude@contactfin.com



Debunking Myths about Saving in the Disability Community

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

Many individuals in the disability community who receive public benefits like Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid are only allowed \$2,000 in cash resources. With ABLE United, individuals can save up to \$15,000 per year to be used for disability-related expenses such as housing, doctor's appointments, education, a new car, assistive technology, or basic living expenses like groceries. Join us for a presentation that covers a high-level overview of ABLE accounts, who is eligible, how it works, and the benefits of opening up an account. Whether you're a parent or caregiver, advocacy organization or individual interested in learning more, this presentation will provide you with what you need to open an ABLE United account from home or educate those you serve on why an account may be right for them.

John Finch
ABLE United
1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Suite 210
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 413-1411
john.finch@ableunited.com



Come Chat with The Florida Youth Council

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

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, Inc. 820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100 Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 224-4670 ngermain@familycafe.net	John Howard Baldino Florida Youth Council	Alexander Gonzalez Florida Youth Council	William Lupella Florida Youth Council	Christina Waldron Florida Youth Council
	Shevie Barnes Florida Youth Council	Leah Gorman Florida Youth Council	Michelle Sandiford Florida Youth Council	Serena Wetmore Florida Youth Council
	Derek Carraway Florida Youth Council	JJ Humphrey Florida Youth Council	Josue Tapia Florida Youth Council	Brandon White Florida Youth Council

Access Points — Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS) for Families

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

An overview of the Florida Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS) will be presented to inform families of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities on the eligibility criteria, courses, and potential implications related to participation in instruction in alternate standards and assessments. Families will also learn about available options to support students with cognitive impairments within the regular education classrooms.

Chelsea Strickland Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
chelsea.strickland@fldoe.org



Mental Health/Self Care — Salud Mental/Cuidado Propio

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

This presentation focuses on helping the audience understand what is mental health and self-care. At the end of the presentation, participants will embrace that life is about challenges and that being able to bounce back is the key to being mentally strong and healthy. Suggestions on self-care will be provided.

El enfoque de la presentacion es ayudar a la audiencia a entender lo que es Salud/Bienestar Mental y Cuidado propio. Al finalizar la presentacion, los participantes aceptaran el mensaje que la vida se trata de retos y que el poder lidiar con estos es la clave de tener una mente saludable y fuerte. Se proveeran sugerencias para el cuidado propio.

Grisel Negron
School District of Osceola County
1200 Vermont Avenue
Saint Cloud, FL 34769
(407) 933-3993
nilda.negron@osceolaschools.net

Sandra Gonzalez
School District of Osceola County
1200 Vermont Avenue
Saint Cloud, FL 34769
(407) 933-3993
sandra.gonzalez@osceolaschools.net



Let Us Help You with Your Vision for the Future

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

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 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
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
kiersten.lee@apdcares.org

Danielle Delgado
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation
4050 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399
danielle.delgado@vr.fldoe.org



The Power of Inclusion: Race & Disability

Saturday, June 12

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Plaza International Ballroom

Families with individuals with disabilities can feel alone and isolated from society just having to navigate resources, therapies, and treatments. Imagine being a minority and living with a disability; it can be a double whammy. This presentation talks about diversity and inclusion and the dual nature of race and disability and how to navigate, find resources, and connect with others in the community.

Talethia Edwards
The H.A.N.D. Up Project
1802 Saxon Street
Tallahassee, FL 32310
(850) 933-9235
toedwards1069@yahoo.com

5:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

What Parents Need to Know About Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Saturday, June 12

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Florida Ballroom A

Students with disabilities have special rights and protections when they are suspended or expelled from school or removed from class. One of those rights is a meeting that might help your child stay in their current placement. This meeting is called a Manifestation Determination Review, or MDR for short. This training will review the legal requirements and discipline process for students with disabilities as they relate to:

- Whether an MDR is required
- The process for conducting a MDR
- Long- and short-term disciplinary removals
- Change of placement due to disciplinary removals
- Special circumstances
- Parental disputes

Jennifer Barnhill
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 294-6175
jennifer.barnhill@fldoe.org

THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ



Autism After the Diagnosis and Beyond — Helping Parents Create Better Outcomes

Saturday, June 12
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom B

This presentation will explore a new easy to use online platform that helps parents create and manage their child's care, invite providers to their child's Care Team, find focused content designed to support the parent and child, workshops by nationally recognized experts, and more. Coordinating, documenting, and managing all of your child's services can be an overwhelming experience. The myNavigator feature gives you, the parent, the ability to quickly and easily collect, store, manage, as well as share vital information with all team members. myHana gives you the ability to better understand and manage comorbidities which often may accompany an ASD diagnosis. Go to myHana.org/familycafé to claim your 30-day free trial and help support The Family Café.

Nick Garofolo
MyHana Autism
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Medford, NJ 08055
(215) 606-3558
nick@chroniccareadvocates.com

Steve Carter
MyHana Autism
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Medford, NJ 08055
(215) 606-3558
steve@myhana.org

Ven Sequenzia
MyHana Autism
114 North Summerlin Avenue
Sanford, FL 32771
(305) 525-9322
ven@myhana.org



Employ to Empower: Discovering Abilities, Building Independence

Saturday, June 12
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom C

Striving for independence, Danielle McGill, born with cerebral palsy, has overcome many obstacles, but has not let life's challenges define her. Presently, she works at Florida Vocational Rehabilitation and Ann Storck Center as the Advocacy Coordinator. Danielle has developed a resource called the "Employ to Empower Guide." Employ to Empower gives job seekers with disabilities power to create a vision and a plan in achieving a career that makes sense to the job seeker. This guide will assist the job seeker and his or her support team with finding a job. The information provided can help the individual on their journey to employment.

Danielle McGill
Empower Possibilities
10144 Arbor Run Drive, Unit 85
Tampa, FL 33647
(954) 632-5318
dmcgill@empowerpwd.org

Using Your Superpowers to Create Your Best Superhero Life

Saturday, June 12
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

Do you wonder what your child with disabilities' life will be like when they reach adulthood? Do you worry about how they will support themselves long after you are gone? Come explore the possibilities of using their unique super powers to create a life of their very own. It doesn't matter if you are just starting on your journey of raising your child or if your child is already grown, this class will help you to think and plan ahead or motivate you to launch the fulfilling life of your dreams!

Teresia Dulaney
Our Superhero Life LLC
PO Box 1381
Bronson, FL 32621
(352) 284-3013
oursuperherolife@gmail.com

Jack Dulaney
Our Superhero Life, LLC
2650 Northeast 107th Terrace
Bronson, FL 32621
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Tommy Dulaney
Our Superhero Life, LLC
2650 Northeast 107th Terrace
Bronson, FL 32621
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oursuperherolife@gmail.com

From Non-Verbal to TV: An Autism Unscripted Life

Saturday, June 12
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

In this presentation, autism advocate, writer, and speaker Tony Hernandez Pumarejo will briefly talk about his life with Autism. The speaker will be discussing some of the key life challenges that he went through and how he was able to accomplish key life goals such as being a college graduate, obtaining full-time employment, becoming a book author, a public speaker, and TV presenter. Then, we will go over the principles that need to be implemented as a community in order to help each person with Autism and also special needs to achieve their purpose in life.

Tony Hernandez Pumarejo
2113 Polo Club Drive, Apartment 205
Kissimmee, FL 34741
(386) 320-8005
tonyhpuma@gmail.com

Search for Resources

Saturday, June 12
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities has created two web-based tools to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Community Resource Directory connects individuals with disabilities to available resources and organizations, as well as events in their respective areas. Additionally, the agency has launched the Florida Navigator, a tool designed to inform users on state government programs available in Florida. This tool provides a simplified path of information where users may tailor the results to their specific needs.

