



the 24th annual
FAMILY



Featuring
The Governor's
Summit On
Disabilities

May 27 - 29, 2022 ★ Hyatt Regency Orlando



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 27, 2022



Dear Friends:

Welcome! It is wonderful to have so many great Floridians gathered in Orlando for the 24th Annual Family Café. This event provides individuals with unique abilities the opportunity to collaborate and network with presenters and one another. While you are together I hope you spend time connecting and learning about available resources within your communities.

As Governor, I will always ensure that Florida is a state that provides the tools one needs to succeed. Since 2019, we have made, and continued to propose, key investments to support and serve individuals with disabilities. I am proud of the strong support system in attendance for this event, and I appreciate those who care for our vulnerable Floridians in their everyday lives.

I hope you enjoy your time together. You have my best wishes for a memorable event!

Sincerely,

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

Ron DeSantis
Governor



Welcome!

The 24th Annual Family Café

Dear Family Café Attendees,

Since 1998, The Annual Family Café has met the need for information and networking among people with disabilities and/or special health care needs and their families by bringing them together for three days of learning, sharing, and connecting in Orlando each spring. This year, we're really pleased to return to our traditional format, with a full slate of breakout sessions, three keynotes, the Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities, a full Exhibit Hall, and so much more!

The Family Café Planning Committee, which is comprised of self-advocates, family members, fellow nonprofits and state agency partners, plays a central role in planning The Annual Family Café. It is our mission to provide you and your family with an opportunity for Collaboration, Advocacy, Friendship and Empowerment in a family-centered environment! We've done our best to put together an event with something for everyone!

As always, the backbone of our agenda is made up of hour-long breakout sessions on all manner of disability-related topics, with nearly 200 across seven time slots. Many of them are organized into "tracks" by subject area. They include Advocacy, Assistive Technology, Birth through Age Five, Dads, Disaster Preparedness, Employment, Mental Health, Military Families, Recreation, Smart Money, and Youth. To help you figure out which sessions are in tracks, just look for the simple graphic icons by the titles in the program! No matter what type of disability you experience, what stage of life you're in, or what issue interests you, you are sure to find sessions that speak to your needs.

We also have a great series of keynotes in store. On Friday, we'll kick off Memorial Day weekend by hearing from the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Retired Marine Corps Major General James Scott "Hammer" Hartsell, and his wife Melisa Hartsell. In addition to discussing the unique challenges facing military families that include people with disabilities, they'll also talk about their experience raising their son with muscular dystrophy Evin, and the work of the foundation that was created in his name. On Saturday, join us for a conversation with three actors from the Amazon Prime show *As We See It*, Rick Glassman, Sue Ann Pien, and Andrew Duff. They'll talk about the experience of being actors with autism playing characters with autism. Then on Sunday, Zion Clark, an athlete born without legs, will share his journey from foster care, through a successful wrestling career, to becoming the subject of the documentary film *Zion* and a motivational speaker.

In addition to our series of keynotes, The Annual Family Café will once again include The Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities. The Family Café has always encouraged Floridians with disabilities and their families to develop relationships with their elected representatives and get involved in the policy-making process. The Governor's Summit on Disabilities creates a space to make that happen, with Governor Ron DeSantis, former Senate President Bill Galvano, and state agency representatives sharing their vision for Floridians with disabilities. Even though we're back to gathering in person, we're taking a page out of the pandemic playbook and broadcasting the Governor's Summit and all three keynotes through Facebook Live on The Family Café's Facebook page.

When you're not in a session, enjoying a keynote, or taking part in the Governor's Summit, please take some time to visit the dozens of booths in our Exhibit Hall, which feature a wide array of organizations, including a host of self-advocate owned and operated Micro-Enterprises, as well as an Employment Expo. We also encourage you to enjoy all of the fun pieces that you've missed since 2019, like the adaptive recreation activities provided by our friends from SportsAbility, the Assistive Technology Showcase, the Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sensory room, arts & crafts, Zumba, yoga, self-advocate performances, and our latest addition, the Book Fair!

After two years with things being turned upside down by the pandemic, with a virtual Annual Family Café in 2020 and a hybrid event last year, we are really excited to be back to bringing you the full, in-person Annual Family Café experience with all the trimmings! We sincerely hope that your participation in The 24th 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



May 27, 2022

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Barbara Palmer
Director

State Office

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Dear Annual Family Café Attendee:

Welcome to the 24th 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 at this conference. Due to COVID-19, I continue to encourage you to wear your mask, stay six feet away from others, and wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds. Your safety is the key to a successful conference.

Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is committed to helping people with developmental disabilities live, learn, and work in their communities. The agency serves more than 58,000 people with spina bifida, severe forms of autism, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, and Prader-Willi syndrome.

The Family Café offers people with disabilities and their families a friendly environment to educate themselves about organizations and resources that are available in our state. All of us working together to find solutions will lead to 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 visit the APD booth in the Exhibition Hall while attending the conference for additional information.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Palmer
Director



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR
SIMONE MARSTILLER
SECRETARY

April 15, 2022

Dear Family Café Participants:

On behalf of the Agency for Health Care Administration, it is an honor to welcome you to the 24th 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

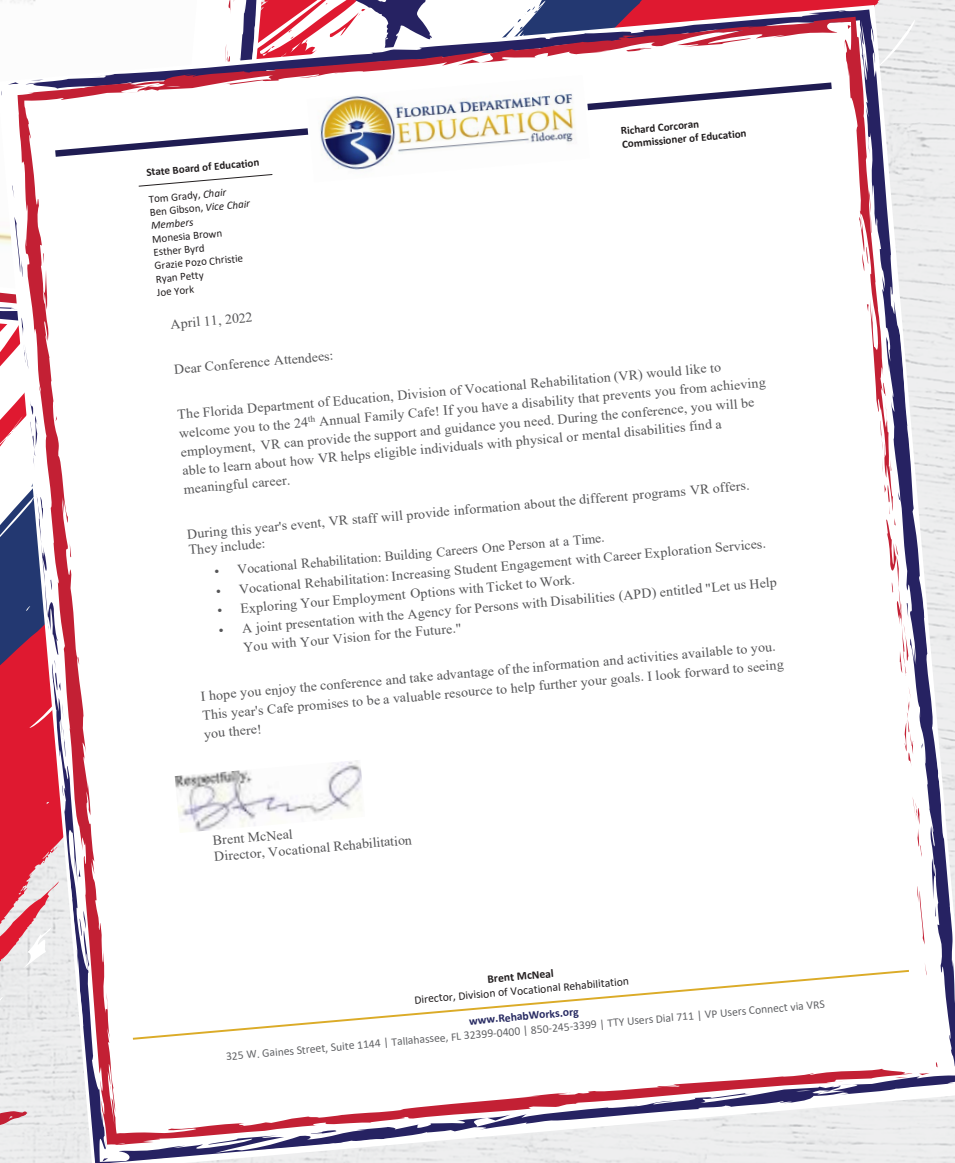
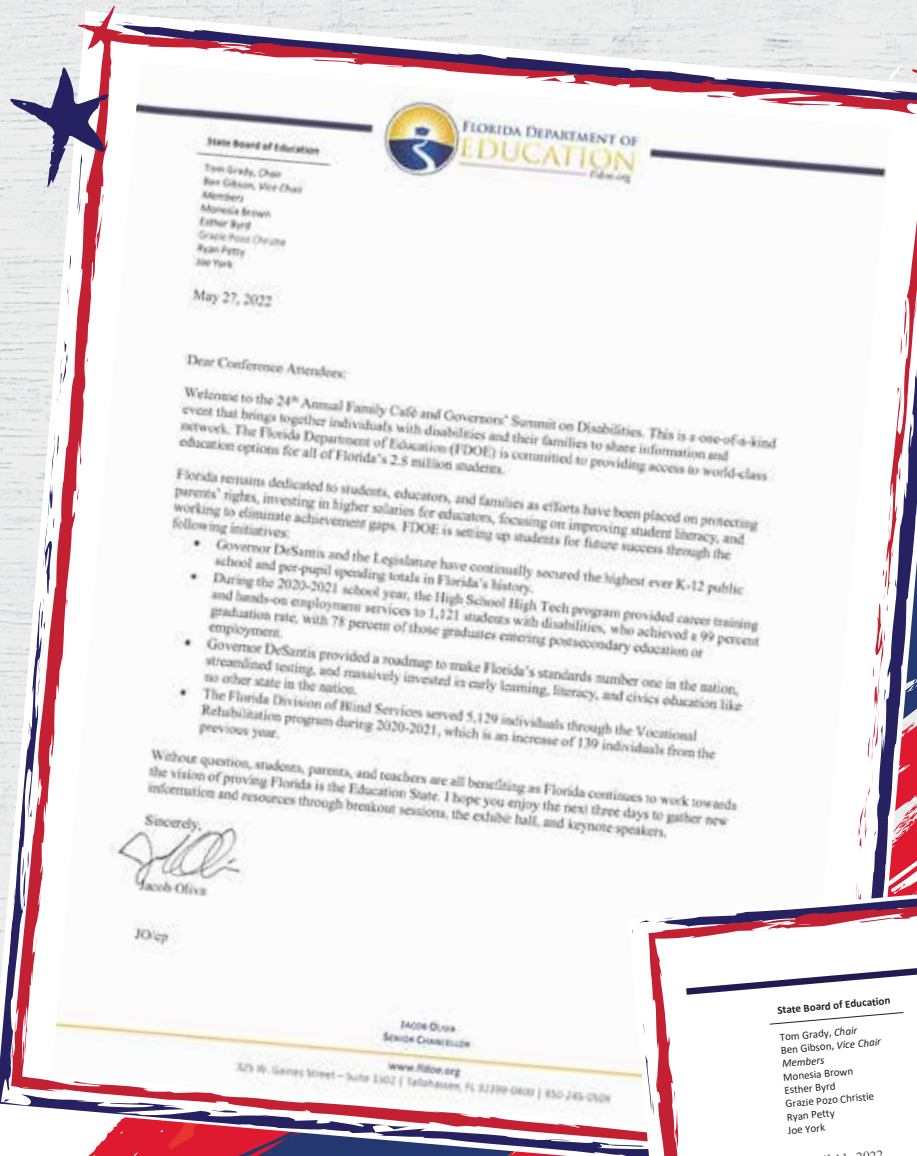
SM/cg

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Facebook.com/AHCAFlorida
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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

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

May 27, 2022

Dear Family Café Participant:

Welcome to the 24th Annual Family Café Conference! The annual Family Café Conference provides attendees opportunities to learn about the resources and supports available to individuals with disabilities and special health care needs, and their families.

The mission of the Department of Health (Department) is to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. Family Café provides the opportunity for the Department to meet with families, learn about their experiences, and collaborate to best serve individuals with disabilities and special health care needs. The Department will share resources and information about programs offered to help support you and your loved ones.

It is exciting to have the opportunity to meet in person, as the Family Café Conference brings us together for another year of learning, friendship and empowerment. I hope you enjoy the conference, and I am confident that you will obtain valuable information to live your healthiest life.

Sincerely,


Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Florida Department of Health
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PHONE: 850/40-4210 • FAX: 850/522-9433
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State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

Dear attendees:

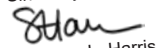
Welcome to the 24th Annual Family Café!

As Secretary for the Department of Children and Families, I am honored to support this amazing event that empowers families and individuals in our state. The Annual Family Café provides opportunities for networking, training, and education that will allow families to share their experiences with one another and gain valuable insight into the resources available in Florida for those living with disabilities and special health care needs.

Strengthening families is a shared goal between the Department and the Family Café, and we are always grateful for the opportunity to collaborate and help create meaningful impact for Floridians living with disabilities and special health care needs.

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

Sincerely,


Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4190

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency





STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Kevin Guthrie
Director

May 27, 2022

Dear Family Café Participants:

On behalf of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, it is an honor to welcome you to the 24th Annual Family Café. Each year, the Division looks forward to collaborating and strengthening partnerships with all the organizations involved in supporting Floridians with special needs, along with their caretakers and loved ones. The Annual Family Café is an incredible opportunity for participants to connect and share valuable disaster preparedness resources, especially as we approach the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The Division is expecting another active season and we are asking Floridians to begin their preparation efforts before a storm threatens their community. Start preparation efforts by creating an individualized disaster preparedness plan and stocking a disaster supply kit with enough supplies to last every individual and pet in the household at least seven days. Kits should be stocked with essentials such as nonperishable food, water, medications, medical alert tags or bracelets, extra batteries, contact information for loved ones and medical providers and copies of any important documents. The more information you keep on hand, the easier it will be for first responders to identify your needs and determine how they can best assist you during a disaster.

When developing a disaster preparedness plan, individuals should also learn if their home is in a low lying, flood-prone area or in an evacuation zone. This will help ensure that residents can understand instructions from local officials during a storm and respond quickly if evacuation orders are issued. During a disaster every moment counts and if local officials issue evacuation orders, it's critical that you take those orders seriously and respond appropriately.

The Division also urges Floridians with special needs to consider registering with the Special Needs Registry. This registry allows individuals to connect with their local emergency management office and provides first responders with valuable information to keep you safe during and after a disaster. For more information or to sign up for the Special Needs Registry, please visit FloridaDisaster.org/SNR or contact your county emergency management office.

The Division looks forward to many more years of supporting the Annual Family Café and I hope attendees leave this event feeling informed and prepared for any hazards that may impact our state. I encourage you to visit the Division's website for more preparedness tips and for a full disaster supply kit checklist. These resources are available at FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare. If you have any additional questions or need assistance with your disaster preparation efforts, please do not hesitate to contact the Division or your county emergency management office.

Sincerely,

Kevin Guthrie
Director

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
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Tel: 850-815-4000
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STATE LOGISTICS RESPONSE CENTER
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The Family Café

Appreciates OUR STATE
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES WHO
SUPPORT AND SHARE OUR VISION FOR
FLORIDIANS WITH DISABILITIES.

