

25th Anniversary

THE
FAMILY
CAFE



Hyatt
Regency
Orlando

FEATURING
THE GOVERNOR'S
SUMMIT ON
DISABILITIES!

JUNE 9-11, 2023



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR



June 9, 2023

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 25th Annual Family Café! I hope your time in Orlando provides an opportunity to connect with friends, new and old, and to celebrate your God-given abilities. In Florida, we are dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to a quality education and ample employment opportunities.

This year, we made record investments to support and serve Floridians with disabilities. A strong support system is one of the greatest keys to success, and that spans beyond those of you attending this event. I appreciate all those who care for vulnerable Floridians in their everyday lives.

I hope you enjoy your time together at this year's event!

Sincerely,

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

Ron DeSantis
Governor



Welcome To The 25th Anniversary

FAMILY CAFÉ 1998-2023

Dear Family Café Attendees,

Wow! Hard to believe, but it's been twenty-five years since The Annual Family Café first brought together a group of people with disabilities and their families for three days of information, training, and networking in Orlando. Ever since that very first Annual Family Café, we have been committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities and/or special health care needs and their families by bringing them together to learn, share, and connect. None of our success would have been possible without the engagement and participation of families like yours. Thank you!

The Family Café Planning Committee, which is comprised of self-advocates, family members, fellow nonprofits and state agency partners, has always played 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. Much as we have throughout our history, we've done our best to put together an event with something for everyone here in our 25th anniversary year!

As always, the backbone of our agenda is made up of hour-long breakout sessions on all manner of disability-related topics, with more than 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 welcome a trio of disability leaders: Rebecca Cokley, program officer for the Ford Foundation's first-ever U.S. Disability Rights program, Maria Town, President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities, and Taryn Mackenzie Williams, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy. They'll discuss the future of the disability movement, and key issues that will shape the disability experience for years to come. On Saturday, we welcome author and advocate Keah Brown for a conversation about her advocacy journey and the disability stories we share to define ourselves and connect with one another. Sunday will feature comedian, actress, writer, and disability advocate Maysoon Zayid sharing the unique mix of humor and courage that has enabled her to connect with audiences across the globe.

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.

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 and Assistive Technology Showcase. We also encourage you to enjoy adaptive recreation activities provided by our friends from SportsAbility, Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sensory room, the interactive technology expo, arts & crafts, Zumba, yoga, self-advocate performances, the Book Fair, and our new "Club Café" room for youth!

We've been at this for a quarter century now, and every year we do our best to make the event better, and to bring something new to our attendees. Hopefully The 25th Anniversary Family Café leaves you energized, empowered, and inspired! As always, please let us know if there is anything we can do to serve you better!

Yours,

The Family Café Planning Committee

June 9, 2023

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Taylor N. Hatch
Director

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Dear Family Café Attendee:

Welcome to the 25th Annual Family Café and Governor's Summit on Disabilities.

The Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is committed to working in partnership with community organizations to support people with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in their communities. APD is focused on three disciplines: to serve Florida families with compassion, empowerment, and excellence. To ensure our system of care is able to deliver effective and efficient services, we must be in a state of constant pursuit while keeping a spirit of service ever at heart. While government certainly has a place, our mission statement embraces that government is not the only solution, and forums such as Family Café are an important occasion for all stakeholders within the system of care to come together and share best practices and look for opportunities for better partnership to enrich the experience for all Floridians.

The Family Café offers individuals with disabilities and their families a welcoming atmosphere to educate themselves about disability-focused organizations and resources available in our state. By collaborating with our stakeholders, like Family Café, we can promote individual and community well-being and create an environment where all Florida families can thrive. We hope you take a moment to visit our APD booth in the Exhibition Hall where we have an array of agency information.

Throughout this conference, there will be presenters, exhibitors, and other family members who will have useful information that may benefit you, so make the most of this opportunity to learn, network and engage! Again, we hope you enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,


 Taylor N. Hatch
 Director



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

JASON WEIDA
SECRETARY

March 6, 2023

To the 25th Annual Family Café Participants,

On behalf of the Agency for Health Care Administration, it is an honor to welcome you to the 25th Annual Family Café! Our Agency looks forward to collaborating with our partners at the Annual Family Café every year because this event provides a wonderful opportunity to support individuals with disabilities and their families.

We are glad to participate in this great event. Our team members will be available during the conference to share information with you on the Medicaid services we provide. I encourage you to take this 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 25th Annual Family Café!