Stephanie Rogers
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
stephanie.rogers@apdcares.org



A Conversation About Mental Illness

Saturday, June 12
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

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, know the signs, facts vs fiction, getting help, breaking down stigma, mental health in the workplace, and what you can do.

Paula Kegelman
NAMI Greater Orlando
300 Crown Oak Centre Drive
Longwood, FL 32750
(407) 253-1900
paula.kegelman@namigo.org

SUNDAY

JUNE 13, 2021

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Plaza International Ballroom

A Positive Attitude And A No-Quit Grit Can Help Anyone Achieve Their Goals

The Family Café welcomes Floridian, self-advocate and tri-athlete Chris Nikic, along with his father and coach Nik Nikic.

In November 2020, Chris Nikic became the first person with with Down syndrome to complete a 140.6-mile Ironman triathlon, as verified by Guinness World Records. This remarkable accomplishment led to significant media attention, with Chris being featured in both and NBC Documentary and an ESPN SportsCenter feature. He serves as a Special Olympics Champion Ambassador, and attended Ironman Hawaii in 2021.

Chris is coached by his father Nik, and together, they have developed an approach to achieve the impossible by getting better

1% at a time—which is something everyone can do in any area of their lives. Their winning strategy is detailed in their new book, *1% Better: Reaching My Full Potential and How You Can Too*, where Chris and Nik share the motivating principles that can be applied by anyone trying to realize a dream and reach their full potential—whether they are young or old, in shape or out of shape, and even if living with a disability.

Chris's mission is to inspire others like him to pursue their dreams and goals, and his greatest achievement is showing others how shifting your focus from your disabilities to your abilities and pursuing your dreams with an unwavering tenacity, a positive attitude and a no-quit grit can help anyone achieve their goals and dreams.

A limited number of complimentary copies of Chris and Nik's book, 1% Better: Reaching My Full Potential and How You Can Too, will be available at this keynote!



Chris and Nik Nikic



SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom

Closing and Door Prizes, Plaza International Ballroom

9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Stand Up for Independence

Sunday, June 13

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Florida Ballroom A

My name is Malcom and I am with Stand Up for Independence, or SUFI. I will be sharing information about how the pandemic has affected SUFI. We have had Zoom calls weekly since April 2020 and we volunteered with the Salvation Army in December. We have also given back to our community by supporting Special Olympics and any other disability programs in our area. I am on the transportation committee for the Treasure Coast and will share how SUFI has been fighting for years to make sure there's transportation for people with disabilities in our community. I am a big advocate for transportation and have been involved with Special Olympics Florida. Please join us to learn what Stand Up for Independence has been up to during the pandemic.

Malcom Harris-Gowdie

SUFI

1857 Southwest Whipple Avenue

Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953

(772) 209-1801

jamal1389@outlook.com

Life is a Train Ride: My Autism Journey, Told Through Music

Sunday, June 13

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Florida Ballroom B

My story is told through original songs and a musical composition, accompanying a narrative on a projection screen describing my life story on the autism spectrum, from the day of diagnosis to the point of self-discovery (at 18). My presentation describes the emotions, trials, and tribulations in the life of a child with autism and their family. My story through music also aims to share the special abilities that a person with ASD can have (e.g. I sing in 10 languages), and the importance of nurturing these special abilities by family, professionals, and the community.

Larissa Grabois

150 Prospect Street

Leonia, NJ 07605

(201) 966-0862

lara.grabois@gmail.com



26 Healthy Marriage and Relationship Tips for Dads

Sunday, June 13
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Florida Ballroom C

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 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 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.

Bob Streater
Team Streater Seminars and Services, LLC
3551 Esplanade Way, Suite 1201
Tallahassee, FL 32311
(850) 728-3042
bobstreater3225@gmail.com

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

Sunday, June 13
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

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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Rebecca Cox
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System
1076 U.S. Highway 27 North
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rebecca.cox@heartlanded.org

Letting Go: Time to Land the Helicopter

Sunday, June 13
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

This workshop examines the importance of encouraging independence in a child with special needs. The workshop also discusses how hard it can be for parents to step back and offer the increasing levels of freedom to the child to allow the child to develop that independence. Finally, the training offers some ideas for parents in learning how to let go in a constructive fashion.

Mark Keith
Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
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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:

- Administering grants through 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.***



AT is Where It's At!

Sunday, June 13
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

Many who are unfamiliar with the term AT may not know that it stands for Assistive Technology. But even when one learns what AT stands for it may still be a mystery what Assistive Technology is and how it can benefit them. My name is Jesse Hansen, and as the FFAST Northwest Regional Demonstration Center Coordinator at The Family Café, I have a passion for all technology, especially Assistive Technology. Join me as we discuss what Assistive Technology is and how it enables individuals to become less reliant on others while gaining their own independence. We will discover what accessibility options are available and built into everyday devices you may already own such as smart phones, tablets, computers, and home automation devices.

Jesse Hansen
The Family Café, Inc.
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Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 224-4670
jhansen@familycafe.net



The Anime Connection: Utilizing Anime and Related Media to Teach Disability Awareness

Sunday, June 13
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

Many individuals with disabilities enjoy anime and related media—and belong to the anime fan community. Thus, the anime fan community routinely provides accommodations for their members with disabilities at anime conventions. In addition, many anime series and anime-inspired shows feature content that relates to issues and situations commonly experienced by people with disabilities. In this presentation, two anime fans with hidden disabilities will describe how anime and related media can be utilized as a medium to teach disability awareness, and discuss how the anime community actively provides accommodations for their members with disabilities at anime conventions.

James Williams
Wisconsin's Community of Practice on Autism
Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities
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jmw820@comcast.net

Hailey Buxton
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Pinellas Park, FL 33781
(727) 515-8233
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10:30 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

An Overview of the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

Sunday, June 13

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Florida Ballroom A

This session will provide an update on implementation of the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act. The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities at UCF is charged with implementing and managing application for and approval of Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs), and distribution of scholarships to eligible students with intellectual disabilities attending the programs. Information regarding key program characteristics, student services, credentials and certificates, data collection on student success, and scholarship awards will be provided.

Janice Seabrooks-Blackmore
Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities
University of Central Florida - Teaching Academy
4000 Central Florida Blvd. P.O. Box 161250
Orlando, FL 32816
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janice.seabrooks-blackmore@ucf.edu

Drew Andrews
Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities
University of Central Florida - Teaching Academy
4000 Central Florida Blvd. P.O. Box 161250
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(407) 823-5225
drew.andrews@ucf.edu



Provide for Your Special Needs and Plan for Your Retirement? Not Impossible!

Sunday, June 13

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Florida Ballroom B

Join Craig Eppy of The Eppy Group, Registered Financial Representative specializing in Special Needs Planning. 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
- Letter 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
501 East Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 300
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
(954) 271-7888
c.eppy@eppygroup.com





Sibling Session

Sunday, June 13
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Florida Ballroom C

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.

Natasha Germain
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(850) 224-4670
ngermain@familycafe.net

Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Alexander Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

JJ Humphrey
Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council

Christina Waldron
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council



Making Arts Programming Accessible

Sunday, June 13
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Orlando Ballroom L

Join the Central Florida Community Arts Team to discover how to use simple, inexpensive technology, customization tactics, and your own creativity to make the most accessible arts programming for your child, student, club, or program. CFCArts was recently awarded the 2020 International Hamilton Arts & Innovation Award through the National Organization for Arts in Health for strides in programming for students with varying abilities including (but not limited to) Down syndrome, autism, and ADHD. They have created accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, and fine arts programs and would like to share their strategy to encourage arts accessibility for all!