The 24th Annual
Family Café
2022 *Sponsors*



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ABLE United
CareerSource Florida
CBC Suncoast New Options
Disability Rights Florida
Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Florida Department of Health
Liberty Dental Plan
Sunshine Health

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

ABLE United
CareerSource Florida
Disability Rights Florida
The Family Café Board of Directors
The Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM)
Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Florida Department of Health
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
Florida Youth Council
No Person Left Behind
Sportsability
Sunshine Health
U.S. Military
7-Dippity



the *Meet* 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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Joe McCann, Policy Manager

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Sarah Fahey, Financial Administrator

Niki Germain, Youth Advisor

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CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES - OPERATED BY SUNSHINE HEALTH

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TTY: 1-800-955-8770
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
www.SunshineHealth.com

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FAMILY CARE COUNCIL FLORIDA

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dtorres@arcjacksonville.org
www.fccflorida.org

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FDLRS ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Kindrea.Hill@fldoe.org
www.fldoe.org

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AND PARENTAL CHOICE

329 West Gaines Street, Suite 1044
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raina.turner@fldoe.org
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD INJURY PROGRAM

1001 Executive Center Drive, Suite 101
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robert.pfister@flhealth.gov
www.bscip.org

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES - EARLY STEPS STATE OFFICE

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - FLORIDA ASTHMA PROGRAM

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wanda.donham@flhealth.gov
www.flhealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/asthma/

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SECTION

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Tallahassee, FL 32399
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casey.omeke@flhealth.gov
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES - MANAGED CARE PLAN

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FLORIDA DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION - ARCHERY

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FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

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FUNDAMENTALS 4KIDS

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MILITARY SCHOOL LIAISONS AND EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM

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EXHIBITORS

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PROJECT 10: TRANSITION EDUCATION NETWORK

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REMOVING THE BARRIERS INITIATIVE

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RESOURCE MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (RMT-C/D/HH), FLORIDA INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED (FIMC-VI) AND THE FLORIDA AND VIRGIN ISLANDS DEAF-BLIND COLLABORATIVE (FAVI)

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The 24th Annual Family Café

Tracked Sessions



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



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 Bayhill 23 and Silver Spring II.



Please be advised that The Annual Family Café can create a loud, active environment that may be over-stimulating to some individuals with sensory issues.



The Family Café is funded in part by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education

Friday

May 27th, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. • Plaza International Ballroom

Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs **Marine Corps Major General James Scott "Hammer" Hartsell (Ret.) and Melisa Hartsell**

Join us as we kick off The 24th Annual Family Café and Memorial Day weekend by hearing from the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Retired Marine Corps Major General James Scott "Hammer" Hartsell, and his wife Melisa Hartsell.

General Hartsell served in the United States Marine Corps with honor for 37 years of active and reserve duty, beginning as an enlisted Marine in 1981 and completing a distinguished and highly decorated military career as a Major General. After serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and going on to lead some 18,000 Sailors and Marines as Commanding General of 4th Marine Division, he moved back to his home state of Florida and joined the Pasco Sheriff's Office, before being named Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in 2021.

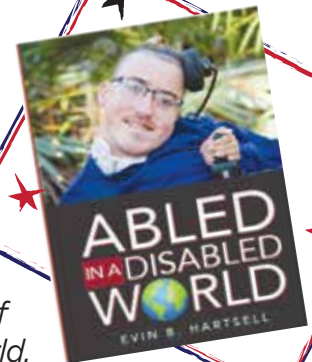
In addition to discussing the unique challenges facing military and veteran families that include people with disabilities, Gen. Hartsell will also share his family's personal disability experience. To help him do so, he will be joined by his wife Melisa Hartsell. Together they'll talk about their experience raising their son with muscular dystrophy Evin, who passed away in 2018, and their efforts to continue his legacy through the work of the Evin B. Hartsell Foundation (www.evinbhartsell.com) and the promotion of Evin's book, *Abled In A Disabled World*.

As Gen. Hartsell and Melisa know, disability is an issue that impacts military families in profound ways. Please join us for a conversation about the military and veteran disability experience from both the statewide policy and personal perspectives!

*A limited number of complimentary copies of Evin Hartsell's book, *Abled in a Disabled World*, will be available at this keynote!*



James, Melisa
and Evin Hartsell



Friday ★ May 27th ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Registration Open, Registration Desk
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Assistive Technology Showcase, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Book Fair, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Dental Screenings sponsored by Liberty Dental Plan, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Employment Expo sponsored by The Able Trust, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	SportsAbility Sampler, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rainbow Spring I
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Opening Session and Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration Open, Registration Desk
1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Royal DJs, Regency Rotunda
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm by CHILDRENS MEDICAL SERVICES, Orlando M
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Early Steps, Early Wishes Playgroup, Orlando N
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rainbow Spring I
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	The 24th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities featuring Governor Ron DeSantis, Plaza International Ballroom

1:30-2:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Recreation in Virtual Reality - What, Why, How, & Where?

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Bayhill 17

Have you been wondering "What is virtual reality?" Can anyone do it? Where and how can you access it? No question is too basic. This session will show you what virtual reality is, how you can do it from home, and what the benefits are. You will see a demonstration of how it works. This will be a fun session where you can learn how you and your family can benefit from the latest trends.

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Kevin Taylor
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What to do Before, During, and After a Natural Disaster Strikes

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 18

This presentation will help children, adolescents, adults, and families to be prepared before, during, and in the immediate aftermath of disaster. We are going to emphasize mental health wellbeing during those stressful times, teaching attendees techniques that they could easily implement. We also are going to show you how to use the American Red Cross application “I am Safe.” We have divided the time to give you the opportunity to ask questions about concerns you may have with your disaster preparedness kit. Let us help you to have a plan of action to be ready for unpredictable nature disasters.

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angelitasalado2@yahoo.com

Liz Evora
Telemundo
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liz.evora@nbcuni.com



Mental Health in Children and Youth with Epilepsy

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 19

Join us to learn more about mental health and how it impacts children and youth with epilepsy. Learn how various mental health disorders such as anxiety disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and developmental disorders can show up in this population. We will also be discussing external factors of influence such as sleep and stress and how they can also impact children living with these conditions. Finally, we will take a dive into discussions on treatment strategies and how you can help them manage these conditions.

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Best Practices: Family-Driven Care

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 20

In the past twenty-five years the mental health field has shifted from viewing parents as the cause of their child’s issues to active participants in treatment and active participants in policy development and system reform efforts. We will explore the ten guiding principles of family-driven care, the four levels and collaboration with families, who are the experts of their family, along with agencies they work with. Research shows that better outcomes are achieved when family members and youth have meaningful roles in their treatment and beyond.

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The ABCs and 123s of SNTs

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 21

What is a Special Needs Trust (SNT) and when/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 ones. Attendees will learn cost-effective ways to establish these trusts, the ways in which they can be set up, and provide for a sound, reliable plan to look after their financial legacy for their special family member.

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Helping Students with Visual Impairments Prepare for the Future with Access Technology

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 24

Access technology can be overwhelming! There are many choices, from low tech to high tech, and specialty products. Come get a brief overview of the variety of technology options for students who are visually impaired, and join the discussion about important technology skills and concepts students should practice in home and at school to prepare for the future.

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Exploring Your Employment Options with Ticket to Work

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 25

In this session, we will discuss employment for persons with disability using the Ticket to Work and Self Sufficiency Program. An expert from Vocational Rehabilitation will provide general information about the Ticket to Work Program with Florida Vocational Rehabilitation and other related Social Security benefits employment support programs in plain and understandable language.

Willette Bowers
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
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Working From Home: How to Find Work-From-Anywhere Remote Job Opportunities & Working With Brands to Help Offset Family Needs

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 26

Many people mistakenly believe that remote work means you can perform your job wherever you want. In reality, statistics show that around 95% of remote jobs often require employees to be based in a specific location. Attendees in this session will learn about top vetted companies that currently offer fully-remote jobs that can be performed from anywhere. In addition, ever wonder how some bloggers, influencers, or your next-door neighbor seem to get free products (or full-sized samples of products) delivered to their homes? They are reviewing the product on behalf of the brand in exchange for a free (honest) promotion. For a caregiver or a special needs family, engaging in a professional relationship with brands and companies to create a mutually beneficial relationship can help to offset lifestyle, medical, or family needs. Attendees in this session will also learn how to pitch brands.

Joscelyn Ramos Campbell
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Autism and the Military Dad

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 27

Active duty military families move frequently and struggle to get consistent support for their child(ren) with autism. When the dad (or mom) is deployed or stationed at a remote assignment, the left-behind spouse has to manage all of the parenting and advocacy on their own. But help is available. This presentation will help military families identify the available healthcare, educational and community support resources they need, as well as tips and tricks to maneuvering the assignment process and benefit programs available to military families regardless of where they are stationed.

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jaime.parent@comcast.net



Time to Go Back in Time to the Beginning of Disability History and Awareness

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 28

In the 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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ngermain@familycafe.net

JJ Humphrey
Florida Youth Council

Lilibeth Vega
Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman
Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino
Florida Youth Council

Michelle Sandiford
Florida Youth Council

Derek Carraway
Florida Youth Council



Inclusion of Individuals with I/DD in the College Classroom

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 29

This presentation will cover our model of collaboration between a transition program for individuals with disabilities and a state college that focuses on the education of traditional, matriculating students. We have found improvements both in our students and in those that interact with our students, and would like to encourage other programs to encourage this type of inclusion. We will talk about the benefits to college faculty, matriculating college students, and students in the OCT program. We will also discuss how we foster a positive partnership with the university.

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kcash@arcjacksonville.org

Prior Written Notice (PWN): Bringing Understanding and Compliance to Parents and Schools

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 30

34 CFR 300.503(a) obligates a district to provide notice in a reasonable time before the district implements or refuses any action, so as to allow parents time to thoroughly deliberate on the change or refusal and respond before the district acts. This is an important due process of law procedure and is often misunderstood by parents and ESE support facilitators. Through this presentation, we will explore examples of when PWN should be provided, what information should be included in the PWN, and what circumstances require PWN. We will end the presentation with a PWN quiz to assess our current knowledge and encourage audience participation.

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wendyw@disabilityrightsflorida.org

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

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 31

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

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Question and Answer Session About Advocacy and Living with Disabilities

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 32

This session will be presented by self-advocates to answer any questions about advocating for themselves and others with disabilities. It will also include discussions on the perspective of living with a disability.

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Self-Determination and Service Providers - Advocating through Life's Journeys

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Bayhill 33

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, and how you keep yourself on that path and in control of your life. Audience participation is encouraged. Natalie Jean is the APD Ombudsman and will serve as the moderator.

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What Should We Do as a Family to Confront Adversity?

Friday, May 27
1:30-2:30 PM
Celebration 10

“Adversity is the fuel for greatness.” It creates the confidence to overcome and the learning mechanisms to deal with the things that don't go our way, building resilience when one learns to deal with it. Deal with adversity daily. Find your sense of humor, laughter, an infallible remedy. One can overcome adversity before it happens. Embrace the change as an opportunity. Surround yourself with positive people who do not have the same problems. Write! Even if it is only a little piece on social media! Practice the following: SIPDE Scan Identify Predict Decide and Execute.

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How Can I Prepare a Comprehensive Long-Term Care Plan for My Child with Special Needs?

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 11

What happens to my child when I am gone? How can I ensure there is continuity? Much like a jigsaw puzzle, our lives have lots of pieces with differing shapes. They all fit together but it can sometimes be difficult to put them in the right order to see the entire picture. Looking into the future for a loved one with special needs can seem much more challenging because of the complexities and unknowns. We encourage you to start the puzzle and are here to help you see the whole picture.

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Plan Today for an Independent Future

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 16

Did you know that your loved one with disabilities can live independently in affordable housing communities? Did you know that there are organizations throughout the country who will provide mentoring and education programs as part of the residential outreach experience where they live? Did you know that building general life skills to help residents become more independent in various aspects of life, such as employability, the ability to use community transportation, to gaining social skills and even improving their etiquette can be offered to a resident of a low-income housing community for individuals who have intellectual or physical disabilities? Noah's Ark set the standard for independent living for individuals with these special needs while still allowing them to maintain a level of inclusivity that affords them freedom and independence. Come hear more about our community and be informed when you are looking for an independent living complex near you!

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Mind Over Motor: Understanding Sensory Motor Differences and the Impact of Neurological "Noise" in the Autistic Population

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 3

Recent research related to the sensory motor differences of individuals on the spectrum points to neurological "noise" that impacts efficient and purposeful movement in the autistic population (Torres, 2018). This presentation will discuss the sensory motor differences that we observe in nonspeaking or minimally speaking children and adults with autism. Specifically, we will discuss the brain body disconnect, behaviors, dysregulation, and how the diagnosis of "intellectual disability or cognitive delay" may not be accurate. Specific ways to build purposeful and efficient motor skills will be highlighted and discussed.

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

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 4

In this session we will review research on the importance of family involvement, transition services, individual educational plan (IEP) components, self-advocacy and self-determination, responsibilities of schools, families and students, and resources supporting family involvement in transition planning. The goal of this training is to help families of students with disabilities and others who support students with disabilities understand the secondary transition process and how best to participate in student post-school success.

Federico Valadez

Project 10

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It's Your Life (It's Your Documentation Too)

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 6

During this session we will dig deeper into the collaboration between people being supported and their circle of support. Our goal and intention is to look at the documentation that is often collected and why it is collected. We will also explore how this documentation should be used to help a person accomplish their life goals while balancing a person's desires with health and safety needs. We will further look at best practices when it comes to a person's access to what is being written in a record and access to that information.

Heather Daily

Therap Services

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Genetics and Genetic Testing: Welcome to the New World of Medicine

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 7

Have you ever wondered about getting genetic testing for you and your family? Then this presentation is for you! Genetics' impact on medicine is increasing every day, from cancer and cardiovascular screening to Parkinson's and autism research. This presentation is a crash course in genetics and current trends in genetic testing.

Jaime Sagona Richman, MA

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How Do You Define Self-Care? Practical Tips to De-stress

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 8

What defines self-care for you? Is it the “the ability of individuals, families, and communities to promote health, prevent disease, maintain health, and to cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a healthcare provider”? Simply put, it is a hot bubble bath with the door locked and no kids screaming “MOM!” or “DAD!” We will go over the effects of stress on your body and brain, plus some fun tips to de-stress. Bring your ideas of what a stress-free day looks like. It will be fun and interactive, and you will walk away with a smile or a laugh.

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Literacy and Communication for Complex Needs—What is Possible for Eye Gaze Users

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Celebration 9

Most people with complex needs such as Rett Syndrome, SMA, etc. are considered too complex to learn to read and write, yet reading and writing are integral to communication, and communication is a human right. We will focus on communication and literacy for those with complex needs using eye gaze and soft tech options.

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Children’s Medical Services Overview

Friday, May 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Plaza International Ballroom

In this session, Dr. Robert Karch, Deputy Secretary for Children’s Medical Services, will provide an overview of the programs offered through Children’s Medical Services at the Florida Department of Health. Families will have the opportunity to learn more and engage in conversations about these programs.

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

3:00-4:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Special Olympics USA Games 2022

Friday, May 27
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bayhill 17

This session will provide information on the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, including details about who will be participating and the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities

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Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 18

This session 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. An addition this year is incorporating FEMA's new Strategic Plan (2022 - 2026) and how their goals impact individuals with disabilities: 1. Instill equity as a foundation of emergency management; 2. Lead the whole of community in climate resilience; and 3. Promote and sustain a ready FEMA and prepared nation.

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A Youth Perspective of Mental Health: Signs, Symptoms, and How to Help

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 19

Many youth experience different types of emotional distress as they grow and mature into adulthood. It is common for youth to be anxious over a test at school or sad after the loss of a grandparent. How do you know if it is a natural reaction to life or a mental health disorder? Did you know 1 in 5 youth meet the criteria for a mental health disorder each year? Come learn the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders. Hear a youth's story and tips she will offer in helping your youth. Learn how to navigate successfully through stressors, develop relationships, and use positive coping skills. Youth with mental health disorders may face challenges in their homes, school, community, and relationships. Despite these challenges, for most youth, mental health distress can be improved and recover with treatment, peer and professional supports and services, a strong family and social support network.

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Mental American Monster: The Sprawl of American Psychiatry

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 20

19th century evidence changes the story of psychiatry and the history of America. *Mental American Monster: The Sprawl of American Psychiatry* is an in-progress historical documentary concerning the rights movement for people involved with psychiatry dating back to the nineteenth century. As long as there have been institutions, there has been resistance, and people subjected to psychiatric force have consistently fought for their rights, organized, and brought to public attention the horrors they were subjected to in poor and alms houses, lunatic asylums, mental hospitals, psychopath institutions, psychiatric institutions, mental health facilities, and behavioral health organizations. This true horror documents seven stories stemming from the Utica State Lunatic Asylum that explain in part how we got to where we are now in the modern psychiatric industry. Participants in this workshop will be asked to review rough cuts of the documentary and offer their feedback and reviews. Opportunities for participants to be interviewed on video as part of this documentary are available.

Lauren J. Tenney, PhD, MPhil, MPA, BPS,
Psychiatric Survivor
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laurenttenney@aol.com

Richard J. Hall



ABC's of Special Needs Trusts and Guardian Advocacy

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 21

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
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An Immersive Experience with Assistive Technology for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or Blind or Low Vision

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 24

Bring your questions to this open forum about assistive technology for students who are blind, low vision, deaf/hard of hearing, or are dual-sensory impaired. There will be opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and getting hands on with some technology. Prepare to roll your sleeves up and have some fun!