Sincerely,


 Jason Weida
 Secretary

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Marylynn Magar
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Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner of Education

June 9, 2023

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the 25th Annual Family Cafe and Governors' Summit on Disabilities. This is a one-of-a-kind event that brings together individuals with disabilities and their families to share information and network. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is committed to providing access to world-class education options for all of Florida's 2.9 million students.

Florida remains dedicated to students, educators, and families with a priority of protecting parents' rights, investing in higher salaries for educators, focusing on improving student literacy, and working to eliminate achievement gaps.

FDOE is setting up students for future success as demonstrated by recent performance:

- The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results demonstrated Florida's continued commitment to the education of students with disabilities, with Florida ranking in the top 5 for average scale scores of students with disabilities across all grade levels. Florida's students with disabilities also ranked number one in Grade 4 Reading and Grade 4 Mathematics.
- The high school graduation rate of Florida's students with disabilities continues to increase, with 83.5% of students with disabilities graduating in 2021-22. This is an increase of 17.5 percentage points since 2016-17.
- For the second consecutive year, Florida was named number one for "Parent Power" by the Center for Education Reform, which measures the extent to which states have parents to oversee their child's education.
- Florida was ranked #1 by the Heritage Foundation on the 2022 Education Freedom Report Card for education transparency, regulatory freedom, return on investment, championing of school choice, and educational saving accounts.

FDOE is proud of our ongoing commitment to the success of individuals with disabilities as evidenced by recent initiatives:

- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) was awarded a five-year, \$13.1 million grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Disability Innovation Fund - Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE). SWTCIE is a step toward ending practices that have allowed some employers to pay less than the federal minimum wage to people with disabilities.

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



Conference Attendees
June 9, 2023
Page Two

- Florida continues to lead the nation in Project SEARCH sites, with 35 and counting. Project SEARCH is a highly successful business-led internship program that prepares students with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive, integrated employment.
- The Division of Blind Services (DBS) announced a first in the nation, state agency led registered apprenticeship program that creates employment opportunities for blind and visually impaired individuals, training them to enhance website accessibility for internet users for all disabilities. The Department's new Web Accessibility Specialist Registered Apprenticeship Program combines on-the-job training with educational instruction to progressively increase workers' skill levels, wages, and career options. Graduates will also receive internationally recognized portable credentials, and their training may be applied toward further postsecondary education.
- On June 7, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 1421, which built upon legislation over the last three years and put in place several additional measures to improve school safety in Florida for all students.

Without question, students, parents, and teachers are all benefiting as Florida continues to be the Education State. I hope you enjoy the next three days to gather new information and resources through breakout sessions, the exhibit hall, and keynote speakers.

Sincerely,

Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner

MD/km



Celebrating 25 Years



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

State Board of Education

Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner of Education

Tom Grady, *Chair*
Ben Gibson, *Vice Chair*
Members
Monesia Brown
Esther Byrd
Grazie Pozo Christie
Ryan Petty
Joe York

March 8, 2023

Dear Conference Attendees:

On behalf of the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), I am honored to welcome you to The 25th Annual Family Café! If you have a disability that prevents you from achieving career success and independence in your community, VR can provide the support and guidance you need to realize your employment goals. During the conference, you will be able to learn about how VR helps qualified individuals with physical or mental disabilities find a meaningful career.

This year, you will have an opportunity to learn about the different programs and services presented by experts in the field. Topics include:

- VR's Pre-Employment Transition Services for Students with Disabilities.
- VR at Work: Increasing Opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment.
- Vocational Rehabilitation: Building Careers One Person at a Time.
- Youth Peer Mentoring: Building a Peer Mentoring Workforce.

I hope you enjoy the conference and take advantage of the information and activities available to you. This year's Café promises to be a valuable resource to help further your goals.

Respectfully,

Brent McNeal

Brent McNeal
Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

www.RehabWorks.org

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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

June 9, 2023

Dear Family Café Participant:

Welcome to the 25th Annual Family Café Conference! As Florida's Surgeon General, I am pleased to participate in this milestone anniversary. On behalf of the Department of Health (Department), I encourage attendees to take advantage of the opportunities that the Family Café provides to learn about the resources available to individuals with disabilities and special health care needs, and their loved ones.

The Family Café provides the opportunity for the Department to meet with families from across our great state, learn about their experiences, and collaborate to best serve individuals with unique abilities. The Department will share resources and information about programs offered to help support you and your families.