Kaileigh Anne Tayek
Central Florida Community Arts
4600 Holly Branch Drive, Apartment 915
Orlando, FL 32811
(419) 304-5753
kaileigh.anne@cfcarts.com

Rebekah Lugo-Melise
Central Florida Community Arts
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32804
rebekah.lugo@cfcommunityarts.com



Accessible Memories

Sunday, June 13
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Orlando Ballroom M

Join me as we discuss different areas of special needs travel: physical disabilities, cognitive disabilities, food allergies, and hearing and visual disabilities. I have spent the last several years learning about resorts and suppliers that are willing to accommodate special needs travelers, and I am so excited to share them with you. We will start with local spots that we all know and love, and expand out into uncharted territory. There are so many suppliers willing to work with us to help us see the world, and I believe that travel is so empowering and should be experienced by all.

Kristy Durso
Incredible Memories Travel
2934 Bayshore Pointe Drive
Tampa, FL 33611
(520) 730-3114
kristy@incrediblememoriestravel.com

Social Learning Groups for Unique People of All Ages: Help Your Child Gain Insight and Effectiveness in the Social World

Sunday, June 13
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Orlando Ballroom N

Do you/your child have difficulty navigating the social world, functioning in the work environment, keeping/developing friendships and relationships, being flexible, thinking about others, or understanding the point of view/feelings/body language of others? This presentation will offer functional, enjoyable, and easy-to-use suggestions that you can implement in your daily life using a unique way of thinking. We will also describe our social learning groups for young adults currently being held virtually through Zoom. Find out how our groups differ from typical social groups. You will leave with a new way of thinking about the social world and how to help your child to live more comfortably in it.

Alana Fichtelberg
Bend Your Brain, Inc.
11157 Kapalua Way
Boynton Beach, FL 33437
(973) 420-6707
alana@bendyourbrain.com

Donna Wexler
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Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 707-4828
wexlerdonnab@gmail.com



Influencing Policymakers Like Your Life Depends on It

Sunday, June 13
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Plaza International Ballroom

Never before has there been a greater need to influence policymakers about the lives, abilities, and needs of the developmental disability community! The Florida Developmental Disability Council's advocacy training program, Partners in Policymaking, teaches parents and adults with developmental disabilities the skills they need to influence policymakers to make things happen! Whether you're enthusiastic about educational inclusion, furthering employment opportunities, improving overall quality of life, or more, PIP can help you discover the advocate you are meant to be. Attend this session to gain knowledge of this national model, where participants learn from experts in the field of systems change.

Stacey Hoaglund
Florida Partners in Policymaking
5505 Southwest 119th Avenue
Cooper City, FL 33330
(954) 261-3703
shoaglundpartner@gmail.com

THE 23RD ANNUAL
FAMILY CAFÉ



OFF-SITE SESSIONS

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, The 23rd Annual Family Café has been organized as a “hybrid” event, with both in-person and virtual viewing options.

Attendees on site in Orlando for the event are able to attend the live sessions listed in the front of this program. Sessions held in the Plaza International Ballroom will be livestreamed on The Family Café’s Facebook page. Sessions in other rooms will be recorded for future release.

There are also a number of sessions that could not be included in the live event due to safety protocols and capacity limits at the host hotel. This section of the program lists sessions that will **not** be held live at the in-person event.

The Family Café has invited presenters of these sessions to share their videos, presentation slides, and resource materials. Those will be made available online in the weeks following the in-person event.

For your reference, this section lists all of the planned sessions that could **not** be held in person. They are organized by topic, with some of the topics being “tracks” from the in-person event.

Sessions in traditional tracks include:



Other topic areas include:

- **Art and Music**
- **Autism**
- **Behavior**
- **Caregivers, Self-Care, Empowerment, and Motivation**
- **Education**
- **Health**
- **Legal**
- **Roundtables**
- **Service Animals**
- **State Agencies, Services, and Resources**
- **Transition and Social Life**

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



Access The Vote Florida — An Update

Access The Vote Florida (ATVFL) is a state chapter of AAPD's REVUP 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.

Deborah Dietz
Disability Independence Group
2990 Southwest 35th Avenue
Miami, FL 33133
(305) 669-2822
debbie@justdigit.org

Tony DePalma
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 488-9071 x9737
tonyd@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Jason Hahr
Access The Vote Florida
7451 Southeast 24th Terrace
Ocala, FL 34480
(352) 622-2342
jasonhahr@gmail.com

Confronting Social Injustice due to Disabilities

We are empowering each other and working together to promote changes within our community of disparities. Participants will engage in discussions to form solutions for families who are caring for loved ones on the Spectrum.

Sandra Henderson
Puzzle Blessings Non-Profit Organization
3002 Sanchez Street
Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 802-0862
puzzleblessings@gmail.com

Tajullah Wells
Puzzle Blessings Non-Profit Organization
3002 Sanchez Street
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Grace-Based Advocacy

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 to build a bridge, not just tear down a wall.

Joan Borton
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Legislative Summary 2021 & Strategies for Educating Legislators for 2022

The presentation begins with a report on the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's 2021 Legislative Platform and many of the legislative outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families from the 2021 Legislative Session. Advocacy techniques that were used will be illustrated for self-advocates and their families so that they can understand how to advocate and how they can truly have an impact on the process. The importance of registering to vote and other advocacy techniques for participants will be included to encourage those who want to learn about the legislative process and educate their legislators about the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Margaret Hooper
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
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So You Think You Want To Start A Self-Advocacy Group? Tips, Trials, and Triumphs

Various leaders of several 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 and state leaders who have come together to form a statewide, nonprofit, self-advocacy organization.

Amanda Baker
Florida Self Advocates Network'D (FL SAND)
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The ABCs of Family Professional Partnerships and the Florida Family Leader Network (FFLN)

It begins with Advocating for our own children with special needs; we then Become family leaders working with others; and we Collaborate with professionals who believe that strong family-professional partnerships improve and enhance the services provided to 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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ART AND MUSIC

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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Dee Miller
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Music Therapy Experience

Beachside Music Lessons & Therapy invites you to attend our Music Therapy Experience! Come learn about some of the benefits of music therapy and ways to help your loved one learn or maintain skills through music at home. We will then have a mini music therapy group with fun songs for all ages! We are proud to serve clients of all ages in the Volusia, Flagler, and Orange county areas with adapted music lessons and music therapy in your home or online anywhere via the Gardiner Scholarship, Staywell and CMS insurance, and private pay. www.beachsidemusiclessons.com

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Organizing a Virtual International Talent Show for Children with Special Needs!

Creating art encourages children with special needs to express the outer world in their perception. Art making has the remarkable access to unconscious memories and thought processes that are stored in the right-brain hemisphere. Internal image or memories drawn from the right-brain hemisphere are truth of an experience. Art is also a great way to reduce anxiety and stress in children. A virtual talent show is a proactive approach to display and experience the beautiful thoughts and perceptions of these minds. It helped reduce anxiety and stress during the pandemic and increased self-esteem. In addition to this, practical skills are learned.

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smART & Healthy Kids!

The arts are vital for human development. Research reveals that engaging in creative arts encourages healthy outcomes and confirms that healthy students learn better. This presentation identifies the physical and mental effects of creative arts on one's health and learning.

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Digital Literacy

As the pandemic raced across the country, many of us turned to digital technology to try and continue some sort of normalcy to our lives. Working, learning, and socializing became something that was only safe to do in the virtual world. Where does that leave the millions of individuals who do not have even basic digital literacy skills? For adults and children with disabilities, a lack of digital literacy skills is sometimes referred to as "the disability digital divide." This presentation will address digital literacy and what actions parents and caregivers can take to bridge the virtual divide.

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Innovative Solutions: Enabling Technology for Independent Living

Enabling technology creates opportunities for independence, reimagined. Enabling technology can be a natural support that makes the transition from home into community supported living possible. Enabling technology allows for self-determination and autonomy while still ensuring caregiver peace of mind. For example, a sensor-based system can remind an individual with an audible prompt in their home or a text message, email, or phone call if medication was missed, the stove has been left on, or when a task must be completed at a certain time of day. Learn outcomes individuals with disabilities can achieve through the use of technology. Discover best practices and the person-centered approach to integrating technology into one's home environment.