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Scott Walsh
Resource Materials and Training Center for
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(800) 356-6731

Welcome to the Wonderful World fo Extended School Year Services

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 25

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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Let us Help You with Your Vision for the Future

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 26

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

Liesl Ramos
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Fishing for Answers

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 27

"Fishing for Answers" will be an engaging session for dads who want helpful advice about the journey with their child who has a disability. We will have an honest discussion about the challenges dads face in areas such as relationships, balancing work and family, holding on to dreams, and more. Dads will be encouraged to share the situations they are encountering, as well as what they have learned along the way. Every dad should have the tools and support they need to be the best dad they can and to know that they are not alone.

Jonathan Scheinman
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Transitions: Are You Ready for the World of Adult Health Care?!

Friday, May 27

3:00-4:00 PM

Bayhill 28

In the activities surrounding youth transition, are you including steps toward a safe healthcare transition? Families and Youth: Are you working with healthcare providers to prepare for transfer into adult health services? Professionals in health care, education, and related agencies: Are you engaging in healthcare transition planning with youth and their families? Healthcare transition is a focus area of Florida's Department of Health Title V—Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program, and we support professionals in providing this necessary guidance to families. Join us for current information, strategies, and resources for youth, families, and professionals on steps in moving from pediatric to adult services.

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iVámos! Supporting Hispanic/Latino Students with ASD to Prepare for and Succeed in College

Friday, May 27

3:00-4:00 PM

Bayhill 29

Research has indicated that individuals with autism spectrum disorder are not entering and completing postsecondary (college) education at the same rates as other students with disabilities or those without. The gap is largest for Hispanic/Latino students with ASD. A 3-year research project revealed barriers to success, and steps parents, educators, and students in high school and college can take to close that gap. This presentation will share recommendations and new resources developed through funding from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council to close the gap in college entry and increase graduation for all students with ASD.

Teresa Daly

University of Central Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

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Attending College with a Disability: What You Need to Know to Overcome the Hidden Curriculum

Friday, May 27

3:00-4:00 PM

Bayhill 30

Attendees will learn from current Florida State University (FSU) students who are excelling and overcoming barriers within a preeminent institution. Students will share ways for non-traditional college students to receive support, information about the accommodations process, and insight into how to overcome the hidden curriculum. 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.

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A Tale As Old As Time: Networking for Florida Family Leaders and Advocates

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 31

Networking has been enshrined for centuries in every profession to share best practices, provide support for colleagues, and strengthen the impact of a profession. Family leaders are often the sole representative of their profession in organizations. In this session join members of the Florida Family Leader Network and meet other leaders and advocates, learn how to network using an evidence-based model and leave with a template that will help you network more effectively with your friends, colleagues, fellow advocates, and coworkers.

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Family Care Council - Know Where Your Help Comes From

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 32

We cannot say it enough, if anyone in your family has a developmental disability, or if you have a developmental disability and are living in Florida, you MUST know your local Family Care Council. Come get involved! Why feel lost or like you are challenged in every way to get services with The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)? No more jumping through hoops trying to figure things out on your own. The FCC has 15 local chapters that are here to help you navigate it all. Come meet your Area Chair, ask questions, get some insight, feel empowered. Listen to the folks in the field who will clear up confusion and get the right answers for you. This is a not-to-be-missed session, keeping it real. We look forward to meeting you!

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FROM! The Family-Run Organization Movement: Getting Your Organization Off the Ground

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 33

This first presentation is one of three for family members who are exploring how to start and/or improve a family-run organization. Each presentation will cover a different subject area. This presentation will begin with a brief overview and update regarding FROM (Family-Run Organization Movement), including an introduction to the new FROM Guidebook which is a resource that family members can use to enhance their organization-building efforts. In this first session, we will focus on the section related to situation analysis, identity, and mission from a family-run and non-profit perspective. We will practice using the tools that are in the FROM Guidebook, and participants will receive a free copy.

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Children's Medical Services (CMS) Health Plan

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 1

Managing your child's medical issues can be hard. We'll help guide your family through the healthcare system. Our team of nurses and social workers will work with you and your child's providers to identify your child's needs. Our team will help you find available resources to meet your child's needs. Each member is assigned a care manager. We'll help you schedule things like doctor visits, medical tests, and procedures. Also, we can help you get behavioral, developmental, and social services. The plan's goal is to provide healthcare that helps improve the lives of members and families.

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Children's Medical Services operated by Sunshine Health
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Music Therapy: Achieving Non-Music Goals Through Music

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 10

Beachside Music Lessons & Therapy invites you to attend our presentation to learn more about music therapy. This year we will focus on how music therapy can help children and adults achieve non-music goals through music, such as speech/communication, social skills, motor skills, self-expression, coping/counseling, and more. Come learn how we make learning and maintaining skills fun through music and enjoy a few engaging songs too! We are proud to have been serving Volusia, Flagler, and Orange County for over 6 years with adapted music lessons and music therapy, in our clinic located in Daytona, your home, facility, or online via the Gardiner Scholarship, Sunshine/Centene and CMS insurance, or private pay.

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Resources to Better Help You

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 12 & 13

Resources are everywhere, but which ones apply to me? From scholarships, to tutors, and more, this presentation will cover some of the resources available to you. Some of the resources that will be covered will include the MIC3, Military One Source, MFLCs, McKay Scholarship, Gardiner Scholarship, Step-up for Students, Family Support Centers, BGCA, peer sponsoring, and more!

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Erin Pickard, M.Ed.
Naval Support Activity Panama City
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Necesito Ayuda! Caregiver burnout from a Latinx perspective

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 14 & 15

“Necesito ayuda!” is a Spanish term used as a call for help. For non-English or limited English speakers providing care for a loved one presents with many challenges: linguistic, cultural, psychological, social and systemic. Caregivers, especially parents, face many challenges leaving no time for self-care. We will address the importance of self-care from a mental health care perspective.

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Adult Living Options

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 16

Let’s start the conversation about the future of housing for our loved ones with developmental disabilities. The demand from aging Baby Boomers and individuals with disabilities aging out of school years is going to be a tsunami in the near future. We need to create an array of housing options to meet the universal needs of families and individuals. This presentation will review the current state of housing options and propose a model that is designed to bring inclusive co-housing to Florida. The presenters represent A Kindred Village, a developing cohousing community where families and individuals can live in a neighborhood with natural supports and friends of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Our goal is simple: remove the current barriers of social isolation, lack of housing choices for forever homes, and limited control in decision making and build a neighborhood to promote social connectedness, design forever homes surrounded by friends and neighbors, and establish meaningful lives with the power to make decisions that benefit all.

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Why Aren't We Talking About This?

Friday, May 27

3:00-4:00 PM

Celebration 2

Every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and every nine minutes that victim is a child. Research shows that the rate of sexual assault is seven times greater for people with intellectual disabilities than for people with no disabilities. Why don't we hear more about this silent population of crime victims? Do you know when and where people with disabilities are most at risk and why this epidemic goes largely unrecognized? Come learn the answers and the steps you can take now to help protect the children and adults in your life.

Brenda Zofrea

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Five Steps to Sharpen the Mind in Autism with Nutrition

Friday, May 27

3:00-4:00 PM

Celebration 3

My son was diagnosed with severe autism with challenging symptoms like aggression, and lack of attention and focus. I was devastated, and as a pharmacist, it was challenging to get great results with a medication-only approach. So I went back to school and got an advanced graduate degree in nutrition and functional medicine. My son had an enormous improvement in his behavior from changing his diet and adding healthy foods using different strategies like recipes of fruit and vegetable smoothies, paleo pancakes, and making vegetables delicious and not challenging to eat.

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Caregiving When You Just Don't Care

Friday, May 27

3:00-4:00 PM

Celebration 4

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 exhausted. In this session, we'll acknowledge these feelings and explore ways to find the courage to continue serving our loved ones. Friends and community members are welcome to attend to learn more about the life of a caregiver and how you can journey with them.

Joan Borton

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Self-Care is not Selfish, it is Necessary!

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 5

Do you ever feel overwhelmed with all of the appointments your child has? Between the doctors, therapists, and everything else it's easy to feel like you're drowning. Do you take the time to take care of yourself? If your answer is no, then come to this workshop and learn how one mom has made herself and her health a priority, which in turn has made her a better mom. As the saying goes, you can't pour from an empty cup. The time is now to figure out how to take care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. Come and learn how.

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Celebrating the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act 5 Year Anniversary!

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 7

Postsecondary opportunities for youth with intellectual disabilities are increasing across the state through the development of Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs). We will provide information on programs available at technical colleges, state colleges, and universities. Information will be shared on FPCTP characteristics, student services, credentials and certificates offered, student scholarships, and a summary of data collected since 2016 on outcomes.

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Myths and Facts About Inclusion

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 8

This session will explore common misconceptions regarding inclusion for students with disabilities. Join the Florida Inclusion Network to learn the facts about the 40-year body of research that supports inclusion. This session includes resources and materials to share. As a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education, all services, support and resources are provided free of charge to Florida stakeholders.

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kclaude@contactfin.com



Social Security Presents: Navigating SSDI Work Incentives

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 9

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.

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Disabilities Roundtable: Interactive Session on Managing Needs of Travelers with Disabilities

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Manatee Spring II

Is it possible, with a disability, to travel independently and with pleasure? To adequately answer this question we must be aware of some important aspects: the definition of disabilities, definition of travel, and important facts on accessible traveling. This session will include tips for traveling, a theme park guest's preparation list, websites & resources for travelers with disabilities, and a comparison of travel prior to and during the pandemic. Handouts will be available and a roundtable conversation will be included.

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4:30-5:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



How the Anime Fan Community Accommodates People with Disabilities and What We Can Learn From Them: A Case Study

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 17

Many people with disabilities belong to the anime fan community. As a result, the anime fan community has developed many innovative strategies to accommodate their members with disabilities at their various conventions, events, and forums, whether virtual or in-person. Listen to two anime fans with disabilities as they discuss and describe the accommodations utilized by the anime fan community, and how schools, community settings, and other places within society can utilize various disability accommodation strategies from the anime fan community to improve accessibility to people with disabilities.

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

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 18

If we are hit with a disaster or a hurricane, are your children able to help you with items that 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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Using Family Member Voices Through Recovery Peer Support

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 19

A peer is a person we identify with in some capacity. This can include from age and gender to sexual orientation to shared language. In behavioral health, a “peer” is usually used to refer to someone who shares the experience of living with a mental health disorder and/or substance use disorder. Peer support offers a level of acceptance, understanding, and validations not found in many other professional relationships (Mead & McNeil, 2006). By sharing their own lived experience and practical guidance, peer support workers help people to develop their own goals, create strategies for self-empowerment, and take concrete steps towards building fulfilling, self-determined lives for themselves.

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APD's Individual Comprehensive Assessment

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 20

The Bureau of Program Development, Compliance and Policy will provide an update on the Individual Comprehensive Assessment (ICA), which is being developed to replace the Questionnaire for Situational Information (QSI). It will include an overview of the purpose of the ICA, the overall structure of the ICA, as well as an update on the validation study and the participation requirements.

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ABLE Accounts for Beginners

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 21

ABLE Accounts are often compared to a 529 College Savings Plan, as well as checking and savings accounts, and Special Needs Trusts. It has some similarities to each of these options—all rolled into one. Whether you are just beginning to devise a savings strategy to work in conjunction with other public benefits or are seeking to expand your current plan and take advantage of tax-free savings, ABLE United is your partner. In this presentation, you'll learn the various benefits of ABLE accounts and how thousands of Floridians with varying disabilities have secured their financial future.

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Case Studies in Applications of Rehabilitation Technologies

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 24

This presentation will provide applications of rehabilitation technologies in various environments for individuals with physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities. These include home, work, transportation, and recreational environments. The material will include considerations that should be made when selecting the appropriate technology. Through case studies, examples of a variety of technologies will be presented to showcase how technology can increase independence for individuals with disabilities. Resources available in the community to access these technologies and funding opportunities will be discussed.

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Employment 101: A Facilitated Discussion on Joining the Workforce

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 25

Join The Able Trust and members of Orlando's business community for a facilitated panel discussion on all things employment. Topics to be addressed during the discussion will include: Searching for Jobs; The Interview Process; Disability Disclosure; and Your First Day. The Able Trust considers the business perspective to be extremely valuable to people with disabilities as they look to enter and move in the workforce. A take-away will be provided with a synopsis of the tips and hints provided by the panelists.

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Dream Your “Impossible” Dream!

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 26

Acclaimed Dog Treat Chef & CEO of Doggy Delights by Allison, Allison Fogarty will show you how she started her own business, demonstrate why she is successful, and provide tips for you to become an entrepreneur. Parents, family members, and friends of adults with disabilities—are you wondering how to employ your loved one? Are they struggling to find meaningful and enjoyable employment or even purposeful activities each day? Allison will detail her struggles and how entrepreneurship was the answer for her. Allison’s sidekicks (parents) will also be on hand to answer possible questions.

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doggydelightsbyallison@gmail.com



Letting Go: Time to Land the Helicopter

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 27

The *Letting Go: Time to Land the Helicopter* 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 increasing levels of freedom to the child to allow them to develop that independence. Finally, the training offers some ideas for parents in learning how to let go in a constructive fashion.

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Claiming Your Education (How the IEP Helps Navigate the World)

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 28

In the many stages of an individual’s life, they tackle a plethora of things every day. Stress, work, school, etc. Having an IEP helped guide individuals throughout high school and college. The Florida Youth Council will discuss how much of an impact having an IEP had for them in overcoming adversity, and share advice based on their experiences.

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Serena Wetmore
Florida Youth Council

JJ Humphrey
Florida Youth Council

Alex Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

Christina Waldron
Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman
Florida Youth Council



Helping Youth Succeed through Positive Youth Development Programming

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 29

Join the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension 4-H program to learn ways to encourage life skill development and enhance social competency skills for youth of ALL abilities. This session will provide examples of Positive Youth Development (PYD) programming that encourages independence, mastery, belonging, and generosity. Life skill development provides opportunities for youth to be successful as they transition into adulthood, seek employment, and come to be more autonomous.

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Traveling the Seas of Families, Feelings, and Emotions

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 30

Traveling the Seas of Families, Feelings and Emotions was created by parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs. This training is designed for one-on-one participation with a trainer or participation in a small group workshop setting. *Traveling the Seas of Families, Feelings & Emotions* explores how families react, feel, and cope upon learning of and living with their child's disability or developmental delay. Our hope is that this workshop will assist parents and families in coping with the emotional uncertainties to build stronger bonds with their child(ren) and each other.

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Disability Legislation 2022 and How to Access the Florida Legislature

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 32

This will be a detailed wrap up of legislation that passed or didn't pass the Florida Legislature in 2022 and the basics of how to access your lawmakers and the legislature in general.

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Managing Oral Health and Access to the Oral Health Care System For Individuals With Special Health Care Needs

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 10

The presentation will look at existing and new oral care techniques and materials for persons with special healthcare needs. It will also look at various dental insurance and financing options that may be available to individuals with special healthcare 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.

Douglas Manning

DentaQuest

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The Fair Housing Act - A Powerful Tool to Maintain Housing Stability

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 11

The Fair Housing Act is a powerful law that prohibits discrimination in housing. This presentation will begin with the basics of the Fair Housing Act, including what housing is covered and what protections the law offers for people with disabilities. The presentation also includes specific information about reasonable accommodations and modifications, including how to make a request for accommodation or modification, what information is needed to support such a request, and what to do if your request for accommodation or modification is denied.

James McCabe

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Special Education Tips for Military Families-Let's Work Together

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 12 & 13

Navigating the ins and outs of special education can be tricky in itself. When combined with the unique challenges of military lifestyle, the process can seem even more daunting. The good news is military families are not alone! School Liaison Officers and Exceptional Family Member Program Case Liaisons are there to offer support and assistance. Whether it is working through the special education process, connecting with the right agencies, or understanding IEPs and 504 plans, we've got you covered. Come join us and let us show you how we can work together to ensure you are supported through every step of the journey.

Dawn Kaunike

7180 Langley Street, Building 1417, Room 183

Milton, FL 32570

(850) 665-6105

dawn.kaunike1@navy.mil

Ginger Manley

Fleet and Family Support Center NAS Pensacola

151 Ellyson Avenue, Building 625

NAS Pensacola, FL 32508

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Amor y Alegría en Armonía

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 16

Inspirar y motivar a través de nuestra experiencia como madres de hijos con autismo y brindarles herramientas para crear armonía e integración familiar.

Maria Tooley

Abraza la ViDa

9826 Lychee Loop, 104

Riverview, FL 33569

(813) 789-0203

atilalsecen94@icloud.com

Jorge Delgado Medico

Florida's Medical Marijuana Program

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 2

The Office of Medical Marijuana Use works to provide qualified patients, caregivers and physicians the information and resources they need to access Florida's Medical Marijuana Program. This presentation provides info on: An overview of Florida's Medical Marijuana Program, including information on the qualifying medical conditions; How to find a qualified physician; The Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID Card and how to apply; Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers; and Florida's eight Certified Marijuana Testing Labs. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of Florida's Medical Marijuana Program.