It is delightful to come together for another year of learning, friendship, and empowerment. I am confident that you will gain valuable information to live your healthiest life.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

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FloridaHealth.gov





State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor
Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

Dear Family Café Attendees:

It is a tremendous honor to welcome you to the 25th 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.

At the Department of Children and Families, we are entrusted with providing a wide range of services to all Floridians. Whether it is bringing in-home therapies to keep families safely together, supporting our dedicated foster community, offering life-saving mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery options, or helping parents struggling financially get back on their feet, we view each interaction with our fellow Floridian as a pivotal moment of impact.

We are fortunate to have support from Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis to pursue bold and innovative approaches to public service, and they have been integral in breaking down silos that impede progress. In the same vein, we have strengthened opportunities within our organization to harness the power of collaboration, internally and with external partners.

I appreciate all the self-advocates, family members, and nonprofits who are instrumental in planning this event each year, as well as the many participants who will undoubtedly make great strides over the next three days. Your commitment to ensuring Floridians with disabilities and/or special health care needs is not only unparalleled; it is essential to continue moving the needle.

I look forward to ongoing partnership toward continuous improvement.

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
Kevin Guthrie
Director

Ron DeSantis
Governor

March 10, 2023

Family Café Inc.
820 E. Park Avenue F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Family Café Participants:

On behalf of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, it is an honor to welcome you to the 25th Annual Family Café. Each year, the Division looks forward to collaborating and strengthening partnerships with all the organizations involved in supporting residents with special needs in Florida, as well as their caregivers and loved ones. The Annual Family Café is a rare opportunity to network and share valuable disaster preparedness resources, especially as we approach the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

The 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins on June 1 and ends November 30. The Division anticipates another active season, and we urge all Floridians to begin their preparation efforts before any potential storm threatens their community. Start preparations now by creating an individualized household disaster preparedness plan for everyone in your home, including pets. Your disaster supply kit should include enough supplies to last every individual and pet in the household for at least seven days. Kits should include essential items 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 visit FloridaDisaster.org/know to learn if their home is in a low-lying area that is prone to flooding or if it is 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 assists in connecting individuals to their local emergency management office and helps to ensure first responders have all necessary information to ensure your safety during and after a disaster. For additional information or to register with the Special Needs Registry, please visit FloridaDisaster.org/ISNR or contact your local emergency management office.

As the Division continues to support the Annual Family Café, I hope attendees leave this event feeling more informed and more prepared for any future hazards that may impact our state. I encourage you to visit FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare for more preparedness tips and a full disaster supply kit checklist. Please feel free to contact the Division or your county emergency management office if you have any additional questions or need assistance with your disaster preparation efforts.

Sincerely,

Kevin Guthrie
Director

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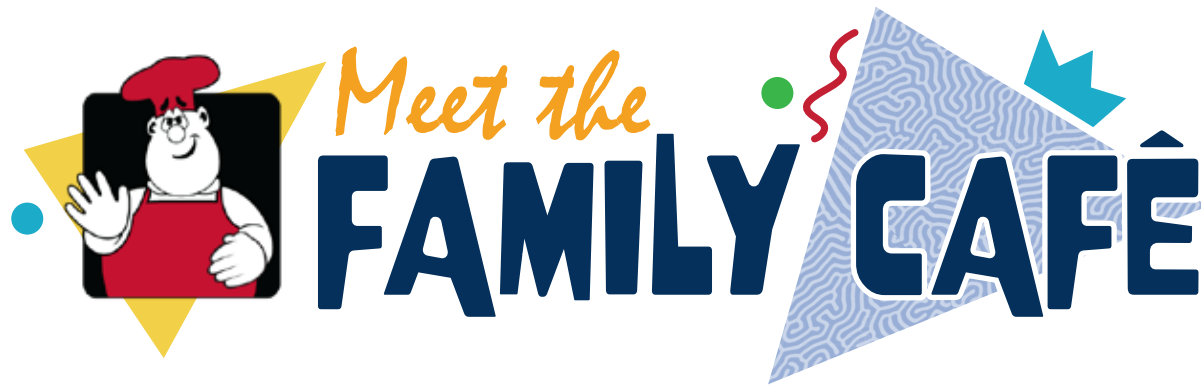




The Able Trust
ABLE United
CareerSource Florida
Disability Rights Florida
Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Florida Department of Health Children's Medical Services
Liberty Dental Plan
Public Partnerships | PPL
Sunshine Health