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Kitchen Not So Confidential: Safe and Handy Kitchen Aids

Explore the wonderful world of affordable kitchen gadgets to make cooking and clean up safe, easy, and fun. We will sample tools for cutting and preparing fruits and vegetables, microwaving, and reducing clean-up time. This session will be helpful for persons with an array of special needs, including adaptations for vision loss. Resource guides to purchase items will be provided. So come for a fun, hands-on demonstration and trial session.

Emily Taylor-Snell
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What You Need to Know about Getting a Wheelchair Ramp Installed

Many people have the need for a wheelchair ramp at their home or business. This presentation will cover what is important to know when choosing a ramp. What type should I choose—wood, aluminum, steel? How long should the ramp be? Will I be able to use the ramp independently? Should I get handrails? Are there regulations I have to follow; do I have to get a building permit? How much will it cost? These questions and ADA requirements will be covered in this presentation.

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Pamela Charney
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AUTISM

Autism in Disney Characters: Volume 1

Disney . . . We have all grown up with it in some way or another, whether it would be watching the movies, buying the merchandise, or travelling to their theme parks around the world. However, little do we realize that there are certain characters that display traits of being on the Autism Spectrum. We may not see it at first, but in this presentation, you will see what makes them relate to those with Autism.

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NeuroTeams: An After-School Club for Middle Schoolers with Autism

The most painful stories we hear from families of middle schoolers with autism is the impact of loneliness and isolation on their children's academic development and mental health. Research shows the most critical developmental work tweens and early teens must do to survive and thrive the middle school transition is building a safe group to identify with, create with, and belong to. This is hard work for all middle schoolers, and it can

be nearly impossible for those with autism. Crippling test-driven restructuring, the “school choice” movement, and now a global pandemic have made this social-emotional development work even more out of reach. Join a conversation with a team of neurodiverse tweens, a Language Arts teacher, and a Civics teacher wishing to “think globally and act locally” to change this! Celebrate their story of creating an after school, student-led club on Zoom where students and teachers learn to use action research to (1) become in-tune with and self-advocate for one’s experience as a person with autism; (2) study the art of human connection through conversation; (3) strengthen the neurodiverse community and culture through social activism and creative endeavors; and (4) share research to improve public education. Presenters are seeking the wisdom of parents and family members to inform the future of their work.

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Byron Moss-Randall
Rami Siahpoush

Social and Support Groups for Autistic Adults 101: A Field Guide

Many social and support groups for adults with autism have emerged nationwide that have helped many autistic adults build and maintain lifelong social networks. Listen to a traveling autistic self-advocate—who routinely visits various social and support groups for autistic adults throughout America during his travels—describe how these groups are typically structured and organized, discuss how different social and support groups that serve autistic adults are organized and structured differently, and share advice to autistic adults regarding how to identify an ideal support or social group that is best suited for their unique needs.

James Williams
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BEHAVIOR

A Parent's Guide: The Keys to Unlocking Good Behavior with Positive Behavior Support

For years, positive behavior support was a process for improving behavior thought to be only used at school. Some parents heard of it, but were never really invited to learn, implement, or put into practice at home the strategies that were being used at school. Learn how to work collaboratively with your child’s IEP team, family members, and anyone who interacts with your child on how to evaluate, record data, develop, and put in place a plan for improving behavior and your family’s overall quality of life.

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BIRTH TO AGE FIVE

From Early Steps to Preschool

My child is turning three and leaving the Early Steps program. What are my options? Where and how does my child receive services? If you find yourself asking these questions, then this workshop is for you.

Paula Burns
West Central Early Steps
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Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
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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 prepare parents and their child for a smooth transition when they leave our Early Intervention program.

Audrey Evans
Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center
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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
(954) 728-1029
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Transition from Part C to Part B — My Child is in Early Steps and Almost 3 Years Old, Now What?

The presentation will review the roles and responsibilities of the Local Early Steps/Part C and Local Educational Agency/Part B during the transition process when a child turns three years old and continues to need support for their developmental delay or disability. The participants will be provided links to information and resources that will assist in the transition from IDEA Part C to Part B. The presentation will also provide information on what to expect when moving through the eligibility process through the IDEA Part B Pre K 3-5 Program.

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THE 23RD ANNUAL
FAMILY CAFÉ



CAREGIVERS, SELF-CARE, EMPOWERMENT, AND MOTIVATION

Caregiving When You Just Don't Care

There is no doubt family caregivers love the person we care for, but we're human. Some days the privilege of caring feels like a burden. We may be burned out, depressed, or just plain tired. In this session we'll acknowledge these feelings and explore ways to find the courage to continue serving our loved ones. Besides caregivers, friends and faith community representatives are invited to learn about the life of a caregiver and discover how you can journey together.

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CP Redefined

Chatequa Pinkston, who founded Hidden Treasures Ministries, and who was born with Cerebral Palsy, presents CP Redefined. She has learned how to bring change to the world around her and desires to empower everyone to do the same regardless of life's challenges. This workshop takes the labels related to Cerebral Palsy and gives them new meaning according to the Word of God. Participants with or without disabilities, especially CP, will gain new perspectives into their identity and purpose in life through the study of the Scriptures and engaging discussions.

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Hidden Treasures Ministries
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Epilepsy Caregiver Self-Care

From the anxiety of not knowing when a seizure will occur, to injuries incurred while helping the person having a seizure, the effects of epilepsy are not only felt by the individual but by the caregivers as well. According to research, the stress associated with caring for someone who has uncontrolled seizures ticks all the boxes for traumatic stress: it's severe, recurring, chronic, and unpredictable. Often, caregivers forget that they need to take care of themselves too. Join us as we discuss some of the sources of stress for caregivers of persons with epilepsy and how best to manage them.

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Just Inspiration: Inspiring Magical Dreams

We can all go the distance to overcome obstacles and live out our dreams. Let Justin inspire you to defy the odds and live life to the fullest. Learn how he overcame many obstacles caused by Down syndrome and a rare lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, to reach his goals to go to college and land his dream job at Disney. After losing his job to the pandemic, he went on to create a website aimed at connecting and inspiring others with unique abilities to pursue their dreams: Justinspiration.org.

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Lori Isaac
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Learning to Overcome Your Challenges

This previous year, I had to learn how to adapt to different circumstances in regards to my own disabilities. In turn, I learned a lot about myself and my own limits and challenges. And so, I had to learn how to cope with them. I'll teach you how to face your own challenges and start learning how to cope with your own disabilities and issues.

Ryan Turner
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Tammy Turner
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My Child is Blind: What Now?

This session is designed to support parents, guardians, family members, and caretakers of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The information provided will better equip participants with the knowledge to promote success and independence in the home, school, and community environments.

Karen Walker
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Sarah Bussey
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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 daily. 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
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Scars are Stories Meant to Be Shared

Nothing good comes from hiding the truth. We can listen to all of the podcasts, read self help books, write down our feelings and sit in our dark closet of comfort to feel better. But does that really help? Kristen DeAndrade doesn't think so. In her eyes, healing hearts heal hearts, and scars are stories meant to be shared. We all have heavy loads of adversity and healing that we carry as well as physical and emotional scars. When you find someone, a friend, a family member, a therapist, a doctor or heck, maybe even a stranger, who is also on a healing journey—you never know the parallels that can be drawn. Open your ears, and eventually your heart, and your healing will begin. It may happen a little at a time—maybe you start by just listening, then you relate, and when you're ready, you open up and talk. Don't deny yourself the opportunity to heal your heart or help someone else heal theirs. Show your scars and share your story.