Carmen Dixon

Florida Department of Health,

Office of Medical Marijuana Use

4052 Bald Cypress Way

Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Issac Brown

Florida Department of Health,

Office of Medical Marijuana Use

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Todd Schimpf

Florida Department of Health,

Office of Medical Marijuana Use

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Tallahassee, FL 32399

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todd.schimpf@flhealth.gov

Hey! They Look Just Like Us!

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 3

What does disability inclusion look like in 2022 in the worlds of fashion, media, modeling, entertainment, and in the workplace? In this fun and interactive presentation, we will take a behind-the-scenes look at how major brands and businesses are moving the spotlight like never before to include PWD. Are you ready to jump in?

Delaina Parrish

Fearless Independence, LLC

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Patricia Parrish

Fearless Independence, LLC

909 Indian River Avenue

Titusville, FL 32780

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Learn to Be Your Child's Superhero: A Candid Approach from a Superhero's Mom

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 4

Being the best advocate for your child with disabilities is very important to your child's success. Long before they learn to advocate for themselves, what we do as parents in the early years helps to put them on the right path to success. This mom of two sons on the autism spectrum shares her transparent journey of advocating for her sons. Let us shed some light on your journey ahead and provide you with some thought-provoking ideas to consider.

Teresia K Dulaney
Our Superhero Life, LLC
2650 Northeast 107th Terrace
Bronson, FL 32621
(352) 284-3013
oursuperherolife@gmail.com



El Modelo de Coaching en la Intervención Temprana: Ayudándole a usted mientras usted ayuda a su bebé

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 5

Los niños pequeños aprenden mejor de las personas en las que confían y en situaciones y entornos que les son familiares. La evidencia muestra que apoyar a los padres en sus interacciones con sus hijos puede ayudarlos a apoyar mejor el desarrollo de sus hijos y conducir a una mejora en el crecimiento y aprendizaje de los niños. Únase a nosotros para aprender más sobre la implementación del modelo de entrenamiento/coaching de Early Steps. ¿Por qué cambiar a este modelo? ¿Qué es el coaching en intervención temprana? ¿Cuál es el objetivo del coaching? ¿Cuál es el papel de los padres? ¿Cómo es la visita? Durante esta sesión estaremos contestando estas y otras preguntas. Acompáñenos!

Doris Tellado
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North Central Early Steps
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Gainesville, FL 32610
(352) 322-0441
dtellado@peds.ufl.edu

Chelsea Saganich Rojas, Ed.S
University of Florida
North Central Early Steps
PO Box 100296
Gainesville, FL 32610
(352) 294-8462
cjsaganich@ufl.edu

Alexandra Stoerger
University of Miami
Early Steps Program
1120 Northwest 14th Street
12th Floor
Miami, FL 33136
(305) 243-6660
astoerger@med.miami.edu

The McKay is Becoming an Educational Savings Account - What Does that Mean and What are the Benefits?

Friday, May 27
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 6

This workshop will cover how the McKay Scholarship is becoming an educational savings account. What is an educational savings account? How do parents apply? What are the various ways parents can use the funding to customize their child's learning experience?

Stephanie Love
Step Up For Students
1901 Ulmerton Road, Suite 180
Saint Petersburg, FL 33762
(904) 742-4606
slope@stepupforstudents.org

Paula Nelson
Step Up For Students
1901 Ulmerton Road, Suite 180
Clearwater, FL 33762
(727) 451-9831
pnelson@sufs.org

5 Strategies for Creating Successful Children

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 7

Parenting is a challenge . . . then add in a pandemic. Did you know that the right praise is the difference between success and failure for our children? When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Learn how simple changes in the way you praise your child can make them into more successful students and people.

Naomi Church
Growing Minds Consulting, LLC
1100 Verde Court
Deerfield Beach, FL 33064
(773) 469-0794
naomi@growingmindsconsulting.com

What Parents Need to Know About Access Points and Inclusion

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 8

This session will inform parents about ways that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities can be instructed on Access Points in general education environments. Discussion topics include the difference between “placement” and “services,” as well as the benefits of spending more time in general education settings. This session includes examples and resources to share. As discretionary projects of the Florida Department of Education, all services, support and resources are provided free of charge to Florida stakeholders.

Christine Yu
Access Project
3000 Jolly Street
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 269-2326
yu.christina@brevardschools.org

Jeff Pruitt
Access Project
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Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 269-2326
pruitt.jeff@brevardschools.org

Kelly Claude
Florida Inclusion Network
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kclaude@contactfin.com

Tell Theirs First

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 9

Have you ever dreamed of writing a book and telling your story? Did you know there are many people who have amazing stories to tell with no opportunity to share as a result of a disability? What if we were to prioritize helping someone else share their story first? What would that look like and how powerful would that be? Arizona and Tim share their story of how God helped them to do just that!

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

Tim Mann
Relevant Church
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Tampa, FL 33605
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tim@relevantchurch.com

Disability Rights Florida Public Input Forum

Friday, May 27

4:30-5:30 PM

Manatee Spring I

Disability Rights Florida wants your input about what issues matter most to the disability community. Join some of the DRF staff, Board of Directors, and PAIMI Advisory Council—our mental health advisory council—and share issues across all disabilities, including physical, intellectual, psychiatric, developmental, neurological, mental health, and others. Popular topics that you tell us to focus on may include community integration, housing, accessible emergency planning, education, abuse and neglect, accessible mental health services, supported decision-making, and more. Every five years, Disability Rights Florida revises its strategic plan that determines our advocacy platform and priorities for our legal and advocacy work. With your feedback, we will design and build our strategic 5-year plan that will guide the work that we will do until 2027. Enter to win a \$50 gift card and tell us how we can better advocate for your rights!

Paula Roberts
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(800) 342-0823
paular@disabilityrightsflorida.org

05.29.2022

Memorial Day
WE HONOR AND REMEMBER





Friday

May 27th, 2022

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

The 24th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities

Ever since The 1st Annual Family Café in June of 1999, creating a space where 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 2022.

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 the state's plan for its disability community. It also serves to connect the Floridians with disabilities and families in attendance 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 24th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities!



Joining us at this year's Summit will be long-time supporter of The Family Café and Floridians with disabilities, former Florida Senate President Bill Galvano.



The 24th 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.

Saturday

May 28th, 2022

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

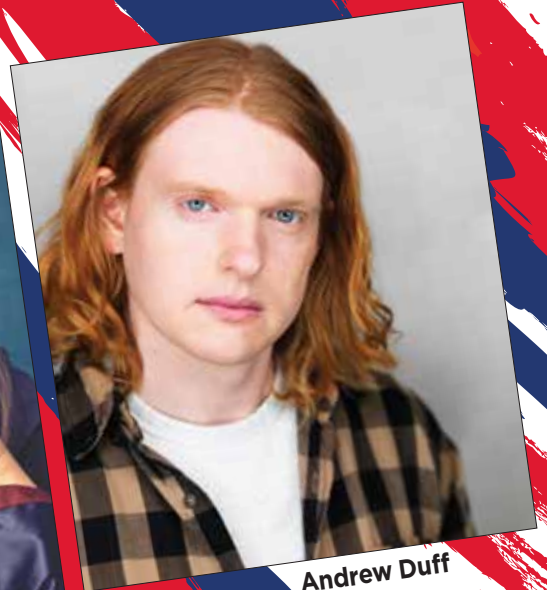
Plaza International Ballroom



Rick Glassman



Sue Ann Pien



Andrew Duff

AS WE SEE IT

Why aren't film and TV characters with disabilities played by people that have those same disabilities? What's it like to be an actor with autism on set? What needs to happen to make portrayals of disability more inclusive and realistic?

Join us on Saturday to dig into these questions and more, as we host a conversation with three actors from the Amazon Prime show *As We See It*, a show that offers a window into the lives of three autistic roommates doing their best to live independently while navigating work, relationships, and everyday life.

Rick Glassman, who plays Jack, is a comedian and host of the podcast *Take Your Shoes Off*. He previously starred in the NBC sitcom *Undateable*.

Sue Ann Pien, who plays Violet, discovered acting as a child, has worked with Academy and Emmy award winners, presented for a Nobel Laureate and U.S. Secretary of State on climate change solutions, and even gained global attention as a *Mars One* candidate.

Andrew Duff, who portrays Violet's boyfriend Douglas, has worked on the Off-Broadway show *Uncommon Sense*, and was featured in the December 2020 BuzzFeed article "*5 Autistic Actors You Should Be Watching Now.*"

We are really excited to welcome these three #ActuallyAutistic actors to The Annual Family Café to talk about the on-screen disability world, the representation of people with disabilities in film and TV, and the experience of being actors with autism playing characters with autism. We hope to see you there!

Saturday ★ May 28th ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Yoga, Orlando L
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Zumba, Regency Rotunda
8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rainbow Spring I
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by CHILDRENS MEDICAL SERVICES, Orlando M
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Assistive Technology Showcase, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Book Fair, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dental Screenings sponsored by Liberty Dental Plan, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. SportsAbility Sampler, Regency Ballroom
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friends of Bill, Rock Spring I
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Arts & Crafts provided by Arts4All Florida, Orlando N
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Royal DJs, Regency Rotunda
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Celebration of Life, Rainbow Spring II
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Chance 2 Dance, Regency Rotunda
12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rainbow Spring I
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by CHILDRENS MEDICAL SERVICES, Orlando M
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. SCUBA for ALL, Terrace Pool
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Greatest Show performed by CFCArts' UpBeat!, Coral Spring I & II
4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS
5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rhythms of Grace, Regency Rotunda
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday Night Dance Party featuring DJ Nate, Plaza International Ballroom



9:30-10:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



How We Reinterpret and Utilize Original and Popular Music for Disability Awareness

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 17

Various types of music are enjoyed by most people, including people with disabilities. In addition, many songs have been written that were originally inspired by the experiences of people with disabilities. Music has also been utilized and reinterpreted by people with disabilities in order to teach disability awareness. In this session, listen to three musicians with disabilities as they describe how they utilize and reinterpret popular and original music for the purposes of teaching awareness of various types of disabilities.

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Larissa Grabois, MT-B.A.
Discovery Music Studio
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Hailey Buxton
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Apoyo Inmediato: Cómo sobrevivir un huracán cuando se tiene un impedimento. La experiencia de un ser humano después del huracán Irma.

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 18

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 Gray
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Overview of a Model for the Delivery of Community Based Wrap-around Support for Individuals with Autism and Co-occurring Mental Health Needs

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 19

When it comes to supporting individuals with mental health disorders in combination with intellectual and developmental disabilities, each case is unique. A multi-disciplinary approach with collective resources available through Devereux's established service array contribute to the development of a support plan unique to the needs of the individual. This presentation will provide an overview of our model for delivering wrap-around support to dually diagnosed individuals, provide practical applications for the implementation of evidence based practices, and provide case examples of individuals served and positively impacted through this approach.

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5850 T G Lee Boulevard, #400
Orlando, FL 32822
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lindsey.phillips@devereux.org

Rene Leon
Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health
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Winter Park, FL 32792
(321) 246-4571
rene.leon@devereux.org

Eligibility for Participation in APD Services

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Bayhill 20

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
403 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
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liesl.ramos@apdcares.org

Amanda Soule
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-4257
amanda.soule@apdcares.org



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

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Bayhill 21

This workshop will discuss the “Life Care Plan” 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. There are some needs that will always be present and they must be carefully considered and planned for appropriately. This workshop will address such critical issues as protecting government benefit eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, creating Special Needs Trusts, the importance of a Will, Guardianship, Financial Strategies 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—a customized path that will keep you on track as you consider what’s right for your situation.

Douglas Vogel
MassMutual Special Care
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Highland Beach, FL 33487
(973) 303-7856
dvogel@financialguide.com



The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology: How We Can Help YOU!

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Bayhill 24

In this presentation we will share how our statewide Device Loan Program can help you find the technology that is the perfect fit for your specific needs.

Whitney Doyle
The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology
820 East Park Avenue, Suite D-200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 590-6421
wdoyle@faast.org



Discovering Your Path Towards Employment

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 26

There are many resources and services for individuals under 22 and while being served with their IEP, but as individuals transition from their high schools or transition programs there is a lot of unknown out there. We hope to share next steps for you and your family as you explore services and programming that can aid in successful employment in your community.

Christine Nammour
MacDonald Training Center
5420 West Cypress Street
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 505-3895
cnammour@macdonaldcenter.org



Just for Dads

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 27

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
93210 Lizabeth Circle
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 407-2880
turner697@aol.com

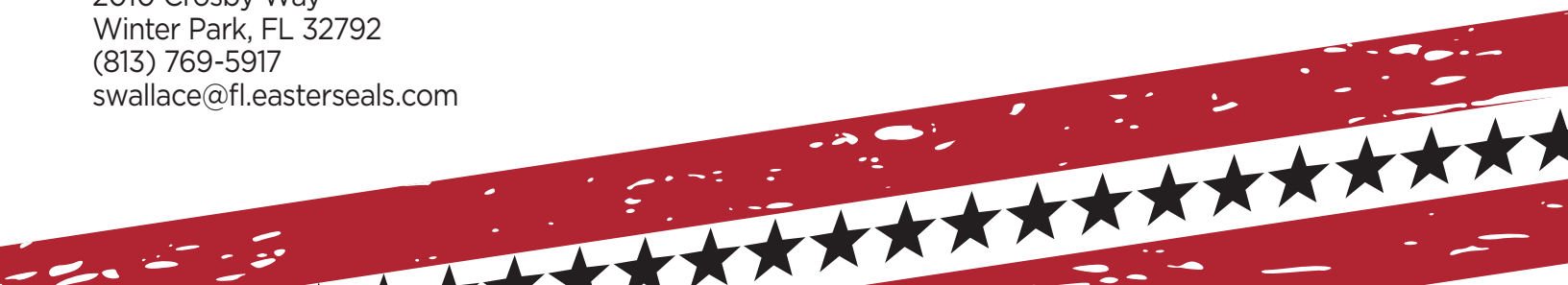


Short-Term Training—Life Long Career

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 29

Not every young adult, with or without a disability, wants to go to a traditional college. So, what other choices are there for those who want a career? A perfect alternative is short-term skills training for jobs that are in-demand now. Industry-recognized certifications, real world experience, peer interaction, and structured instruction are all components of a great short-term training program. Learn more about available opportunities and training program FAQ's in this interactive presentation.

Stephanie Wallace
Easterseals Florida
2010 Crosby Way
Winter Park, FL 32792
(813) 769-5917
swallace@fl.easterseals.com





¿Y Después de la Escuela Secundaria, Qué!? – ¿Qué Debes Hacer como Padre? ¡Vamos y Apoyemos a los Estudiantes Hispanos/Latinos con TEA para su Preparación, Culminación y Éxito Universitario/Técnico/Industrial!

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 30

Las investigaciones han indicado que las personas con Trastorno del Espectro Autista (TEA) no ingresan ni completan la educación postsecundaria (universitaria/técnica/industrial) al mismo ritmo que otros estudiantes con o sin discapacidades. La brecha es mayor para los estudiantes hispanos/ latinos con TEA. Un proyecto de investigación de tres años ha revelado las barreras para el éxito y los pasos que los padres, educadores y estudiantes en la escuela secundarias y/o universitarias pueden tomar para cerrar esa brecha. Esta presentación compartirá recomendaciones y nuevos recursos desarrollados a través de fondos del Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Florida para cerrar dicha brecha, la cual impide el ingreso a la universidad, programas técnicos o industriales disponibles y aumentar el índice de graduandos de todos los estudiantes con TEA.

Jacqueline Marquez-DuPrey
University of Central Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
12424 Research Parkway, Suite 200, #365
Orlando, FL 32826
(407) 823-6001
jacqueline.marquezduprey@ucf.edu

You Don't Agree with Your Child's IEP Team—Now What?

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 31

Learn strategies to build bridges, document decisions, and use your rights as a parent of a child with a disability to get supports and services your child needs to receive an appropriate education and be successful in reaching their post-school goals. Explore options to resolve issues when you reach an impasse with your IEP team. Where can you turn for help when your efforts aren't working? Learn to use a continuum of strategies for students in prekindergarten through post-school to help you reach success.