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

ABLE United
Disability Rights Florida
The Family Café Board of Directors
The Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM)
Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
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 Alliance
Sunshine Health
U.S. Military
7-Dippity



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

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FAMILY CARE COUNCILS OF FLORIDA

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - EARLY HEARING DETECTION INTERVENTION PARENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - EARLY STEPS STATE OFFICE (ESSO)

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES

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Largo, FL 33773
727-688-9669
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SINGLE MOM MEETS AUTISM MOM

Stephanie Mongiovi
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Kissimmee, FL 34744
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mongiovis86@gmail.com
singlemommeetsautismmom3.wordpress.com

SURRENDER - A MOTHER'S ACCEPTANCE OF WHAT IS

Nicola Irvine
Apartment 1207
8 Hereford Street Freemans Bay
Auckland, New Zealand 1011
0-2142-7648
nicola@nicolairvine.com
www.nicolairvine.com/

THE GREEN FLAMINGO

David Pedemonte-Forte
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Gibsonton, FL 33534
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www.davidsartismschool.org/
thegreenflamingo/

THE TREASURES OF MORPHEUS

LeSha and Jeremiah Martinez
4512 Commander Drive, #1723
Orlando, FL 32822
813-337-9343
animatorlesha@gmail.com
www.HiddenstarGraphics.com

UNWRAPPING THE GIFTS OF DISABILITY

Jadene Sloan Ransdell
1998 Sun Tree Blvd
Clearwater, FL 33763
727-543-4174
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www.agingwithdownsyndrome.com



The 25th Anniversary 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.



Get the whole program on your phone!
Download the app!



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

FRIDAY

JUNE 9, 2023



11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Opening Session and Keynote Address
Plaza International Ballroom



Rebecca Cokley

New Opportunities And New Challenges

As we approach the upcoming anniversary of the ADA and the Rehab Act, a whole generation has grown up and found themselves facing new opportunities and new challenges. Hear perspectives from three accomplished leaders across government, nonprofit, and philanthropy about the unfinished business still to tackle and how we support disabled people and their families in achieving the goals of full participation, equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living, today and in the future.

Rebecca Cokley is the program officer for the Ford Foundation’s first-ever U.S. Disability Rights program, which is focused on strengthening the field, building a pipeline of diverse leadership, promoting disability pride, and mobilizing resources toward disability rights work. She also serves as the foundation’s liaison to the President’s Council for Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy.

Maria Town is the President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities. In this role, she works to increase the political and economic power of people with disabilities.

Taryn Mackenzie Williams is the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy. In this position, she advises the Secretary of Labor on how the Department’s policies and programs impact the employment of people with disabilities and leads the Office of Disability Employment Policy

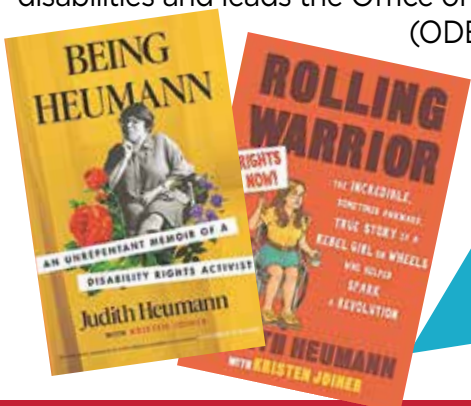
(ODEP), which works with employers and all levels of government to promote evidence-based policy that improves employment opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities.



Maria Town



Taryn Mackenzie Williams



In celebration of disability rights pioneer Judy Heumann, a limited number of copies of her books Being Heumann and Rolling Warrior will be distributed at this keynote!

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, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	SportsAbility Sampler, Regency Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Club Café sponsored by the Florida Department of Health, Orlando L
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rock 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 1:30 p.m.	Songs with Rebecca Oslacky, Regency Rotunda
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Sunshine Health, Orlando M
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections, Celebration 14 & 15
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration Open, Registration Desk
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Early Steps, Early Wishes Playgroup, Orlando N (English & Spanish)
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators and Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Disability Rights Florida Public Input Forum, Barrel Spring I & II
4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Sunshine Health, Orlando M
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	The 25 th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities featuring Governor Ron DeSantis, Plaza International Ballroom
8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Old Fashioned Role Playing - Dungeons & Dragons Play Session Manatee Spring II

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Bestie or Not: Making Friends

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Celebration 1

Have you ever had a best friend you thought was forever, but you changed schools and they don't talk to you anymore? You ever have a bestie not want to speak to you because you don't like their choice of lifestyle? The FYC is here to explain they were not your friends in the first place! A friend is someone that's there for you even if you don't always agree and might be a little different. Come hear us out and tell us what you think makes a great friend!