Kristen DeAndrade
Little Legs, Big Heart
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West Palm Beach, FL 33407
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Triumph Despite Lost Dreams

Like so many young women, Nicola had the typical dreams of being married, raising 2.5 children with a dog or cat, and living in a home with a white picket fence. Sometimes life not only alters your dreams, it shatters them completely. So, learn how to not only adapt, but to triumph. Nicola supports motivated, success-oriented people to own life challenges as priceless gifts so they can live their purpose. She will engage, entertain, positively challenge, and inspire you to take action.

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What My Parents Did Right

Growing up with a disability is difficult—so is parenting a child with a disability. I was born with cerebral palsy. Drawing from my 60 years of life with a disability, I've identified five things I believe my parents did right to prepare me for life in the real world. In addition to sharing those lessons, we will discuss ways you can apply these discoveries to yourself, your children, or your clients.

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THE 23RD ANNUAL
FAMILY CAFÉ





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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Team Streater Seminars and Services, LLC
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Dadvocacy

This workshop stresses the importance of fathers' 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
4262 Jefferson Lane #204
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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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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 last year, as well as your success from the previous year.

Tim Turner
The Family Café, Inc.
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Man Laws for Moms

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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Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
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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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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 were needed 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 to-go kit.

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Tactile/Hands-on Disaster Preparedness, Evacuation Planning, and Kit Building for Persons with Access and Functional Needs and Respiratory Issues, 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, through the use of hands on materials, an evacuation disaster kit for each member of your family. We will discuss how to plan for year-round disasters. You will learn how to think outside of the box, how to use recycling and the free items you have in your house in your disaster evacuation 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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EDUCATION

6 Ways to Make Math Fun Again

Given the performance and test-driven culture of our schools, with over-packed curriculum and stressed-out students, what can parents do to transform math for their children? Families can increase math proficiency in their children by playing fun games at home. Dr. Jo Boaler of Stanford University offers 6 practical tips for parents that we'll review in this interactive session. Research shows that parent mindset regarding math can actually impact student achievement in math. Therefore, this session strives to make math fun again for the whole household to reposition some of those long-held feelings about math.

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Compensatory Education: What Is It and Do I Need It?

Learn what compensatory education is and different ways in which it may be provided and calculated. We will discuss when and why your child may be entitled to compensatory education and have a brief overview of some related services that may be provided as compensatory education. We will explore examples and hypotheticals of cases when compensatory education has been requested, and their outcomes. We will look at some of the effects COVID-19 and distance learning have had on compensatory education.

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Developing Strategies for Success Through Executive Functioning

Is your child having a difficult time problem-solving, making decisions, thinking critically, or achieving goals? Do these difficulties weaken their school success? Attendees will learn about the basics of executive functioning, such as what it is, why students need these processes, and how they contribute to post-secondary success. They will also take away strategies that can assist in critical areas associated with executive functioning that enable in-school and post-school success. Topics will include planning, prioritization, and organization, along with time awareness and management, and goal-directed behavior.

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Healing Writing Trauma and Liberating Young Writers

Grammar, syntax, vocabulary—these are precious elements necessary to communicate. However, more important is the voice behind the words. Our ultimate goal for teaching writing should be to help our students discover the power behind their passion and then to teach them to use that power to fuel their voice. Once a student has found the genuine voice and excitement within, they will proceed forward with a renewed purpose to master language structure and nuance. Every writing endeavor is a success. Every communication represents a moment or emotion. Every student has a voice. Our priority is to prevent and heal the wounds of writing trauma.

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Sunshine Moss
The Homeschool Resource Center
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Is There a Right Way to Teach Reading?

On average, 36% or less of Florida's 12th grade students are graduating as proficient readers. There is a plethora of reasons for these dismal statistics. Areas we can directly affect through advocacy are curriculum, instruction, and training. Many districts are using reading programs that are not peer reviewed such as iReady. Other districts are using programs that may be peer reviewed but have not been reviewed for the specific population the school is using it with. This presentation will provide information for parents to help them advocate for appropriate curriculum and instructional methodologies as required by law, and how to progress monitor to make sure there is adequate rate of growth to close any learning gaps.

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Parents Helping Parents and the Gardiner Scholarship

In 2014, as parents of special needs children, we had no consistent source of information on how to use this scholarship or even how to apply. Many other parents were in the same boat. We started a Facebook group to share information. We have almost 4500 members, parents and providers, helping each other learn how to apply for or renew the scholarship, or get approved as providers. This is a no-drama group that works for positive changes in the scholarship. If you have or are seeking this scholarship find out if this group is right for you.

Tracy Card
Florida Gardiner Scholarship Parents
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Donna Beerman
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Soaring Eagle Academy

Florida Gulf Coast University's Soaring Eagle Academy will provide an inclusive educational experience to students with intellectual disabilities. This program is a comprehensive transition post-secondary program beginning in 2021, and designed to support students with ID who are seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment. As true residential participants in campus life, students with ID will have the opportunity to be part of the FGCU experience, both academically and socially. FGCU will emphasize a college culture of inclusiveness where diversity is valued.

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Starting Early! Preparing for Secondary Transition: A Focus on Middle School

After this training, participants will be able to identify resources related to secondary transition; understand the components of the Transition Individual Educational Plan (TIEP); and describe activities and strategies to help support students as they enter and attend middle school, and prepare for high school and adulthood. As part of this session, participants will gain access to the Middle School Transition Trail Map for Families (also available in Spanish), which is a resource that will assist families to identify ways to support their youth as they transition to middle school, to high school and, ultimately, to adult life.

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Supporting Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities at Home

The Access Project will guide attendees through the new Access Project website showcasing resources for use in the home setting. Included in the discussion will be various free online resources, tools/strategies that may be used with academics, scheduling, and more. Come here about ideas for creating communication opportunities to help engage your student at home.

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The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Your Exceptional Family

Come learn more about the role of PTA and how they 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 the Florida PTA.

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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 are the legal requirements, and rights of the individual student with (or suspected of having) a disability. 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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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? Not to worry, 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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EMPLOYMENT

Helping Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities Find and Maintain Employment

More people with disabilities than ever are working in competitive employment. Join us as we share tips and strategies on connecting with potential employers, preparing the jobseeker for work, and providing on-the-job supports after the job is acquired.

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Amanda Lewis
Future Pathways
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How Work Incentives Can Work for You

If you receive SSI and/or SSDI, and are considering employment, this workshop gives you an opportunity to learn more about the Work Incentives that may be available through Social Security to support your journey. We'll explore ways to access the different incentives available, some of the "safety nets" in place, and how to work with a Community Work Incentives Coordinator or Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor to develop a customized employment plan. Join us for this interactive session and take the exciting first step toward a rewarding career.

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Increasing Student Engagement with Career Exploration Services

Under WIOA, VR agencies must make career exploration services called Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) available to all students with disabilities. The five required Pre-ETS are: Job Exploration Counseling; Postsecondary Education Counseling; Work Readiness Training; Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE); Self-Advocacy Training and Youth Peer Mentoring.

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Social Security Presents: Navigating SSDI Work Incentives

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

Elizabeth Baez-Beaty
Social Security Administration
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Jacksonville, FL 32257
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Social Security Presents: Navigating SSI Work Incentives and Income Exclusions

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

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Joel Hernandez
Social Security Administration
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Orlando, FL 32812
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Strategies to Land a Job in Government

Individuals with disabilities can receive preference for positions in government. This session will provide some guidance on how to find and apply for positions in government, including resume writing and review.