April Katine
Disability Rights Florida
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Tallahassee, FL 32308
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aprilk@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Pam Ford
Disability Rights Florida
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Hollywood, FL 33026
(954) 483-8502
pamelaf@disabilityrightsflorida.org



Maximize Your Advocacy Skills – Become a Partner in Policymaking

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 32

Did you know that the chances of you getting what you need without advocating are slim? 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 systems and 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) 252-8764
shoaglundpartner@gmail.com



Sibling Advocacy: The New Advocacy Movement

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Bayhill 33

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

Jaime Sagona Richman, MA
Florida Sibling Alliance
6800 Southwest 40th Street, #389
Miami, FL 33155
(965) 866-5106
jaime.sagona@gmail.com

Fatimat Shotande, MD
omololasho@gmail.com

Sylvia Collazo, Ed.D.
claivlys2@gmail.com

Adaptive Cooking Demonstration

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Celebration 1

Cooking is a basic life skill, and our goal is to assist individuals in creating independence through teaching adaptive cooking skills. In this interactive presentation, we will demonstrate adaptive cooking techniques through safety tips for various independence levels, adapt recipes to focus on single servings with varying levels of difficulty, and discuss various kitchen tools and equipment for everyday basic recipes, to foster independence. This will be a live cooking demonstration. Resources will be provided to successfully adapt basic recipes to create independence for all abilities.

Catrina Sanchez
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Naples, FL 34113
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csanchez@fl.easterseals.com

Jenn Siffermann
Easterseals, Florida
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Tampa, FL 33610
(813) 868-7191
jsiffermann@fl.easterseals.com

Care Plans and Shared Decision Making—Are You a Partner in Your Child’s Care?

Saturday, May 28
9:30-10:30 AM
Celebration 10

Family partnership with health care providers who care for their children is an essential element of health equity and a hallmark of patient- and family-centered care. The work of our Florida Department of Health’s Title V—Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program champions family and physician partnership in a patient-centered medical home, through outreach and collaboration with providers and community organizations. In this interactive session participants will find information, strategies, and resources on understanding the concepts of a medical home, and steps on partnering with your child’s providers to strengthen family- and patient-centered care.

Linda Hampton Starnes
Title V-CYSHCN Program
Office of Children’s Medical Services Managed Care Plan and Specialty Programs
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(407) 538-7180
linda.starnes@flhealth.gov

Entertainment

Highlights



**WE ARE
BACK!**

- ★ Arts & Crafts
- ★ Brazilian Voices
- ★ Chance 2 Dance, Inc.
- ★ CFCArts' UpBeat!
- ★ Everyone Can Zumba
- ★ Ms. Wheelchair Florida
Bryanna Tanase
- ★ Pyramid Players
- ★ Rhythms of Grace
- ★ Royal DJs
- ★ Yoga for All Abilities



7-10PM
SATURDAY NIGHT

DANCE PARTY

PLAZA INTERNATIONAL
BALLROOM

FEATURING DJ NATE

AMPLIFY
your event



By the Grace of God, We Made It!

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 12 & 13

On September 25, 2000, our lives were changed forever when our son was born with Down Syndrome and health issues. Life in the military had taught us how to be resilient, but this was uncharted territory for both of us. To say we were unprepared is an understatement! But by the grace of God, and a lot of support along the way, we were able to successfully transition from Early Intervention Services through Graduating from High School; from Active Duty to Retirement; and through Medicaid Waiver, Guardianship, SSI, and the Incapacitated Dependent Program. Please join us as we share our personal journey. We would love the opportunity to provide encouragement and help you make the most of resources that are in place so you can experience successful transitions too.

Jeff Klein
919 Langley Street
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
(904) 542-9838

Shannon Klein
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Stargardt's Raising Williams: The Journey Continues

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 16

The purpose of this presentation is to share my ongoing journey as a mother with Stargardt's Disease raising a son with Williams Syndrome. It has been a divergent as well as convergent journey filled with discovery, determination, and disappointment, from our first introduction to high school graduation day. Allow me to share what I have learned and what I am still learning. I am mother. I am advocate. I am purposed. This is my story.

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Oviedo, FL 32765
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tkoop35@gmail.com

Putting Paws in Action!

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 2

In this session, the audience will learn about the legal rights and responsibilities related to service animals, including the recent changes in federal law. There will be a live demonstration of many service animal tasks, and attendees will have a chance to ask questions and interact with the dogs at the end.

Carol Christopherson
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14897 Yellow Water Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32234
(800) 549-2600
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Niki Crossway
Florida Service Dogs, Inc.
14897 Yellow Water Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32234
(800) 549-2600
buddynme@bellsouth.net

Practical Tools for Struggling Learners: An Eye Doctor's Perspective

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 3

Is a vision problem impacting your child's academic success? Even if your child sees 20/20, with or without glasses, they could still have an eye coordination or eye movement problem interfering with reading and learning. Researchers estimate that 1 out of 4 children have an undiagnosed vision problem that interferes with their ability to read and learn. Many of these children have been told their vision is fine, leaving parents struggling, searching for answers to their child's difficulties. Since 80% of learning is dependent upon vision, it is critical that parents understand symptoms of vision problems that interfere with learning.

Dr. Jenna McDermed
Visual Health & Learning Center
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Orlando, FL 32828
(407) 277-5729
jennwmcd@yahoo.com

Quest for Rest

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 4

Are you exhausted? Drained? Depleted? Our journey as a caregiver can certainly consume our physical, mental, and emotional strength. Facing a wide range of duties and responsibilities caring for our loved ones while managing our own personal lives can simply be overwhelming. We can become stressed and dangerously diminished in our capacity to be our best. This can lead to caregiver burnout—and when you are burned out it is hard to look after someone else. Linda, a caregiver herself, will share Quest for Rest: a daily intentional search to be renewed, restored, and revitalized. Using personal experiences and practical ways, we will explore how we can be strengthened in all realms of our daily lives. We will learn ways to REST our bodies, renew our minds, recover emotionally, and be replenished in other overloaded areas. Come and REST a while. You owe it to yourself!

Linda Santana Arroyo
My Rest Quest
Largo, FL
linda@myrestquest.com
(614) 769-7378



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

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 5

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.

Debbi Nicolosi
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The Future Starts Now: Preparing for Secondary Transition in Middle School

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 6

This presentation will acquaint participants with the needs of students as they enter, attend, and exit middle school. Topics range from IEP component requirements during middle school to preparation strategies for transitioning to high school. Suggestions for ways families can support their middle school students are included throughout the training. Families will also receive a copy of the “Middle School Transition Trail Map for Families,” which is a mini-guide designed to support family involvement in the middle school years.

Lisa Friedman-Chavez

Project 10

140 7th Avenue South, SVB 101

Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

(786) 417-3904

lfchavez@usf.edu

Choosing Your Path Forward—Creating a Plan for Caregivers and Self-Advocates

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 8

Many caregivers and individuals get bogged down with the day-to-day, but what about the future? Beyond drafting legal documents or financial planning, what do you want to achieve during your life? How will you manage as caregivers age? Discuss a holistic approach to setting future goals to maintain independence which includes housing, employment, decision-making, benefits, and healthcare. Life should be more than living—it should be thriving independently.

Sarah R. Sullivan

The Arc Jacksonville

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Disability, Adulthood, and Independence

Saturday, May 28

9:30-10:30 AM

Celebration 9

Living as an adult with disabilities can be difficult. Sometimes, almost impossible. But, as I’ve gotten older, I’ve been learning to overcome my disabilities. The process has taken time, but through time, it has made me realize more about myself and has actually enabled me to do more than I ever thought possible. I want to pass on the various lessons that I’ve learned from my adulthood, ranging from dealing with college to family relations to becoming more independent, to other adults with unique abilities.

Ryan Turner

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Tammy Turner

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Zephyrhills, FL 33542

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tammyvturner@aol.com

11:00-12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Accessible Memories - Exploring the World with a Disability

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 17

Life doesn't stop because you have a disability. We are not spectators in this world, but full, active participants. Life is meant to be experienced, whether you have a disability or not. The team at Incredible Memories Travel know that traveling with a disability is hard. Kristy Durso, the owner, is a wheelchair user, and has three children with different disabilities and dietary restrictions, including autism, intellectual disability, mobility restrictions, and a combined 27 food allergies. We've taken our experiences with traveling with disabilities and have tackled the problems head on, striving to change the travel industry to do better. Come talk with us about some of the problems we face, and how we are paving the way for better accessible travel. We'll take a look at destinations worldwide that are striving for better accessibility.

Kristy Durso
Incredible Memories Travel LLC
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San Antonio, TX 78253
(520) 730-3114
kristy@incrediblememoriestravel.com



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

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 18

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

Christinne Gray
Rudd Disability Solutions
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rudd.disabilitysolutions@gmail.com

Introduction to the Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) Program

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 20

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.

Mindy Whitehead
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
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Larry Hill
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Benefits and Tax Savings for Families with Special Needs

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 21

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, as well as A.B.L.E. 529 accounts, which allow up to \$100,000 in savings while still retaining SSI and Medicaid.

Karen Greenberg
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Jaret Vogel
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Emerging Innovative Assistive Technologies

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 24

The University of South Florida Center for Assistive Rehabilitation and Robotics Technologies (CARRT) has been working on developing innovative technologies by integrating research and educational activities with daily service delivery to individuals with disabilities. In this presentation, we will highlight undergraduate student projects that have been undertaken to develop solutions for increasing independence and quality of life for individuals. Current and past research in virtual and augmented reality, robotics, mobility, prosthetics, and orthotics will be presented. Challenges and opportunities to commercialize the development of technologies will be discussed.

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Ready, Set, Work: Skills to Get and Keep Employment

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 25

There are many skills that can help make you work ready. We will share an overview of such valuable skills as: 1) Knowing yourself, 2) Job searching and preparing to apply, 3) Dressing for success, 4) Your online presence and safety, 5) Financial literacy, and 6) Skills to prepare for independence. Get ready for a lively and interactive session with loads of resources! Topics are taken from our Work Readiness Curriculum at Hope Services, Inc.

Emily A Taylor-Snell
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esnell@hopegetsjobs.com





Vocational Rehabilitation: Increasing Student Engagement with Career Exploration Services

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 26

Participants will learn about the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation’s evidence-based pre-employment transition programs and services that provide students with disabilities opportunities to develop the work behaviors and knowledge needed to seamlessly transition from the education setting into the workforce. In addition, opportunities for collaborating in the delivery of services will be presented.

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Jesse Riddle
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8112 Centralia Court, Suite 102
Leesburg, FL 34788
(850) 938-2518



Raising a Child with Special Needs from a Father’s Perspective

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 27

It’s a known fact that being a parent of a child with special needs can be quite challenging and we seldom hear the dad’s perspective. Join Quentin Fields as he shares from a father’s perspective on raising a child who has special needs.

Quentin Fields
Positive Over Negative
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Middleburg, FL 32068
Qstaar17@gmail.com



Mom, There is More Than One of Us!!

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 28

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
The Family Café
820 East Park Avenue,
Suite F-100
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ngermain@familycafe.net

Alex Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council

JJ Humphrey
Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council



Transition Guide for Youth Aged 16 through 25

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 29

Disability Rights Florida will present an overview of their updated and popular Transition Guide. The guide is a handbook of services and information to assist youth with disabilities in their transition from youth to adulthood. Session participants will also receive a copy of the Transition Guide and instructions on how to access the guide through Disability Rights Florida's website.

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Ann Siegel
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Access the Vote Florida (ATVFL) - An Update

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 32

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 be a panel discussion on the different ways that people with disabilities can vote, including how to use the new remote accessible vote by mail process.

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Olivia Babis
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FROM! The Family-Run Organization Movement: Nuts and Bolts, and Building a Board

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bayhill 33

This second presentation is another for family members who are exploring how to start and/or improve a family-run organization. This session will focus on the nuts and bolts of starting up, as well as how to build a Board of Directors. It will begin with another brief overview of FROM (Family-Run Organization Movement), including an introduction to the new FROM Guidebook. We will once again use the tools that are in the guidebook, and new participants will receive a free copy.

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Florida KidCare: Simplifying Health Care Coverage For Kids

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 1

Florida KidCare is the state of Florida's high-quality, health and dental insurance program for children birth through the end of age 18. Each program is designed with kids in mind, with one program specifically for children with special health care needs. This presentation will explain each Florida KidCare program (4 in total), the eligibility requirements, benefits and services, how parents can apply, and more! Our goal is to lessen any confusion and help families understand this valuable resource.

Gabi Lara
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
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Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 701-6168
larae@healthykids.org

How to Meet Hispanic/Latinx Families Where They Are At

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 10

This presentation will be geared toward Hispanic/Latinx families and parents who are not yet being served, who could potentially be eligible for services, or who need to be reached out to for services. By targeting Hispanic/Latinx families, the presentation will allow for an understanding of family dynamics, culture, trust, education level, and more. It will address the importance of understanding what barriers families are dealing with and how this impacts engagement, and how meeting parents where they are can bring many successful solutions and engagement. It's important to understand how professional agendas need to be put aside temporarily to meet these families where they are first. We will discuss how to identify and overcome barriers for families to be more successful in the short- and long-term.

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MomsRising/ Mamás Con Poder
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(919) 627-4224
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Jessica Aguilar
Grupo Poder Y Esperanza
(704) 726-3156
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Meet Your School Liason Officer

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 12 & 13

Your School Liaisons are a valuable resource to assist in your child's education needs. This presentation will introduce you the School Liaison Program, the history, and some of the School Liaisons in the state. The presentation will better help you understand why using your School Liaison can be one of the best first steps in your transitions between schools, relocating, leaving the service, or retiring.

Stephanie Grout
Tyndall Air Force Base
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Tyndall AFB, FL 32403
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Dawn Mills
(305) 293-4442
dawn.m.mills@navy.mil

Autism & The Law: Preparing Your Child for Police Interaction

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 14 & 15

Interaction between an individual with autism and a law enforcement officer is inevitable. Is your child/adult with autism prepared for that contact? This training will focus on items and suggestions that will help a family prepare their child/adult with autism BEFORE contact is made. We will discuss the roles that parents and individuals with autism can play in preparation. Handouts will be shared to assist you in the preparation.

Donna Lorman
Autism Society of Greater Orlando
1650 Sand Lake Road, Suite 240
Orlando, FL 32809
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dlorman@asgo.org

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

Preparing your Loved One for Independent Living

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 16

As parents of individuals with disabilities, we worry for the future of our children. We are united in our anxiety about what will happen to our family members when we are gone. At Harwood Village, we have a passion for creating a better community. We are currently developing our first privately owned community in downtown Lakeland that will sustain active seniors and individuals with disabilities in friendship and mutual support. By attending, you will discover another housing option for your loved one and learn how best to help them develop the skills needed to transition to independent living.

Susan Harding
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Cortical Visual Impairment

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 2

This presentation will focus on Cortical Visual Impairment, what it is, how it affects someone with CVI, and how to address the needs of students with CVI.

Angel Perez
Florida and Virgin Islands Deafblind Collaborative
3831 Southeast 38th Street
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Know Diabetes, Fight Diabetes

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 3

What is diabetes? What causes diabetes? How can it be prevented or managed? Over the past two decades, 34.2 million Americans were diagnosed with diabetes. In Florida, it is estimated that over 2.4 million individuals have diabetes and over 5.8 million have pre-diabetes. More than eight in ten adults with pre-diabetes don't know they have it. So, what can you do about diabetes? We address those questions and more during this presentation.

Jennifer Wahby, MPH
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Alana Shawah, RD, LD/N, CLC
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melody.pierrejean@flhealth.gov

Essential Legal Planning for Special Needs Families

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 4

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 D. Finchum, Esq.
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kimarie@specialneedslawyers.com



Co-Parenting in The Best Interest of The Child

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 5

Whether you disagree with your partner about your child's disability, or you are trying to navigate raising a child after separation, there are ways to move forward in a positive way. In addition to sharing a personal experience, this workshop will give you ideas on how to ultimately do what is best for your child with a disability. We don't always have to get along and agree, but it is important to stay focused and keep the child out of the conflict. This workshop is geared towards infants and toddlers, but anyone who attends will learn something.

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

Importance of Self-Care

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 6

Loss, prolonged stress, the physical demands of caregiving, and the biological vulnerabilities that come with age place you at risk for significant health problems as well as an earlier death (caregiver.org). But despite these risks, family caregivers of any age are less likely than non-caregivers to practice preventive healthcare and self-care behavior. The demands of parenting can seem never-ending, especially for those whose kids need extra attention and support. This workshop will discuss different ways to carve out a small amount of time from every day, to make time for the much-deserved and needed rest for your journey.

Isela Perez
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Gerri Mullendore
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services
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6 Ways to Make Math Fun Again

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 7

Tired of fighting with your child to get them to do their math homework or practice math skills? Do they strike up conversations with you just so they can avoid solving math problems? We can reduce fear and anxiety around math by playing fun games at home. Dr. Jo Boaler of Stanford University offers some 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 fears about math.