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

Catalina Andonie
Shevie Barnes
Leah Gorman
James Kuhlman
Serena Wetmore

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

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Celebration 2

Children with sensory loss have unique needs that can be met through the collaborative efforts of parents, family members, teachers, school staff, and statewide resources. 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 about those statewide resources and shared strategies to support children with sensory loss.

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
scott.walsh@rmtcdhh.org

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

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

You Are Your Child's Most Important Partner in Medical Care . . . from Diagnosis to Adulthood

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 3

Parents have so many things to think about: care plans, shared decision-making, and health care transition. These activities are part of partnering in your child's care. You know your child best—you can partner and plan together with physicians and therapists for the best care possible. Learn strategies on partnering in your child's care at this interactive session with Family Leaders from Florida Department of Health's Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program. We support family-professional partnership through outreach and education with families, caregivers, providers, and community organizations for the best health for all children.

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

Carmen Melendez
Title V CYSHCN Program
Office of Children's Medical Services
Managed Care Plan and Specialty Programs
Florida Department of Health
Park Trammel Building
1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 809
Tampa, FL 33602
(941) 536-3039
Carmen.Melendez@flhealth.gov

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries Programs Overview

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 4

This presentation will provide a summary of organizational programs and services for persons with disabilities and barriers to independence across Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River counties.

Lisa Mason
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
1715 Tiffany Drive East
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 848-7200
lmason@goggi.org



The Role and Importance of Turn-taking in Language Development

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 5

This presentation will offer childcare providers, caregivers, and parents a general overview of turn-taking and the impact this skill has on early child development. This presentation will also identify examples and highlight strategies that can be used to support turn-taking at home and in the classroom.

Elise Sobelman
UM Lind Ray Intervention Center
750 Northwest 15th Street
Miami, FL 33136
(973) 699-1504
esobelman@miami.edu



Have a High School Diploma? Learn Tips and Important Info for Getting and Maintaining Employment

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Celebration 6

Your parents probably found their first job in the newspaper. Things have completely changed since then. Job searches occur on computers or your phone. Resumes have gone the way of applications, and not just at McDonald's. There are some serious tips and tricks to making sure employers see you as someone they want to hire, and more importantly, someone they want to keep around. Learn from Leanne Rexford, Director of Partner Relations of The Able Trust on how to keep and maintain employment.

Leanne Rexford
The Able Trust
1709 Hermitage Boulevard, Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(407) 273-7398
leanne@abletrust.org



From Heartache to Heroes

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Celebration 7

"From Heartache to Heroes" will be an engaging session for dads who want to use their experience to help others. Learn how becoming a better caregiving dad changes your perspective, improves your ability to advocate for your child, and helps you make a significant difference in the community. Jon will discuss his challenging and inspiring journey from his daughter Livy's first seizure the day she was born, to his career change to the nonprofit sector, to the episode of *Marvel's Hero Project* on Disney+ featuring his family.

Jon Scheinman
The Family Café
820 E Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(727) 488-0337
jescheinman@gmail.com

What you Need To Know About Homeschool Special Needs

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Celebration 10

Choosing to homeschool as a parent of a special needs child comes with a lot of unknowns. Leilani Melendez, a homeschool mom, homeschool evaluator, and former teacher has a child with Down Syndrome. Join her as she discusses how to start homeschooling, what you need to meet the requirements for the state of Florida, curriculum ideas, and more. She hopes to calm your fears and answer those nagging questions.

Leilani Melendez
3701 Daisy Bloom Drive
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 732-4655
lei101978@gmail.com

Child Centric ABA: Strategies to Increase Engagement and Maximize Therapy Outcomes

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 11

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is an evidence-based therapy designed to increase independence and quality of life for children with autism and their families. Utilizing a child-centric, naturalistic approach, ABA incorporates each individual's unique interests and goals into their therapy plan, and creates ways for family time to double as learning time. This presentation will provide an overview of the child-centric ABA therapy approach and provide strategies to embed learning opportunities into everyday life. Additionally, tips to gain child engagement and motivation and keep it high will be discussed.