Ruqayyah Nicholas
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Vocational Rehabilitation's Recipe for Employment Success

The value of work is far more than just a paycheck. A job can improve quality of life by providing opportunities for:

- Enhanced relationships
- Community inclusion
- Better personal and family health
- Greater safety (studies show individuals involved in their community are less likely to be abused and neglected)
- Increased self-worth and respect as a contributing member of society

This session will provide an overview of Vocational Rehabilitation's menu of services designed to support individuals with most significant disabilities to become successfully employed. Key ingredients and services include Discovery, Supported Employment, Individualized Placement and Support, Supported Self-Employment, and Customized Employment.

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Your Winning Ticket: Making Work Pay — 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, and Medicaid. We will provide basic information about the Ticket to Work Program, work incentives, and Partnership Plus, and reveal how they can ultimately be a path to 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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HEALTH

24 Hour Postural Care and Night-Time Positioning for People with Movement Limitations

Postural care does not end when we lay down. Those who need support to maintain good positioning in sitting and standing, usually need it when laying down as well. Most caregivers and parents realize this and try to support their loved ones as best they can with pillows and cushions, but may not know that dedicated night-time supports can be provided through their insurance or local non-profit agencies. This presentation will review various postural support systems (Jenx Dreama Bed, Simple Stuff Works supports, Sleepform, Symmetrisleep, as well as simple household items). Discussion of practical applications, pros and cons of each system, and video demonstrations will show how each is used to maintain comfortable, optimal positioning in lying. Understand how comfort, thermal regulation, and safety concerns related to reflux, seizures, sensory regulation, and pain may interfere with sleep, deformity, and function. Learn how optimal positioning can reduce or reverse progression of bone deformity, as well as decrease night-time arousal to allow better sleep for everyone.

Mary Pengelley
Progressive Pediatric Therapy
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mary.pengelley@ppt4kids.com

Alternative Treatments for People Suffering from the Disabling Disorder of Fibromyalgia

Alternative treatments have been reported to reduce pain, improve health-related quality of life, improve function, and lower overall symptom load severity. The results can be long-lasting depending on the modality. Discussion will include the most effective methods proven to make a positive impact.

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Nedra Rich
Tampa Fibro Friends

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Sunshine Health is one of the largest healthcare organizations in Florida, providing Medicaid, Medicare and Health Insurance Marketplace coverage across the state. We partner with more than 400 community organizations on initiatives to improve the health of all Floridians. Sunshine Health recently teamed up with the Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Derrick Brooks on a public service campaign urging people to get COVID-19 vaccines, especially in communities of color where there may be higher levels of vaccine hesitancy.

Liz Miller
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Florida KidCare: Simplifying Health and Dental Coverage for Kids

Did you know more than 330,000 children in Florida do not have health insurance? Our goal is to decrease that number and spread awareness of Florida KidCare, the state's health and dental insurance program, available for children from birth through the end of age 18. This presentation will give an overview of all four Florida KidCare programs (Medicaid, Florida Healthy Kids, MediKids and the Children's Medical Services Health Plan for children with special health care needs). It will also provide information about eligibility requirements and coverage benefits, like the Behavioral Health Network (BNet), a comprehensive behavioral health care plan, and more to help families understand how it all works. Florida KidCare is free or low-cost for most families, but options exist for families at any income level. With year-round enrollment and no application fee, the time to apply is always now.

Amy Bogner
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
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bognera@healthykids.org

Danielle Gutierrez
Children's Medical Services Health Plan

Managing Oral Health and Access to the Oral Health Care System

The presentation will look at existing and new oral care techniques and materials for persons with special health care needs. It will also look at various dental insurance and financing options that may be available to individuals with special health care needs that will allow them to access and utilize oral health care. From managed care and Medicaid, to Obamacare and the Health Insurance Exchange (HIX), to commercial dental insurance, navigating the system is difficult for anyone, let alone a person who may have special needs. The presentation will discuss various options that may be available—both traditional and non-traditional options—and suggest helpful tips on how to navigate the system.

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Talking With Your Kids About Sexuality

Talking with your young/adult children about sexuality can be difficult. Within this workshop, let's examine the barriers to talking about sexuality, increase your knowledge about sexuality and developmental disabilities, and become empowered parents with the skills needed to communicate about sexuality with your young/grown children.

Renee Shipton
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Tips For Choosing The Right Provider

Choosing a provider you trust for yourself or your loved one is one of the most important decisions you will make about health care. It is particularly true if there are co-occurring health issues. This presentation will provide hands-on tips and examples to help make an informed decision that best fits the needs of the individual and their family. Trainers experienced with adult learning techniques will use a combination of lecture, hands-on activities, and a question-and-answer session. Participants will receive skills to make an informed decision for the healthcare needs for themselves and their families.

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Whole Body Vibration: Enhancing Therapy Outcomes

This presentation hopes to share some of the applications and outcomes noted in pediatric clients with a variety of diagnoses using whole body vibration as an adjunct to traditional therapy. Whole body vibration has been used in rehab and home settings in Europe for over 30 years, with a large body of evidence supporting the positive outcomes in a wide variety of patient diagnoses of all ages. Through side-alternating vibration at various frequencies of 5-33 times per second, muscle contractions are elicited regardless of a person's ability to respond. Basically, the stimulation of the vibration bypasses the need for cognitive, neural, and/or motor control by activating spinal reflexes and muscle spindles through 1-3 minute episodes of stretch/activate/relax, resulting in increased muscle activity of all muscles above the platform. Not only does this rapidly stretch and activate muscles, it also improves blood flow and pulmonary function, decreases swelling, improves bone density, and increases levels of alertness and sensory/proprioceptive awareness in a very short period of time.

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LEGAL

Guardianship: How to Best Protect Your Child When He or She Turns 18

Attendees will learn: Why parents need to consider guardianship if their child has an intellectual or developmental disability; Eight alternatives to guardianship available to parents; and The benefits and risks of guardianship and its alternatives.

Stephen Furnari
Guardian Project
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How to Use Supported Decision-Making: A Step-by-Step Guide

We all need help making decisions. But sometimes when people with disabilities need help, the only alternatives offered are guardianship and guardian advocacy. Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is a tool that allows people with disabilities to make their own decisions with the support of people they trust. You will learn how to determine whether SDM is right for you, how to use SDM, how to draft an SDM agreement, how to incorporate SDM into an existing guardianship or power of attorney, and strategies to assist people with disabilities who do not use speech as their primary form of communication.

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MENTAL HEALTH

COVID-19 and Trauma

Emotional and psychological trauma can be the result of an extraordinary stressful event that shatters our sense of security and makes us feel helpless. For many of us, COVID-19 is that extraordinary stressful event. Some of us have experienced previous emotional and psychological trauma which has worsened due to COVID-19. We may be experiencing overwhelming, misunderstood, and uncontrollable emotions and anxiety that won't go away. Isolation, loss of loved ones, loss of education, loss of employment, and loss of housing are some of the challenges we face during this epidemic. This presentation presents an opportunity to listen, share, and know that we are not alone in our experience with the trauma associated with COVID-19.

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Finding Opportunity in Hardship Using the SatoriWest Method

For thousands of years, many people have discovered that crises, hardships, and struggles can be opportunities. They somehow realized that through difficulties people can find more inner peace, meaning, and joy than they would have otherwise. Now, the secret of that realization has been revealed. A modern understanding of how the brain works—including how to shift the brain through direct skills and holistic wellness—is found in a new approach called the SatoriWest Method.

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Florida's Behavioral Health System for Children, Youth, and Young Adults — 2021 and Beyond!

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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NAMI's Pathway towards becoming a Certified Peer Specialist

Are you ready to provide hope to others using your experiences as an individual or a caregiver who is living in recovery from mental illness or substance use disorder? Join us to learn about a how NAMI has created a self-paced supported pathway to access the core training requirements, coaching and supervision, and on-the-job supervision to become a certified recovery peer specialist from the Florida Certification Board. Once certified, you can be hired as a peer specialist and use your story to help others find their pathway towards recovery.