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A Parent-to-Parent Conversation on DeafBlindness

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 8

DeafBlindness is a combination of vision and hearing losses at different degrees. DeafBlindness is a low incidence disability, and as such, many parents struggle to find appropriate resources, knowledgeable service providers, and a community to support them on their journey. Join us to learn more about DeafBlindness, get information about important resources that can help you and your child, and meet members of the Family Partners for the DeafBlind of Florida and the Virgin Islands as they share their experiences as parents.

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Family Partners for the DeafBlind
of Florida and the Virgin Islands
109 Northeast 43rd Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32641
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dtellado@peds.ufl.edu

Donia Shirley
Family Partners for the DeafBlind
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Katrina Michel
Family Partners for the DeafBlind
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Social Security Presents: Navigating SSDI Work Incentives and Income Exclusions

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Celebration 9

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

Tina Williams
Social Security Administration
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Jacksonville, FL 32256
(877) 479-9630 x12327
tina.louise.williams@ssa.gov

Elizabeth Baez-Beatey
Social Security Administration
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Jacksonville, FL 32256
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elizabeth.baez-beatey@ssa.gov

22q Roundtable

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Coral Spring I & II

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

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Manatee Spring I

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



SibShop

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Manatee Spring II

This mini Sibshop for ages 7-13 is a place to have a fun hour of therapeutic activities to process the good and not-so-good having a brother or sister with a disability.

Cheryl Albright
Soul To Soul Yoga, LLC
7365 Merchant Court, Unit 3
Bradenton, FL 34240
(941) 702-2035
cheryl@soultosoulyogasrq.com

Meet APD Director Barbara Palmer

Saturday, May 28
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Plaza International Ballroom

Barbara Palmer was appointed director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in August 2012. APD serves more than 58,000 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 ongoing and future priorities for the agency.

Barbara Palmer
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
403 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-4257
barbara.palmer@apdcares.org

3:00-4:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Structuring Leisure Time: Beyond the iPad

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 17

Worried how you're going to keep your child entertained this summer? Does the screen seem to be the only way to get them to engage on their own? This presentation will review how to design and implement a leisure activity schedule, a strategy that provides increased structure and independence for time at home. Join us for tips on selecting purposeful activities and ensuring success for one or multiple children at home this summer.

Chrystal Ayala, M.S., BCBA
Kyo
589 Buckingham Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765
(877) 264-6747 x782
chrystal.ayala@kyocare.com



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

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 18

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 plan for year round disasters by building an evacuation disaster kit for each member of your family through the use of hands-on materials. You will learn how to think outside of the box, and how to use recycling and free items you have in your house in your disaster evacuation kit. In this session you will learn how to reuse items you have, that are lost, forgotten, and abandoned within your house that are able to be used in your disaster go kit. You will also learn how to use items you can get for free to add to your disaster evacuation kit, and then finally how to plan for disasters in the event you have to evacuate or shelter in place.

Linda Carter
No Person Left Behind
704 Homer Avenue North
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
(239) 368-6846
mslindacarter@gmail.com

Mary Carter
No Person Left Behind
704 Homer Avenue North
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
(239) 368-6846
marycarter@comcast.net



Ways to Support Self-Sufficiency and Unite Youth Voice within our Systems of Care

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 19

Learn how Pinellas County's National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) teams up with youth led programs Youth MOVE (Motivating Others through Voices of Experience) Pinellas chapter to create a space for youth voice, healing, advocacy, training, and coaching toward becoming a Certified Recovery Youth Peer Specialist. You will learn how these peer-led organizations support and empower individuals with lived experiences around the state as consumers of our systems of care to find and use their voice to help others.

Jo Dee Nicosia
NAMI Pinellas
8800 49th Street, Suite 302
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
(813) 841-2115
jnicosia@nami-pinellas.org

Updates on CDC+

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 20

This session is geared towards existing CDC+ Consumer/Representatives. We will provide program updates and answer any questions they have since being on the program.

Mindy Whitehead
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
403 Esplanade Way, Suite 215
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 414-5070
mindy.whitehead@apdcares.org

Larry Hill
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
403 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 414-5070
larry.hill@apdcares.org



Everything You Need to Know About Florida's Disability Savings Program

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 21

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

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



Exploring Assistive Technology Tools for Lifelong Learning

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 24

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 their pocket. Tips and suggestions on 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 review of some helpful apps to build executive functioning, behavior regulation, leisure, communication, social skills, and independence in daily routines/tasks will take place. A demonstration of how to customize mobile devices will be included. The Technology & Learning Connections Project will share free and innovative online resources that are available on their website.

Lauren Proulx
University of South Florida
4558 South Clyde Morris Boulevard
Port Orange, FL 32129
(386) 761-9099
laurenproulx@usf.edu

Dr. Tara Jeffs
PS/Rtl/Technology & Learning Connections
317 West Highland Drive, Suite 102
Lakeland, FL 33813
(863) 940-4661
tjeffs@usf.edu



Empowering Futures: How Quality Vocational Evaluations Help You Make Informed Vocational Choices

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 26

We invite parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities to join us as we explore how vocational evaluations can help you in finding a career that fits you. This presentation will include information on the types of vocational evaluations that can be completed, the benefits of an evaluation, and how you can use the information in the final report to make vocational decisions. We will also explore laws, programs, services, and accommodations that can make work a reality for you. So let's get charged up and empower your future together.

Sara Johnson
Magnolia Vocational Consulting
2755 Raintree Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 508-5607
vrevs@onebox.com



The Value of Fathers' Stories

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 27

Dr. Rose recently completed a dissertation study on fathers of children with Down syndrome. He wanted to know about their experiences so he interviewed them without leading questions, allowing them to tell their stories. From their stories, he gathered themes that suggest their experiences have something in common. He would like to share those themes with you. More importantly, he would like to hear about your experiences raising your children. Though his research was specific to fathers of children with Down syndrome, he invites all fathers to attend. Please come and discuss the joys, challenges, and triumphs of your life!

Corey Rose
2165 Villa Green Avenue
North Port, FL 34288
(941) 223-6312
crose319@gmail.com



Come and Chat with the FYC

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 28

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
820 East Park Avenue,
Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 224-4670
ngermain@familycafe.net

Alex Gonzalez
Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman
Florida Youth Council

JJ Humphrey
Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia
Florida Youth Council

Christina Waldron
Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino
Florida Youth Council

Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Morgan Griffin
Florida Youth Council

Lilibeth Vega
Florida Youth Council

Derek Carraway
Florida Youth Council

Brandon White
Florida Youth Council

Serena Wetmore
Florida Youth Council

Michelle Sandiford
Florida Youth Council



Secondary Transition

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 29

This session will provide an overview of secondary transition for students with disabilities.

Wendy Metty
Bureau of Exceptional Student Education
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Going to Due Process Without an Attorney

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 31

Parents have a right to request a due process hearing when they believe that their child has been denied a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). At a due process hearing, the parent and school district present evidence to an Administrative Law Judge, who determines whether the child was indeed denied FAPE. Parents are permitted to litigate a due process hearing without an attorney. This presentation will offer guidance to parents on how to do so. The presentation will discuss the deadlines that parents must meet, the procedures that govern due process hearings, and strategies for effective advocacy.

Kevin Golembiewski
Disability Rights Florida
1000 North Ashley Drive
Tampa, FL 33602
(850) 617-9735
keving@disabilityrightsflorida.org



What Makes a Good Leader? You May Already Have It! The World Needs More Great Leaders Like You!

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 32

Leadership is more than a core value, more than pursuing a mutual goal within an organization. It is a set of skills a person must possess to be not just an effective leader, but also an individual who succeeds beyond expectations by creating meaningful ways to lead teams, communities, and organizations: a human being with the courage to be mindful and capable of understanding the value of others and the value of themselves, the value of being a great leader! What a great leader will need in order to be successful will be discussed in this presentation.

Maria Fernanda Saavedra
Evolution DEI
10415 Jutland Court
Orlando, FL 32821
(321) 946-1867
mariafernanda.saavedra1109@gmail.com



Amping up the Civic Power of Young People with Disabilities

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 33

Even though 1 in 4 Americans have a disability, more than 60% of America's polling places are not accessible. This has created a culture which keeps people with disabilities from accessing their civic power and suggests to young people that their voices are not important for deciding the future of our country. Even so, there is a growing movement of young people that are taking steps to change their communities and make sure that the newest generation of Americans have the tools and resources to take leadership in their communities. In this session we will talk about some of the steps that Civic Influencers is taking to support young people to become more civically engaged in their communities, as well as opportunities for youth with disabilities, and Black, Latino, and Indigenous youth, to access and exert their civic power.

Patrick Cokley
Civic Influencers
16192 Coastal Highway
Lewes, DE 19958
(202) 841-9058
patrick@campuselect.org

Michael Norris
Civic Influencers
16192 Coastal Highway
Lewes, DE 19958
(850) 545-9463
michael@campuselect.org



Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Specialty Plan

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 1

Our goal is to help our members take control of every part of their health. We focus on the whole member. Through a team-based approach, including behavioral and medical providers, licensed health clinicians and pharmacists, we'll help you coordinate behavioral, medical, pharmacy, and social support services that are critical to good health.

Carole Matyas
Serious Mental Illness - Sunshine Health
1700 N University Dr
Plantation, FL 33322
carole.matyas@sunshinehealth.com

Navigating Lifelong Transitions

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 10

Life is a series of transitions, from childhood, to teen years, to adulthood, and into our senior years. The one constant is change, and that can be joyous as well as stressful. In this session we will look at some of the elements of change, how to adapt and move forward, and resources to help us navigate the various stages. We will highlight a monthly Zoom Meet-up catering to families supporting persons with varying abilities called SIT - Sharing Information Together hosted by Hope Services, Inc. Come join us to get and share some resources!

Emily Taylor-Snell
Hope Services, Inc.
34747 Prairie Ridge Way
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
(813) 817-1873
esnell@hopegetsjobs.com

Pathological Demand Avoidance for Parents and Professionals

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 11

Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) is an Autism profile which occurs when anxiety drives behavior. This may include repeated noncompliance, rule following to the extreme, etc. Participants will learn about Pathological Demand Avoidance and will leave with strategies to assist their children with PDA to de-escalate and problem-solve. Participants will learn to recognize when PDA may be a reason for behavioral issues, learn de-escalation techniques, and leave the seminar with tools and strategies to assist in providing support and teamwork to solve problems and de-escalate stressful situations.

Melissa Packwood
Intuitive Behavioral and Educational Strategies, LLC
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Leesburg, FL 34748
(407) 712-4368
lissa_kaye54@yahoo.com



READY! (Resources Equals A De-stressed You!)

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 12 & 13

Just when you think you have it all figured out, things change! That is especially true when you are a military family. From the first enlistment through separation or retirement from service, there are many exciting opportunities and challenges along the way. If you have a family member with special needs, military life can become more complicated. One of the best ways to ensure you have what you need at each duty location is knowing about the available programs and resources that are in place. Using your resources equals a de-stressed you! Learn how you can prepare to be READY! Join us today as we explore resources for special needs, relocation, retirement, and beyond.

Gayla Taborn
Naval Hospital Jacksonville
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NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
(904) 542-7348
gayla.j.taborn2.civ@mail.mil

Shannon Klein
Regional EFM Program Manager
919 Langley Street
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
(904) 542-9838
Shannon.j.klein@navy.mil

Autism & The Law: Current Trends with Police Interaction—What Do We Do Now?

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 14 & 15

This session will focus on the current trends that are causing police interactions with individuals with autism. We will go into depth about how to respond to an officer when approached and how to follow their instructions. The training will address arrest, Baker Act, DCF investigations, etc. Participants who attend this session will be provided strategies and ideas on how better to prepare a person with autism for interaction with law enforcement officers.

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

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

Seclusion and Restraint: Updates to Section 1003.573, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 16

This presentation will present the revisions made to section 1003.573, F.S., which addresses seclusion and restraint of students with disabilities in public schools.

Jennifer Barnhill
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
jennifer.barnhill@fldoe.org



Guardianship and the Alternatives

Saturday, May 28

3:00-4:00 PM

Celebration 2

Catherine Davey, Attorney and Counselor at Law, will explain the similarities and differences between guardianship, guardian advocacy, and supported decision making. She will discuss triggering events, rights that can be retained, and those that can be taken away by the court. She will assist attendees in understanding the potential costs of each choice and when an attorney is required by the courts. Common fears of family members will be addressed and the least restrictive options will be illustrated. She will also offer resources families can access to make the best choices available to them.

Catherine E. Davey
Davey Law Group, P.A.
341 North Maitland Avenue, Ste 280
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 645-4833
catherine@daveylg.com

The Coolness of Calmness: Experience Less Stress with Live Therapeutic Music added to Chromo-Color Light Therapy

Saturday, May 28

3:00-4:00 PM

Celebration 3

Cheryl Cohen Kerr, a CMP (Certified Music Practitioner) Educator B.A. Elementary Ed., is your facilitator for this “Enlightening” entertaining experience. As a recovering brain injury survivor, she has first learned and practiced Chromo-Color Light therapy and REMO Certified Health Rhythms Drumming on herself before becoming a certified facilitator for wellness. She has served children and adults with special needs, as well as mainstream citizens through schools, hospitals, clinics and elder care facilities for over 15 years. “Chery” has worked with VSA of Florida (aka Arts 4 All), Orlando Regional Medical systems, OCPS, La Amistad Behavior Health and many others. Since stress is known to be the cause of so many illnesses, her programs have a side benefit of reversing the classic stress response. In today’s program “Chery” will be demonstrating how these creative tools based in Music can benefit your Body, Brain, Mind, Spirit, and Health going forward.

Cheryl Cohen Kerr
Cheryl's Magic Flute
817 Kenilworth Terrace
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 726-0858
cheryl@cherylsmagicflute.com

Title V and the Florida Family Leaders Network: Supporting Family Engagement, Partnership, and Leadership in Health Care

Saturday, May 28

3:00-4:00 PM

Celebration 4

Florida’s Department of Health Title V - Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program champions family and youth engagement through outreach to provider, agency, and community organizations, and through collaboration with the Florida Family Leaders Network (FFLN). Those working in related healthcare fields who support family engagement (“Champions”) are also part of the FFLN—all together, learning together. Families/Youth: Learn about partnering at the individual, clinical, community, and health systems levels to bring about systems level change. Champions: Enhance your engagement with family and youth partners to further meaningful change. We want to learn with you. Come share your interests and experiences on family/youth leadership in any area of healthcare!

Linda Hampton Starnes
Title V-CYSHCN Program. Office of Children’s
Medical Services Managed Care Plan and
Specialty Programs
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(407) 538-7180
linda.starnes@flhealth.gov

Angela Miney
UF-Pediatric Pulmonary Center
/ Florida Family Leader Network
PO Box 100296
Gainesville, FL 32610
(352) 273-8380
aminey@peds.ufl.edu



Early Intervention: What It Is and What It's Not

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 5

This presentation will introduce you to the Early Intervention services model used in Florida, specifically Caregiver Coaching. You will learn what Caregiver Coaching is, the training your provider receives to give you the highest quality of services, and what you can expect when you enter Early Intervention services. Most importantly we will address how Early Intervention services build caregivers' capacity and confidence while embedding evidenced-based interventions into your daily activities, in order to help you encourage your child's development. A question and answer opportunity will follow.

Melanie Williams
Gulf Central Early Steps
4630 17th Street
Sarasota, FL 34235
(941) 228-9104
melaniewilliams@hpcswf.com

Robin Medeiros
Gulf Central Early Steps
4630 17th Street
Sarasota, FL 34219
(941) 957-8960
robinmedeiros@hpcswf.com

Supporting Respite for Caregivers and Families

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 6

Respite is a temporary break from the challenges of caring for a child or youth with special needs. The purpose of respite is to provide a temporary relief for the usual caregiver. Respite also allows for a cooling down period for youth and parent conflict. Respite care is a supportive service that brings much needed relief to families from the stress and frustration of 'round-the-clock' responsibilities in caring for their child. We'll look at different options to utilize respite in a win-win for caregivers and the respite recipient. In addition, we will have an interactive discussion about the benefits of respite.

Isela Perez
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and
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2000 North Classen Boulevard
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Gerri Mullendore
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services
2000 North Classen Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
(405) 795-3832
emullendore@odmhsas.org

Living with Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 7

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

Jaime Sagona Richman, MA
9020 Northwest 8th Street, #201
Miami, FL 33172
(407) 319-3049
jaime.sagona@gmail.com

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

K-12 Scholarship Programs

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 8

The Department of Education's Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will present information about K-12 Scholarship Programs and upcoming changes to programs offered for special needs students. 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.