Chrystal Ayala

Kyo Autism Therapy

2281 Lee Road, #195

Winter Park, FL 32789

(877) 264-6747 x782

chrystal.ayala@kyocare.com



The Road Ahead

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 12 & 13

There is so much information and planning involved in our lives when we have a family member with a disability. Every journey is different, from where we start, when we start, how we start, and what we will need on our journey through special needs. This presentation will provide information on the many types of programs and services & supports that every family should be aware of and what considerations you should think of for future planning. "You don't know what you don't know" and we want to help provide the information to assist you in connecting with the agencies and programs that you and your family will need, whether you make those connections here at The Family Cafe, or in the future.

Ginger Manley

Fleet and Family Support Center NAS Pensacola

151 Ellyson Avenue, Building 625

NAS Pensacola, FL 32508

(850) 452-5118

ginger.j.manley.ctr@us.navy.mil

Helpful Tips For Reducing Disruptive Behaviors

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 16

Have you ever wondered how to increase certain behaviors, while seeing less of the disruptive behaviors at home? This training will provide tools, strategies, and creative ideas to help foster a positive environment at home and strengthen relationships between family members.

Arthur Hairston

North Florida Behavior Consultants LLC

6817 SouthPoint Parkway, Suite 1604

Jacksonville, FL 32216

(704) 965-4276

admin@northflbc.com



How to Build Bottle-Brick Games & Bot-Ball Teams for Fun & Enterprise

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Bayhill 17

Have you ever wished that you could make something out of free supplies, during your free time, and then earn money while having fun with your creations? In this session, participants will learn how to use plastic scraps to make eco bottle bricks, and then use those bottle bricks to design a collaborative carnival game or robot ball-game arena. Participants will also be invited to visit Helpertunity's Expo Booth, to try out using toy remote-control robots to be the players in a contactless game or sport! We will discuss social enterprise skills and brainstorm possible ideas for a future dream "Eco-Carnival Corner" vendor-booth area at The Family Cafe! Participants will also be invited to decorate their eco bottle bricks, and take part in Helpertunity's 2023 "Eco-Artist's Contest," which will be awarding up to \$500+ in cash prizes in December!

Eileen Callejas
Helpertunity
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Apopka, FL 32704
(407) 234-4768
eileen@helpertunity.org

Sergio Torres
Helpertunity

"Mama Dorothy" Gill
Helpertunity



Apoyo inmediato: Cómo sobrevivir un huracán cuando se tiene un impedimento. La experiencia de una persona después del huracán Irma.

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
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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Titusville, FL 32780
(407) 697-1297
rudd.disabilitysolutions@gmail.com



Building Resiliency

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Bayhill 19

This presentation will provide an overview of the Building Resiliency initiative spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis and supported by the FDOE, to include the statutory and rule requirements, a timeline of the collaboration between the Office of Safe Schools and BEESS as well as their actions, and information on materials in development (or published, if available by June).

Katie Milazzo
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0011
katherine.milazzo1@fldoe.org

Anna Williams-Jones
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 Street Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-7842
anna.williams-jones@fldoe.org

Strategies Addressing Executive Function Issues in Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disorders

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 20

This interactive session will provide an overview of what Executive Functions (EF) are, their importance in a child's life, examples of age-appropriate EF skills, and a description of typical EF challenges for children with autism or other developmental disabilities. Strategies will be presented and practiced that are simple, fun, impactful and easy to implement at home and across environments.

Elizabeth "Tracy" Parent
1009 Southeast 14th Avenue
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(443) 668-6424
eliztracy22@gmail.com



Understanding Special Needs Trusts

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 21

This presentation will help attendees understand the demand for Special Needs Trust services, as well as the key features of those trusts. It will cover the items/expenses that are typically covered. Wells Fargo Bank Special Needs Trust Services has extensive experience working with and addressing the needs of persons living with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities. The presentation will cover how we can help and our approach to working with our special needs beneficiaries, their families, and support network.

Myrian Garrett
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
PO Box 41929
Austin, TX 78704
(737) 218-5142
myrian.garrett@wellsfargo.com

Understanding the Measurements in the State Performance Plan

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 22

This presentation will provide an overview of the SPP/APR indicators and assist families and individuals with disabilities in building a deeper understanding of how the data reported under the indicators can inform everyday decisions concerning the education of students with disabilities.