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Understanding Florida's Mental Health System

Florida's mental health system is made up of many different agencies, places, and providers. This can make it hard to understand what kinds of services are available for you and your family. It can also make it confusing to know who to contact when you have questions or concerns about service provisions. This presentation will provide an overview of what state agencies are part of Florida's mental health system, where you and your family may receive services, and who to contact when you need help. Engaging activities and the chance to ask questions will leave participants better equipped to navigate Florida's mental health system.

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MILITARY FAMILIES

Florida Military School Liaison POC Information

Department of Defense (DoD) School Liaison Officers (SLO) work in partnership with local schools, advise DoD and Coast Guard Service members of school-aged children on educational issues and needs, and assist in solving education-related problems. This presentation provides contact information for all SLOs in the state of Florida.

Michele Taylor
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RECREATION

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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It's a Virtual World — Getting the Most out of Virtual Recreation Opportunities

Learn how to get the most out of the many virtual recreation opportunities that are available these days. While virtual recreation will never be able to fully replace the experience of real-world recreation, there is still a lot to gain and enjoy virtually that can prepare you for real world experiences . . . and that is reason to get off the virtual sidelines! After offering virtual recreation activities for over a year, FDOA (SportsAbility) has identified some ways that participants (and providers) can get the most out of the experience. Get ready to enjoy the world of virtual recreation!

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World's Fairs

When we travel around the world, we meet the people, learn about their culture and taste their food. Some of us travel only to visit family, go fishing or hunting, hiking and camping in the wilderness, skiing down the mountains or the ocean waves, etc. I hope that sharing my experiences with world's fairs, I will be able to introduce the participants to the concept of an international event where countries come together in one place to showcase their culture. We will discuss its history, organizations, past expos, and the future, including the upcoming Expo 2020 in Dubai, with mobility as one of its themes.

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ROUNDTABLES

22q Roundtable

Do you or someone you love have 22q11.2 Syndrome? Whether you know it as 22q, DiGeorge, VCFS, or Shprintzen Syndrome, it is now believed to be the second most common genetic syndrome (1:1,000 to 1:2,000 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.

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Kristina Buchholz
Florida 22q Families
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Autism Roundtable

One of the best ways to link parents and caregivers of children under the Autism Spectrum with current resources and support is to speak with someone who has "been there" and "done that." Attendees will have the opportunity to network with session hosts as well as each other; sharing valuable experiences and proven strategies. If you are new to parenting a child with a disability, or have a particular challenge your family is facing, this session may provide the guidance you need. Come and make new friends!

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Maureen Morris
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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.

Cathy Seacrist
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Making Connections for Families Affected by TBI: Strategies, Advocacy, Resources

This roundtable session is for TBI families and survivors to connect and share experiences, strategies, successes, lessons learned, and resource ideas. The effects of TBI can be life-long and affect the entire family. Whether it's 10 months or 10 years after TBI, it is part of our everyday life. Connecting with others who share this experience will help to empower those of us on this journey through information sharing and advocacy.

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secureyb@yahoo.com

Jeffrey Secure
3600 Kirbo Way, Unit 1
Jacksonville, FL 32224

SibShops

This will be for child siblings of those with disabilities. This will be a group for siblings to discuss the good and not-so-good about having a sibling with disabilities.

Cheryl Albright
Soul To Soul Yoga
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Bradenton, FL 34203
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Special Siblings — Roundtable Discussion with a Mental Health Focus

Having a sibling with a disability is a unique experience: it's important for special siblings to discuss their emotions, to celebrate themselves as individuals, and to identify resources to get help when necessary. This roundtable is a safe space for siblings (ages 12+) to connect and discuss their interests, emotions, experiences, and coping mechanisms.

Courtney Camarillo
2025 Cape Heather Circle
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Tell Us What You Think, What You Really, Really Think About Inclusion

This roundtable discussion invites youth with and without disabilities to discuss what inclusion means to them. Inclusion is defined as “the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure.” Well-defined in formal education, what does inclusion look like for youth who participate in out of school activities (extracurricular activities, clubs)? Youth development programs that work with youth outside of school need your help and essential perspective to understand how we can better accommodate, include, and meet the needs of ALL youth.

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SERVICE ANIMALS

Florida’s Service Animal Legislation

Howard Moon worked with the Florida legislature in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to help make the service animal legislation in the state compliant with Federal law. He uses a service dog daily and has provided training for local hospitals and businesses on their responsibilities regarding access for service animals. This session will be an overview of service animals as defined by both Florida and Federal statutes, including:

- Definition of a service animal
- Difference between service animals, therapy animals and emotional support animals
- Public access rights for SA owners
- Responsibilities of SA owners

There will be time for questions and discussion.

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howardocala@gmail.com

Pawsitive Actions

We will share an exciting PowerPoint presentation regarding legal rights and responsibilities along with a live demonstration of our pawfessional service animals. Ask questions as time permits.

Carol Christopherson
Florida Service Dogs, Inc.
14897 Yellow Water Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32234
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buddynme@bellsouth.net



SMART MONEY

ABLE Accounts: Strategies and Resources to Increase Financial Stability and Preserve Means-Tested Benefits

ABLE accounts are an option for many individuals with disabilities to save for their needs while preserving critical benefits. With 40+ ABLE programs nationally, family members, service providers, and employers all play a key role in the challenging task of providing independent, objective information to understand ABLE options. This session introduces you to ABLE National Resource Center resources including Federal guidance, decision guides, ABLE and special needs trust comparison, podcasts, service provider and employer tool kits and best practices. These resources will help in evaluating and selecting a program to enhance financial stability and provide a better quality of life.

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Miranda Kennedy
ABLE National Resource Center
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Washington, DC 20006
mkennedy@ablenrc.org

Financial Planning for the Child with Special Needs

So, you have a special needs trust and maybe even an ABLE account, but how should you fund them? How can you provide for your child while also being able to fund your own retirement? Can you use Pensions, IRA, 401k, or annuities to fund your trust? Can you transfer a 529 plan into an ABLE account? Should you fund the trust while you are alive or use life insurance to fund the trust after you pass away? How does the SECURE act change things? This presentation will discuss the different options for funding both Special Needs Trusts and ABLE accounts in light of the SECURE act changes.

Barbara Misener
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How to be a Grown-Up: Transition and Finances for Students with Disabilities

This session will include information on recent changes for individuals in making an informed choice regarding a young adult's transitional life choices. Topics will 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, along with updates for the transition-aged student/adult.

Felicia Jordan
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STATE AGENCIES, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES

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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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 to 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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THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ



What are Some Disability Services Available in the Sunshine State That You May Not Be Aware of, and How Can They Benefit You and Your Family?

Floridians with disabilities are often unaware of services available to them free of charge from state agencies and private nonprofit organizations. This panel presentation will highlight services for persons with impaired vision, hearing loss, other physical disabilities, and mental processing challenges. Agency representatives and clients with experience navigating disability services and with community advocacy backgrounds will offer real-world advice and applications. Questions from the audience will be addressed, with Spanish language interpretation available. Following the presentation, eligible persons may apply for services. This is your chance to hear from our experienced and informed presenters.

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Sheila Young
Greater Orlando Council
of the Blind
2304 Amherst Avenue
Orlando, FL 32804

TRANSITION AND SOCIAL LIFE

A Look at New Transition-Related Resources for Families

This session provides participants the opportunity to explore some new family-focused transition resources available through Project 10: Transition Education Network. These guides, publications, and materials are practical resources to share with families of students with disabilities who are in middle or high school and preparing for a transition to positive post-school outcomes. This presentation highlights essential components of transition as Project 10's Family Guide to Secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities. Key transition steps, current transition-related topics, and helpful resources for transition planning will be shared and discussed.