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



Una conversación de padres a padres sobre la sordoceguera

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 9

La sordoceguera es una combinación de pérdida de visión y audición en diferentes grados. A consecuencia de la baja incidencia de casos de sordoceguera muchos padres enfrentan grandes retos para encontrar recursos apropiados, proveedores de servicios informados y una comunidad que los apoye en su viaje. Únase a nosotros para aprender más sobre sordoceguera, obtener información sobre recursos que pueden ayudarlo a usted y a su hijo, y conocer a miembros de Family Partners for the DeafBlindness de Florida y las Islas Vírgenes mientras ellos comparten sus experiencias como padres.

Doris Tellado
Family Partners for the DeafBlind of Florida
and the Virgin Islands
109 Northeast 43rd Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32641
(352) 322-0441
dtellado@peds.ufl.edu

Josefina González Muro
Family Partners for the DeafBlind of Florida
and the Virgin Islands
2943 Southeast 17th Street
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 362-7634
josefinamuro99@gmail.com



Early Steps Playgroup

Saturday, May 28
3:00-4:00 PM
Manatee Spring I

Socialize with families that can relate to what you're experiencing. Gain information on community resources. Find support from other parents and caregivers. Exchange ideas and solutions to the many challenges that arise. Interact with peers. Participate in Group Play. Take part in activities that help to stimulate development.

Imperia C. Torres
Early Steps of Southwest Florida
8961 Daniels Center Drive, Suite
401
Cape Coral, FL 33914
(239) 292-2995
imperiatorres@hpcswf.com

Nelsy Crowell
Early Steps Gulf Central
4630 17th Street
Sarasota, FL 34235
(941) 957-8202
nelsycrowell@hpcswf.com

Maria Cadigan
Early Steps Gulf Central
4630 17th Street,
Sarasota, FL 34235
(941) 957-8864
mariacadigan@hpcswf.com

Autism Roundtable

Saturday, May 28

3:00-4:00 PM

Manatee Spring II

Speaking with someone who has “been there” and “done that” is one of the best ways to connect parents and caregivers of children on the Autism Spectrum with current resources and support. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with both the session hosts and with one another, sharing valuable experiences and tried-and-true strategies. If you are new to parenting a child with autism or have a specific challenge your family is facing, this session may provide the guidance you require. Come make connections and new friends!

Cindy Borroto
7000 Northwest 173rd Drive, #1807
Hialeah, FL 33015
(786) 797-6234
cindy1231@bellsouth.net

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



Meet the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

Saturday, May 28

3:00-4:00 PM

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.

Brent McNeal
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1144
Tallahassee, FL 32399
brent.mcneal@vr.fl DOE.org

4:30-5:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Empowering Athletes in Leadership and Life

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Bayhill 17

Many people know Special Olympics Florida for providing sports training and competition to children and adults with disabilities. That's why Special Olympics Florida athlete, David Helseth, first got involved. What they don't know is how Special Olympics Florida is giving athletes the chance to take leadership training, learn how to advocate for themselves and others, and take on meaningful roles in their community. Hear from David about his journey as a Special Olympics Florida Athlete Leader and how he and his fellow athletes are 'changing the game' when it comes to leadership.

Cydnee Parsley
Special Olympics Florida
5420 West Cypress Street
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 468-6970
cydneeparsley@sofl.org

David Helseth
Special Olympics Florida
davidhelseth@gmail.com

Jasmine Johnson
Special Olympics Florida
(305) 406-9467
jasminejohnson@sofl.org



COVID-19 Vaccinations: Know Your Rights

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 18

Disability Rights Florida is on a mission to “Vaccinate the State.” In doing so, DRF has collaborated with other local and state disability partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. Unfortunately, some individuals with disabilities sometimes have trouble accessing COVID-19 vaccines. Join us and get an in-depth understanding of COVID-19 vaccinations, what rights you have regarding the vaccine, making good decisions about getting or not getting the vaccine, reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, who must comply, and much more.

Paula Roberts
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(800) 342-0823
paular@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Bryan Russell
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(800) 342-0823



Connecting with Autism: Perspective of a Mother and Professional in the Mental Health Field

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 19

Parents of children with autism deal with their child’s developmental challenges including socio-emotional, learning, physical, emotional, behavioral, etc. Mental health professionals also confront challenges in their attempts to satisfy the needs of those diagnosed with ASD and their families. As a mother of a child diagnosed with ASD and a mental health professional, I am describing my experience as a mother dealing with some of the challenges faced by parents of children diagnosed with ASD and my experience as a mental health professional providing quality services to families and children with ASD.

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



Special Needs Planning: How to Make Sure You Have a Comprehensive Plan that Works

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 21

Imagine you are challenged not only with your day-to-day responsibilities but also with the uncertainty of what the future holds. Many disabled children require assistance throughout their lives, even after their parents have passed away. Let our experts guide you on securing your family’s future with a well-developed special needs plan, as well as protecting your retirement needs. This workshop will provide an overview of the key components of special needs planning and financial management, which are government benefits, trust planning, guardianship, and ABLE accounts. You will gain substantial knowledge of how to successfully retire and secure a comprehensive plan to take care of your family’s needs.

Craig Eppy
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(954) 271-7888
c.eppy@eppygroup.com





Assistive Technology Tools to Build Executive Functions Skills

Friday, May 27
3:00-4:00 PM
Bayhill 24

Come prepared to be engaged in fun family activities and resources to build essential skills known as executive functioning skills. These skills include impulse control, emotional control, planning/prioritizing, flexibility, working memory, task initiation, organization, and self-monitoring. Such skills are needed for productivity and successful performance. Do you know someone with weak executive functioning? This session will allow you to experience a variety of games and resources that your family can do together that builds executive function in fun ways!

Dr. Tara Jeffs
PS/Rtl/Technology & Learning Connections
317 West Highland Drive, Suite 102
Lakeland, FL 33813
(863) 940-4661
tjeffs@usf.edu

Lauren Proulx
University of South Florida
4558 South Clyde Morris Boulevard
Port Orange, FL 32129
(386) 761-9099
laurenproulx@usf.edu



Strategies for Overcoming Barriers to Employment: A Success Story

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 25

Bryan Parent leaves his HomeGoods work shift with a smile and a wave! It's hard to determine when he's happiest—going to work or coming home. The quality of life and acceptance of peers at work has been a game-changing win for Bryan. Unfortunately, many employers have misperceptions that people with developmental disabilities are not qualified applicants, that reasonable accommodations are too expensive or time-consuming, or that there won't be the same level of performance. This session will share resources and strategies used to overcome these myths and demonstrate that hiring workers like Bryan can be a win-win for all!

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Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(443) 668-6424
eliztracy22@gmail.com

Jaime Parent
Self Employed
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Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(410) 808-8142
jaime.parent@comcast.net

Bryan Parent
HomeGoods
1009 Southeast 14th Avenue
Deerfield Beach, FL33441
(410) 808-8142
bryan.blackbelt@gmail.com



Vocational Rehabilitation: Building Careers One Person at a Time

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 26

This session will provide an overview of Vocational Rehabilitation services and programs designed to assist individuals with most significant disabilities to become successfully employed. Services to be discussed include Discovery, Supported Employment, Individual Placement and Support, Supported Self-Employment, and Customized Employment. Come to discover the supports and strategies available through Vocational Rehabilitation to plan for and reach your career goals! There will be time to meet staff and ask questions.

Jan Pearce
Florida Department of Education, Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation
325 Gaines Street, Suite 1144
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-3302
jan.pearce@vr.fldoe.org

Veronica Ebuén
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
2050 Art Museum Drive, Suite 101
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 365-2729
veronica.ebuen@vr.fldoe.org



Man Laws for Moms

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 27

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.

Mark Keith
RMTC-D/HH
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Saint Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 814-2287
mark.keith@rmtcdhh.org



Time to Lead and Advocate

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 28

Nobody is born a leader. There are different leadership styles, but helping others is part of the advocating process. Leaders help motivate people, build communities, work with people with diverse backgrounds, make people feel empowered, and so much more. The Florida Youth Council will help bring ideas and advice to help youth explore the leadership field.

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

Lilibeth Vega
Florida Youth Council

Shevie Barnes
Florida Youth Council

Morgan Griffin
Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman
Florida Youth Council

Michelle Sandiford
Florida Youth Council



Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter Program: An Inclusive Postsecondary Program for Young Adults with an Intellectual Disability

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 29

Participants will learn about the Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter Program: an innovative inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) program created to provide young people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to experience higher education and campus life. Students in the U Matter program express a strong desire to continue their education in an inclusive postsecondary setting, explore careers and engage in work-based learning opportunities, join and participate in clubs and student organizations, and live independently. The U Matter professional staff will provide a program overview, and discuss the five components of success, individualized goal setting, and the eight essential employment skills.

Dr. Jayme Joslyn
Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter Program
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Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 873-4451
jaymej@usf.edu



Supported Decision-Making: An Alternative to Guardianship

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 30

Supported Decision-Making preserves the rights of people with disabilities and others at risk of having their rights removed and being placed under guardianship. This presentation will explain Supported Decision-Making, who can use it and how. Supported Decision-Making laws are being passed across the U.S. but Florida does not yet have one. This presentation will also discuss current efforts to make sure Supported Decision-Making is officially a part of Florida law and ways you can get involved!

Michael Lincoln-McCreight
SDM4FL Coalition
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Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952
(850) 488-9071
lincolnmccmt@mail.irsc.edu

Z. Felicia Jordan
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 488-9071 x9784
feliciaj@disabilityrightsflorida.org

The ABCs of OCR (Office for Civil Rights)

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 31

What is OCR? What can OCR do for you? This presentation will introduce parents to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") and provide basic information on how to navigate the OCR complaint process from beginning to end, including when to file a complaint, how to file a complaint, and what happens after.

Lauren Eversole
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laurene@disabilityrightsflorida.org

5 Steps to Getting a Crystal Clear, Transparent IEP

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Bayhill 32

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
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(954) 261-3703
staceyhoaglund@gmail.com



FROM! The Family-Run Organization Movement: Growing into Sustainability

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Bayhill 33

This presentation is the third of three distinct sessions for family members who are exploring how to start and/or improve a family-run organization. This session will focus on understanding what it means to be sustainable and how best to pursue sustainability for your family-run organization. It will begin with a brief welcome from the FROM Advisory Committee Chair, Yolanda Herrera who will provide copies of the new FROM Guidebook to anyone who has not received one. As in the previous session we will practice using the tools that are in the guidebook.

John Ferrone

Ferrone Associates

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Hastings, NE 68901

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jferrone@ferroneassociates.com

The HUG of a Lifetime

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 1

Are you struggling with exhaustion, worry, and feeling like a hamster on a wheel? Are you holding on so tight to someone or something? Are you wondering how to let go and accept what is? If you have answered yes to these questions, this talk is for you. Nicola shares how a HUG from her son changed her life beyond words, as did a commitment to bring fun and joy back into her life. This talk will encourage, challenge, and inspire you to let go so you can learn to live the life you truly desire.

Nicola Irvine

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Auckland, New Zealand 1011

(642) 142-7648

nicola@nicolairvine.com

Supportive Housing

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Celebration 10

Scott Eller, CEO of Community Assisted and Supported Living (CASL), will outline how CASL together with Med Waiver providers and nonprofit partners, can develop creative housing solutions to address the need for safe, quality-built, and affordable housing. CASL along with its partners focus on providing an array of supports to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Differences (IDD) who receive supportive living services. CASL is now developing new models for permanent supportive living housing throughout Florida which offers residents quality life-style environments, services, and opportunities to participate fully in the greater community. CASL, an Arc of Florida member, founded in 1998 by Heather and Scott Eller is a non-profit organization, headquartered in Sarasota, FL addressing the demand for supportive housing for the IDD community.

Scott Eller

Community Assisted & Supported Living

2911 Fruitville Road

Sarasota, FL 34237

(941) 928-1814

scott.eller@caslinc.org

Updates to Access Points – Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS) and the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA)

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 11

This presentation will present the new rule revisions made to Rule 6A-1.0943, Florida Administrative Code, F.A.C., Statewide Assessment for Students with Disabilities, to define the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Patricia Bodiford
Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
patricia.bodiford@fldoe.org



Separation and Reintegration Back into Family Life

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 12 & 13

Quentin Fields has spent 25 years in the United States Navy. He's spent 22 of those years as a husband and 15 of those years as a father. Military service requires the whole family to sacrifice time in order to serve the country. Join Quentin as he discusses the separation and the reintegration into family life while serving the country.

Quentin Fields
Positive Over Negative
PO Box 430
Middleburg, FL 32068
Qstaar17@gmail.com

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

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 16

The Bureau of Exceptional Student Education, FDOE, will share current information on dispute resolution options offered at the state level. Let us help you to determine the most appropriate intervention in response to common parent concerns.

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

Tiliany Parra Fontalvo
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Bureau of Exceptional Student Education
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 614
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(850) 245-0475
tiliany.parrafontalvo@fldoe.org



Sleep's Impact on Function

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 2

This presentation will cover sleep's impact on overall health and function, especially in children.

Cheryl Albright
Soul To Soul Yoga, LLC
7365 Merchant Court, Unit 3
Sarasota, FL 34240
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admin@soultosoulyogasrq.com

Improving Access to Dental Care for Children with Special Health Care Need in Florida: A Consumer-Informed Approach

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 3

Dental caries is the most common chronic childhood disease. Children with disabilities, especially Medicaid-enrolled children, experience a disproportionate burden of poor oral health which affects their overall health and well-being. Building on years of consumer and community engagement research, the Florida Institute for Health Innovation (FIHI) has developed an Oral Health Parent Advisory Committee which consists of parents whose special needs children, under the age of 18, use Medicaid for their oral health care. The committee informs FIHI's advocacy efforts and allows the members to assert their influence, giving them a seat at the table in decision-making about person-centered care and benefits to ensure that FL's most vulnerable children have the care they need to thrive. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the current situation facing individuals with disabilities, especially children in Florida, emphasize the importance of oral health to overall health, share the committee member experiences and challenges, and highlight the importance of consumer and community voice in making a difference by sharing examples of how FIHI is using consumer voice to empower the special needs community and advance oral health equity in FL.

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West Palm Beach, FL 33407
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Victoria Escobar
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(757) 634-1144
vpinillaescobar@flhealthinnovation.org

Be A Friend

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 4

So many parents of children with special needs just need someone to give their time to just be a friend, offering time, talent, and treasure to make life more bearable on their journey. My audience and I will have an interactive discussion and engage in activities to explore the idea of being a friend to a family of a special needs child or adult.

Jerylin Brown
Kings Highway Elementary
6478 76th Terrace North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
(727) 709-4137
brownjer@pcsb.org





Let's Get Organized and Empowered

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 5

Are you struggling with understanding how to navigate Early Steps or another program? Are the piles of paperwork piling up? Do you feel like the whole world and all of the responsibilities are on your shoulders? If you answered yes to any of these, this workshop is for you. Come and learn some strategies that will help you not only get organized, but also feel empowered to speak up confidently while advocating for your child in Early Steps and beyond.

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



Early Intervention Coaching Model: Supporting You as You Support Your Child

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 6

Young children learn best from the people they trust and within the situations and environments that are familiar to them. Evidence shows that supporting parents in their interactions with their children can help them to better support their child's development and lead to improvement in child outcomes. Join us to learn more about the Florida's Early Steps implementation of the coaching model. Why is Early Steps adopting this model? What is coaching? What is the goal of coaching in early intervention? What is the role of parents? What does the visit look like?

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Alexandra Stoerger
University of Miami,
Early Steps Program
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Miami, FL 33136
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Doris Tellado
Family Partners for the DeafBlind
of Florida and the Virgin Islands
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dtellado@peds.ufl.edu

University of Miami, Family Navigator Program: A Successful Model for Linking Individuals with Disabilities to Needed Services

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 7

The Family Navigator Program (FNP) is designed to assist families of individuals with disabilities, chronic health conditions, mental health issues, and other special needs in navigating the complex system of services. Based out of the Mailman Center for Child Development at the University of Miami, the program is free, available to all families, and has proved to be a successful model for linking individuals with disabilities to needed services, listening and adapting to the changing needs of Families in South Florida since 2016.

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(305) 243-5814
nlt33@miami.edu

Paulina Wolff
University of Miami
11601 Northwest 12th Avenue
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(305) 243-5330
pxw262@med.miami.edu

Karla Mejia
University of Miami
11601 Northwest 12th Avenue
Miami, FL 33166
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kem167@med.miami.edu

Faith-Based Collaboration: Safe Families Working with the Florida Department of Children and Families

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 8

The Florida Department of Children and Families has been working to partner with multiple faith-based organizations supporting Florida's child welfare system. Safe Families is one example of an organization partnering with DCF to mobilize church congregations to support our communities and those most vulnerable. Through the partnership between Safe Families and DCF, efforts are being made to advocate for and support children and socially isolated families by offering radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion to keep children and families together facing hardships and crisis. This session will discuss the goals of Safe Families and how your community and church can be part of the movement to protect children and preserve families by working together with state government and other child serving agencies. This collaboration will help support and sustain biological and foster families through partnerships with local faith-based organizations.