Chris Russell
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional
Education and Student Services
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Austen Ferrier
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Langley Korepanov
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Zero Tolerance: Empowering You to Continue the Fight against Abuse of Florida's Most Vulnerable Population

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 24

The Zero Tolerance Initiative represents an aggressive multi-pronged approach to dealing with the problem of abuse, neglect, and exploitation committed against individuals with developmental disabilities, using national research to determine ways to improve the initiative, training, monitoring and quality assurance activities, as well as proposed changes to operating procedures and processes within the agency. Individuals with developmental disabilities are at a higher risk of being victims of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. Awareness and understanding are key in helping to develop and implement preventative measures to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of these very vulnerable individuals. This presentation will provide an overview of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities' Zero Tolerance Initiative to End Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation against individuals living with disabilities.

Christy Smiley
Agency for Persons with
Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Christy.smiley@apdcares.org

Janette Canas
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Kari Anderson
Agency for Persons with
Disabilities
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
kari.anderson@apdcares.org



Content Creation for Connection, Creativity or Career

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 25

Our world is expanding in terms of how we work, connect, and create. This presentation will share the journey of how Arik Ancelin has learned to use and utilize various social media platforms such as TikTok, Spotify, Instagram, and YouTube to connect with others, create artistically, and build a career. Arik is a platinum award-winning artist on Spotify, has over 1.5 million followers on TikTok, and is fresh from Playlist Live 2022 where he networked with some of the biggest content creators in the world. Based upon these experiences, topics such as safety, equipment and technology needs, content creation, and monetization will be covered.

Jennifer Ancelin
Firty Fashion
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Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 993-2453
jenniferancelin@mac.com

Arik Ancelin
Diamond in the Rough, LLC
1655 Prudential Drive, Unit 2431
Jacksonville, FL 32207
arikancelin@me.com





Be Unbreakable: Finding Employment Success as a Person with a Disability

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Bayhill 26

Everyone wants to be successful. The tons of books, blogs, videos, and seminars available for purchase are a testimony of our quest. They tell you all about how to get your slice of the wealth pie. This presentation is not one of them. No, "Be Unbreakable" is an exploration of the concept of success, how to define success for yourself, and how to set and achieve goals that lead to employment you love. Additionally, we explore the role of both failure and expectation in achieving employment success. Lastly, I will share some tips for success from my own experiences as a person with a disability in the workplace.

Wendy Vance
Dogwood Disability
2755 Raintree Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(800) 493-9810
Wendy@dogwooddisability.com

Going to A Due Process Hearing Without an Attorney

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Bayhill 27

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
The Times Building
1000 North Ashley Drive, Suite 640
Tampa, FL 33602
(800) 342-0823 Ext 9735
keving@disabilityrightsflorida.org

How to Get Better Outcomes For Your Child - Transition Planning Starts Early!

Friday, June 9
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Bayhill 28

Do you want your child to be self-sufficient and successful in their desired post-school education and employment outcomes? Is your school putting your child through a one-size-fits-all transition program? By law, transition starts in Florida at age 12. It is never too early to learn how to get what you need for your child in the area of transition. Join us to learn information that will help you advocate for a more individualized, results-oriented transition planning process. Your child becoming a successful adult can begin in preschool!

April Katine
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 617-9794
aprilk@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Children's Medical Services (CMS) Health Plan: Understand Your Child's Benefits

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 29

Navigating your child's health benefits can be challenging. Learn about the benefits and services available to your child and how to make the most of them. Our team of nurses and social workers will work with you and your providers to guide you through the healthcare system. 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 benefits and services that help improve the lives of members and their families.

Felicia Thomas

CMS Health Plan

PO Box 459089

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345

(866) 799-5321

felicia.thomas@sunshinehealth.com



FROM! The Family-Run Organization Movement: Starting or Improving a Family-Run Organization

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 31

This is the first of two presentations for family members who are exploring how to start and/or improve a family-run organization. We will begin with a brief overview and update regarding FROM (Family-Run Organization Movement), including an introduction to the FROM Guidebook which is a resource that family members can use to enhance their organization-building efforts. The majority of our time will then be spent using the Guidebook, with a focus on situation analysis, and building a Board. Practice by using the tools that are in the Guidebook, and receive a free copy of the Guidebook to take with you!

John Ferrone

Ferrone Associates

1126 Country Club Drive

Hastings, NE 68901

(402) 462-0244

jferrone@ferroneassociates.com



6 Steps to Building Rockstar Confidence as a Parent Advocate

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 32

One of the biggest factors in IEP meeting success is a parent who has the confidence to obtain the services and supports their child needs. No matter what anyone tells you, no one is born into confidence; it's a process. The good news is that it's available to anyone who wants it. (YAY!) Attend this training to learn the key steps necessary to obtain the education your child needs through building your own self-confidence.