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Project 10: Transition Education Network
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Effective Partnerships Promoting Career and College Success for Transitioning Young Adults

Transition programs can successfully prepare young adults with learning and other disabilities for paid employment. Since 1991, the Horizons School has provided an innovative learning program for young adults who acquire essential knowledge and skills for lifelong independence. This is made possible through effective community partnerships with employers, higher education, faith-based organizations, and agencies. Students select from two tracks—Career Preparation or College Preparation—and complete learning experiences to master the fundamental skills necessary for gainful employment and community living.

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Exploring Tools for Life-Long Learning: School to Work!

Come prepared to be engaged in this interactive session that invites secondary teachers, transition specialists, parent trainers, parents, and young adults to learn about transition tools that might be right in your pocket. Tips and suggestions to understanding features found in common tools such as cell phones and other mobile devices, and how they can be used to make the transition from school to home/community easier will be shared. A close look at helpful Apps for Executive Functioning skills needed to build independence in daily routines/tasks will take place. Participants will be engaged in activities that will demonstrate how these tools can be customizable and beneficial. In addition, a brief overview of the Problem Solving/Response to Intervention/Technology & Learning Connections project will be shared so that participants can locate free and innovative online resources that are available on the Technology and Learning Connections website. Participants will be able to : (1) Experience how learning can be fun and engaging as an active learner; (2) Identify three widely available mobile device features or apps that could be useful in building independence in daily tasks; and (3) Investigate the Technology and Learning Connections website that could be helpful in providing the foundation for ongoing support for locating innovative teaching and learning tools.

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THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ

Great Expectations: Exploring How Expectations Influence Successful Transition to Higher Education and Employment After High School

What do you expect for your child when he or she exits high school? Do you expect that your child will attend college? Do you expect your child to be employed? Your expectations, the expectations of school staff, and other messages that your child receives about themselves have a great influence on their future outcome. This presentation will explore the power of expectations to pull down or lift up students as they transition from high schools to post-school activities, and to explore options for helping your child to plan in advance for a successful transition.

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“How Am I Supposed to Do This?” COVID-19 and Lessons Learned From Moving Virtual

COVID-19 hit The Arc Jacksonville hard, with almost all programs having to move to virtual or pausing activities, limiting the services provided to clients with IDD. Staff members had to get creative with continuing their services and doing so in a virtual environment. This session will go over how moving virtual worked with the On Campus Transition program and The Village community. This session will also go over lessons learned from moving virtual and how we have changed the way we provide services, and how others can utilize these lessons for their families and communities.

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Katie Shaneyfelt
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Strengthening Social Skills VIRTUALLY!

Social skills are an important part of every child’s development into adulthood. Now more than ever, children with and without disabilities are disconnected from their world and disconnected from opportunities to socialize. Learning language-based strategies will improve each child’s ability to communicate effectively in social settings with their peers. This presentation will provide you with tools to bridge the gap for students learning at home and provide you with positive, strength-based pro-social activities supporting the inclusion of all students.

Maria Frontela
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Transition: What Parents Need to Know

The purpose of this presentation is to provide parents information needed to help support successful transition from high school to postsecondary, whether employment or in postsecondary education. Identifying key resources and timelines are discussed by presentation experts, including a parent who successfully navigated her daughter's transition from high school to postsecondary education. As parents of students with disabilities, it can be very overwhelming to know even where to start when it comes to transition. This session will provide guiding questions for parents to begin asking transition support teams.

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Advocating in a Digital World

Social media is part of our daily lives. It's not about what we do on it every day but how we utilize it for our essential goals. Advocating is one of those goals. Join The Florida Youth Council to learn how we utilize social media and other types of entertainment for advocating.

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Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Alexander Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

Michelle Sandiford
Florida Youth Council

Serena Wetmore
Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino
Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council

Circumventing The Chaos of College

College can be a confusing experience, but especially for disabled students. Today I am going to walk through accommodations, how to adjust to living on campus, and how to make sure your needs are met as an individual. Using a PowerPoint presentation, I will break down the steps you need to take to request accommodations, ADA Room accommodations request and follow-through for maintenance, who to contact, what to do in regards to professors and their specific requirements, tools you can use to make campus life easier, Vocational Rehabilitation, how to get involved with service clubs and campus life, etc.

Anthony McLain
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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
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Disability History and Awareness

In this session the Florida Youth Council 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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Derek Carraway
Florida Youth Council

JJ Humphrey
Florida Youth Council

Christina Waldron
Florida Youth Council

William Lupella
Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council

Relationship Violence: Teaching Youth about Healthy Relationships

As children with disabilities become teens and adults, they experience the same desire for romantic relationships as their non-disabled peers. Unfortunately, teens and adults with disabilities are often the targets of relationship abuse by the very people who profess to love them. This presentation will discuss types of abuse experienced — physical, psychological, financial, etc., possible warning signs of relationship violence and abuse by other individuals having intimate contact with people with disabilities, reasons why abuse is often overlooked or unreported, and resources for getting help. Come explore ways that we can teach our youth about their right to healthy, loving adult relationships, and that love should never hurt.

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Stepping Stones to Communication

Introducing yourself to others feels like a huge thing to accomplish. You're not alone, many people go through that anxiety too, but The Florida Youth Council is here to help you out. Join us as we teach how to break the ice and become an essential communicator.

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THE 23RD ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ



SPORTSABILITY SAMPLER Begins June 11



Educational Sessions

- **LIVE** Recreation Q&A Session
- Funding Recreational Assistive Technology
- Transitioning from High School to College
- National Inclusion Project: Inclusivity
- Intro to Adaptive Surfing
- Adaptive Cycling
- and many more!

Online Activities

- Zumba Class
- Balance & Coordination
- Tennis at Home
- Diving with Sharks
- Art Classes
- and more!



Register at:

SportsAbility.org

Questions?
info@fdoa.org
850-201-2944

The 14th Annual YOUTH SUMMIT

A CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND EMERGING LEADERS WITH DISABILITIES



AS SUMMER COMES TO AN END,
JOIN THE **FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL**
FOR ONE BIG LAST HURRAH AT THE
14TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON JULY 30-31 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 (FYC), 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 14th Annual Youth Summit will bring together over 250 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 14th Annual Youth Summit will be held at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando **July 30-31, 2021**. Limited financial assistance is available. 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 \$112 per night.

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



WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU IN
ORLANDO IN JULY!





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.

Join the thousands of Floridians with disabilities who have chosen to save with ABLE United.

It's not just saving, it's investing in a brighter future.

**ENROLL BY
JUNE 30 TO RECEIVE
A \$50 ACCOUNT
CONTRIBUTION**

BENEFITS OF AN ABLE UNITED ACCOUNT:

- Save tax-free for future expenses
- Save while maintaining public benefits like SSI and Medicaid
- Save with the help of family and friends

AUTISM

After the Diagnosis

Helping Parents

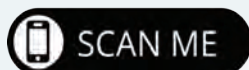
Create Better Outcomes

- **myNavigator™** - Everything you need in one place
 - Create and manage your child's care
 - Invite providers to your child's Care Team
- Workshops led by nationally recognized experts
- Focused content designed to support the parent & child
- A supportive, like-minded online community

Go to myHana.org/familycafe to claim your 30 day free trial and support The Family Cafe



Creating Brighter Tomorrows
for Those Impacted by Autism





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

Help is here

Your Source for Finding a Rewarding Career

The CareerSource Florida network of nearly 200 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.



Children's Medical Services Health Plan
is proud to support **Family Café** in providing
resources and opportunities to people with
disabilities and their families.



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

24TH ANNUAL
Family CAFÉ

May 27 - 29, 2022

Hyatt Regency Orlando
9801 International Drive
Orlando, Florida



The Family Café is
on Facebook!



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**The
Family
Café**

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