Missy Lee
Florida Department of Children and Families
117 South Waukesha Street
Bonifay, FL 32425
(850) 251-7350
mylisa.lee@myflfamilies.com

Laure Mulrooney
Safe Families Florida
(850) 443-9939
lmulrooney@safefamilies.net

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

Saturday, May 28
4:30-5:30 PM
Celebration 9

This presentation 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.

Scott Walsh
Resource Materials and
Technology Center for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
207 San Marco Avenue
Saint Augustine, FL 32724
(386) 585-2913
walshs1@fsdbk12.org

Kelly Claude
Florida Inclusion Network
Suite 4600 University Center,
Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 645-7593
kclaude@contactfin.com

Andrea Wallace
Florida Instructional Materials
Center for the Visually Impaired
4210 West Bay Villa Avenue
Tampa, FL 33611
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awallace@fimcvi.org

Creative Drama for All

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Coral Spring I & II

Central Florida Community Arts is known nationally for creating arts accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, and fine arts programs. Join the director of CFCArts' School of Arts & Health in an interactive workshop where performers of all ages and abilities will learn some of the techniques of Creative Drama in a safe and welcoming environment. This workshop will focus on four components of creative drama: Body Awareness, Space, Interactions, & Character Building utilizing modified improv games and drama techniques. Come prepared to laugh and learn!

Kaileigh Anne Tayek

Central Florida Community Arts

2315 Upper Park Road, Unit 202

Orlando, FL 32814

(419) 304-5753

kaileigh.anne@cfcarts.com



Early Years Parent Roundtable & Open Play Group

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Manatee Spring I

This session, hosted by Florida's Early Steps Program, is a unique opportunity for families with young children to gather. While children play in the room, parents/caregivers can talk, learn, and enhance their support network in a safe space where conversation can flow based on the needs, concerns, and questions of attendees. Early Steps' Family Resource Specialists and State Parent Consultants, who are experienced parents of children who have unique abilities, will help facilitate the conversation and answer questions. We'll have a robust discussion where everyone can feel accepted and comfortable. Children must always have a parent/caregiver present.

Natalie Eno

Easterseals Florida, Treasure

Coast Early Steps Program

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Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952

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nenofl@easterseals.com

Audrey Evans

Children's Diagnostic & Treatment

Center, Gold Coast Early Steps

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

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alevans@browardhealth.org

Marisol Rose

Early Steps State Office

4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN

A-06

Tallahassee, FL 34288

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marisol.rose@flhealth.gov

Presentación de la mesa redonda sobre el Autismo

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Manatee Spring II

Una de las mejores formas de vincular a los padres y cuidadores de niños bajo el espectro del Autismo con los recursos y los apoyos actuales es hablar con alguien que haya "estado allí" y "haya hecho eso". Los asistentes tendrán la oportunidad de relacionarse con los anfitriones de la sesión y entre ellos; compartiendo experiencias valiosas y estrategias probadas. Si es nuevo en la crianza de un niño con una discapacidad, o tiene un desafío particular que enfrenta su familia, esta sesión puede brindarle la orientación que necesita. Ven y haz nuevos amigos!

Cindy Borroto

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Hialeah, FL 33015

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cindy1231@bellsouth.net

Maureen Morris

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950

(941) 380-4676

solarflair1@comcast.net

Exceptional Student Education Updates

Saturday, May 28

4:30-5:30 PM

Plaza International Ballroom

The Bureau Chief provides a high-level overview of data, policies, procedures, and updates from the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education in this session.

Victoria Gaitanis

Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education

325 West Gaines Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Sunday ★ May 29th ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Courage Beyond COVID 2022: Staying Undefeated!, Rainbow Spring II
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Yoga, Orlando L
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Zumba, Regency Rotunda
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rainbow Spring I
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Assistive Technology Showcase, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Book Fair, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Dental Screenings sponsored by Liberty Dental Plan, Regency Ballroom
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	SportsAbility Sampler, Regency Ballroom
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Duck Race, Grotto Pool
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Friends of Bill, Rock Spring I
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Closing and Door Prizes, Plaza International Ballroom 120

Duck Race Sponsored by SportsAbility

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Grotto Pool

Quack... Quack... May the best rubber ducky win!

Even ducks can participate in active leisure!! These ducks are fierce competitors. One could win you a big prize, and all help out SportsAbility and The Family Café.

Imagine not one, not a dozen, but hundreds of them racing down the water slide towards a finish line where you (and hundreds of other humans like you) cheer on your adopted duck, hoping it will finish first and win you the Big Prize. Prizes include Gatorland passes, a giant floating duck, and more!

Here's how you can participate: During The Annual Family Café, purchase your little rubber ducks (just like the one in your bathtub) at the SportsAbility booth. SportsAbility will keep the ducks all together and you will be provided with your duck number. At 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, the ducks will be placed at the starting line, and race down to the finish line. If your duck is one of the winners, you will be one of the lucky recipients of an amazing prize. Entries are limited, so don't miss your chance!

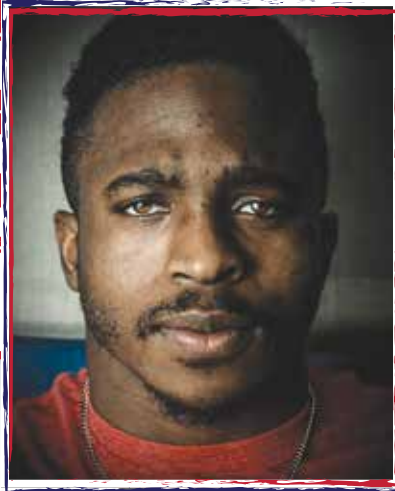




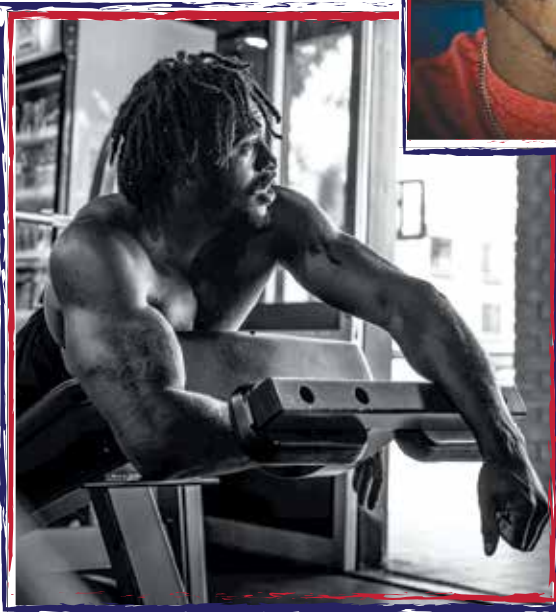
Sunday

May 29th, 2022

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Plaza International Ballroom



The Family Café Welcomes **Athlete** and **Motivational Speaker** **ZION CLARK**



Zion was born without legs due to a condition called Caudal Regression Syndrome and grew up in the foster care system dealing with bullying, abuse, and mistreatment. Nonetheless, he developed a positive mindset, eventually finding an adoptive family to call his own just days before aging out of the foster care system.

Along the way, Zion discovered the sport of wrestling. Despite not winning a match for several years as a beginner, thanks to the support of his coach and his relentless work ethic, he persisted and transformed himself into a successful high school athlete, attaining a 33-15 record and coming within a single match of the D-I Ohio High School State Wrestling Championships. He went on to wrestle at the collegiate level, and has since expanded his athletic endeavors to include wheelchair racing, power lifting, and even circus acrobatics.

Zion's story inspired a documentary film *Zion*, which garnered attention at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and can be seen on Netflix. He's appeared in outlets including Forbes, Men's Health, and

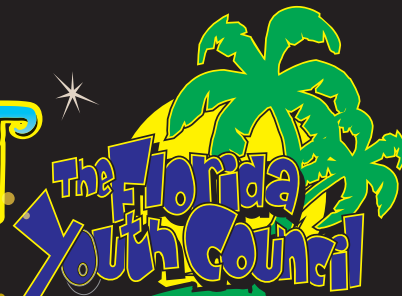


the Ellen show. He works as a motivational speaker, encouraging his audiences to adapt to their individual circumstances and put in the hard work it takes to succeed. He comes to The Annual Family Café to share his story of overcoming obstacles and challenges in life, discuss the many lessons his disability experience has taught him, and encourage everyone to "Be Greater Than" whatever obstacles they face.

*A limited number of complimentary copies of Zion Clark's book, **Zion Unmatched**, will be available at this keynote!*

The 15th 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
15TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT
On **AUGUST 5-6** 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 15th Annual Youth Summit will bring together over 200 youth and emerging leaders to attend engaging youth-only sessions on a wide variety of topics, including transition, workplace preparedness, and post-secondary schooling. We will have a great, youth-friendly keynote and fun activities at The Summit, including a dance party to cap off the festivities. There were plenty of opportunities for attendees to network, and share their thoughts, experiences, and aspirations.

The **15th Annual Youth Summit** will be held at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center Orlando **August 5-6, 2022**. Limited financial assistance is available. If you are not in 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. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando in August!



WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU IN
**ORLANDO IN
AUGUST!**



**WE GET YOU
MORE.**



**sunshine
health**[™]

*Proud sponsor of the
24th Annual Family Café*

We're dedicated to improving the health of our community, one person at a time. With our affordable Medicaid plans, we're eliminating barriers to access and helping members care for their whole health.

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

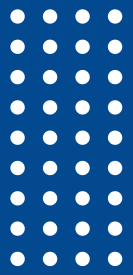
TDD 800-346-4127

www.DisabilityRightsFlorida.org



Disability Rights
FLORIDA

THE ABLE TRUST™



The Able Trust is proud to sponsor the Family Café Expo and support their commitment to providing resources and opportunities to persons with disabilities and their families.

The Able Trust was established to support the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and is committed to the belief that every individual with a disability should have the opportunity to find, maintain and advance in meaningful and sustainable employment.

The Able Trust collaborates with Florida employers, community organizations and career development partners, and is the leading statewide resource in disability employment.

For information, visit
www.AbleTrust.org





**WE GET YOU
MORE.**



*Proud sponsor of the
24th Annual Family Café*

Sunshine Health is dedicated to improving the health of our community, one person at a time. Children's Medical Services Health Plan, operated by Sunshine Health on behalf of the Florida Department of Health, provides services to children who have special healthcare needs.

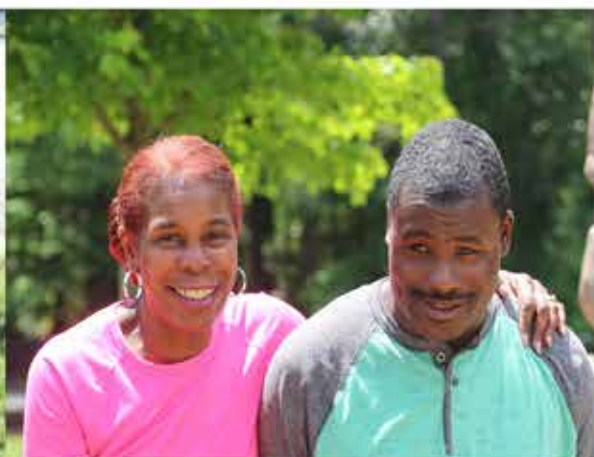
CBC Suncoast New Options is a proud sponsor of the Family Cafe!



CBC

Suncoast New Options

Intellectual/Developmental Disability Services



Our Services:

***Adult Day Training Services
Behavioral Focused Res Hab
Companion Services
Intermediate Care Facilities
Personal Supports
Supported Employment
Supported Living Coaching
Transportation Services***

visit our website here



***To make a referral, call 866-861-9856
or visit www.cbicare.com/referrals***

JOB HUNTING?

WE SHOULD TALK.



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

CONNECT WITH EMPLOYMENT SPECIALISTS STATEWIDE

abilitieswork.employflorida.com | (844) 245-3405



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

In partnership with CareerSource Florida and the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity. CareerSource Florida is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Disponible en Español.



Florida's Disability Savings Program

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

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

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

SPORTSABILITY ALLIANCE

formerly Florida Disabled Outdoors Association

Presented by:



SPORTSABILITY SAMPLER

ACTIVE LEISURE FOR LIFE!

Visit the SportsAbility Alliance booth in the EXPO Hall and experience activities for people of ALL abilities!

Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28
Gatorland® Animal Show

Throughout the Conference in Regency Ballroom

- Archery
(Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)
- Hover Ball Target Shooting
(Removing the Barriers Initiative)
- Adaptive Tennis (United States Tennis Association FL)
- Eco Rover Test Rides
- Accessible Obstacle Course

Saturday, May 28 at 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Quiet Pool at the Upper Pool Deck / Recreation Level

- SCUBA Demo provided by Gabrielle Gabrielli

Sunday, May 29 at 9:00 AM Pool Slide

- Rubber Duck Race



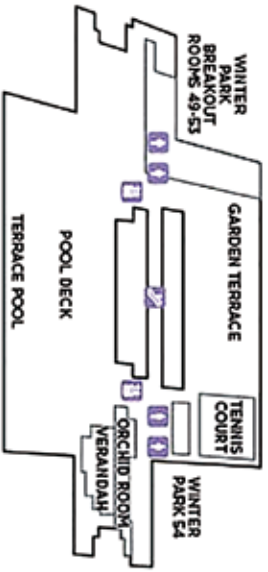
Purchase your ducks at the SportsAbility Alliance Booth!
Prizes include Gatorland passes, a giant floating duck and more!

Everyone is invited to participate!



Hyatt Regency Orlando

FOURTH LEVEL



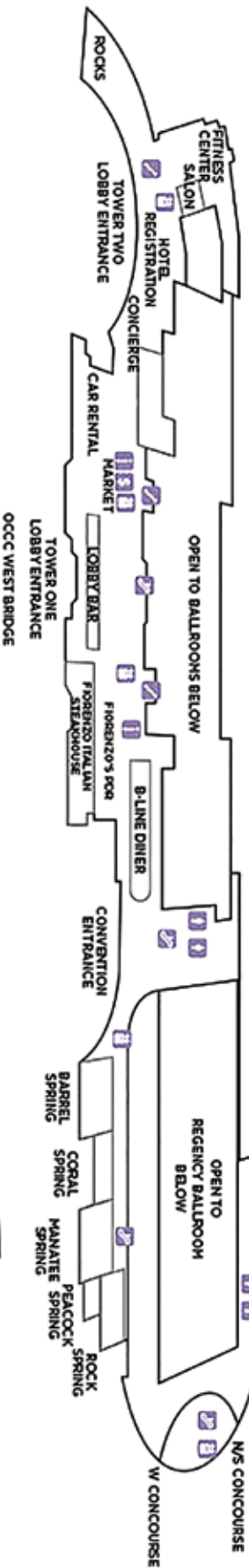
KEY

- Rustle rooms
- Escalator
- Stairway
- Elevator
- Information
- ATM

THIRD LEVEL



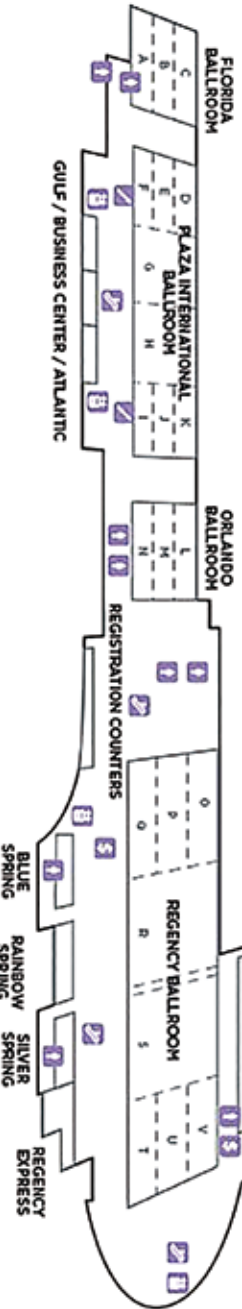
LOBBY LEVEL



LEVEL ONE



CONVENTION LEVEL



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."



**The
Family
Café**

See you next year!

at the **25th** Anniversary

Family CAFÉ

June 9 - 11, 2023

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



**The
Family
Café**



The Family Café is
on Facebook!



Follow us
@TheFamilyCafe



Follow us
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820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100 • Tallahassee, FL 32301 • info@familycafe.net