Stacey Hoaglund

5505 Southwest 119th Avenue

Cooper City, FL 33330

(954) 261-3703

staceyhoaglund@gmail.com

Driving & Traveling With Autism: Adventures With Two Autistic Adult Drivers

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 33

The presentation is about if driving is something that an adult with autism can do. Come and join Andrew and Mike as they share their driving experiences and see if driving is right for you.

Mike DiMauro

Mike's Mission

12754 Robin Cherney Way, Apartment 83

Orlando, FL 32828

(305) 619-9585

mikedimauro@aol.com

Andrew Arboe

Planning Across The Spectrum

820 Farmington Avenue

West Hartford, CT 06119

(860) 606-7065

arboea@planningacrossthespectrum.com

Down Syndrome Round Table

Friday, June 9

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Manatee Spring II

The Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization is located in South Florida in Broward County. Our organization would like to network with families who have an individual with Down syndrome helping to answer any questions or concerns they may have, while also offering support and resources regarding education, advocacy, and information, enabling each individual to reach his or her own potential. We are dedicated to serving the Down syndrome community and offering support to families that need the resources we offer. We have a unique perspective as nearly all members have or are personally acquainted with an individual with Down syndrome.

Bach Todaro

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization, Inc.

9900 Street Sample Road, Suite 339

Coral Springs, FL 33065

(954) 825-0400

director@bgcdownsyntax.org

2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda

3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators and Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Disability Rights Florida Public Input Forum, Barrel Spring I & II

Disability Rights Florida wants your input about what issues matter most to the disability community. Each year, Disability Rights Florida reviews its goals and priorities for our legal and advocacy work. We believe these decisions should be based directly on the experiences of individuals with disabilities and their families. 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. Topics that you tell us to focus on may include community integration, housing, accessible emergency planning, education, abuse and neglect, accessible mental health services, and more. If you join us, enter to win a \$50 gift card and tell us how we can better advocate for your rights!

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Being Successful in School and Beyond

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 1

You did it! You graduated high school after 13 long years! However, you often wonder what happens next. What should your plan be? Maybe you should go to college or learn a trade? Figuring out what to do after high school can be a struggle. The FYC is here to give you some tips on where to look and share our stories on what is working for us. Join us to explore some options of what to do after you achieve your goal of high school.

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Derek Carraway
Alex Gonzalez
Morgan Griffin
JJ Humphrey
Chelle Sandiford
Christina Waldron

Rompiendo Barreras: Sobrevivir como Austista en un Lugar de Trabajo Nuerotipico

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 2

En esta presentación, el orador motivacional y embajador autista Tony Hernandez Pumarejo hablará sobre su experiencia laboral en diferentes industrias, desde el servicio al cliente hasta la televisión, y cómo superó los desafíos de trabajar en un entorno laboral acelerado y socialmente impulsado. El objetivo de esta presentación es que las personas tengan la mente abierta sobre los roles que las personas autistas pueden desempeñar en nuestra sociedad, ayudar a las personas autistas a abogar por oportunidades para crecer y tener una gran carrera y crear un entorno en nuestra sociedad en el que nos enfocamos en brindar personas autistas las herramientas para alcanzar su verdadero potencial.

Tony Hernandez Pumarejo
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tonyhpuma@gmail.com

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

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 3

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

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Guardianship and the Alternatives

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 4

This session seeks to illustrate the legal options available to families with loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are approaching 18 years old and need information regarding guardianship and the alternatives. There will be a review and explanation of all the choices available. The session will include information about the process, timeline, and what to expect in the courtroom.

Catherine Davey

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“Whole” Child “Whole” Vision

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 5

“Whole” child . . . “Whole” vision is an organic approach when working with children. Activating the power of play ignites the child’s own desire to learn. When honoring the child as a “whole” we are able to nurture a trusting environment which gives the child a space to imagine and create. Through play we can engage all the domains of learning and address the child’s needs as a “whole.” When we empower children through play we are facilitating and assisting in meaningful growth and fostering an authentic experience.

Jenna Galbo

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Doing Fatherhood: A Dad and Son

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 7

Each family carves out parenting roles differently. When your child has a disability both parents are needed all the more. As Dads, we are at our best when our responsibilities are complementary with and supportive of Moms in raising our children. It is challenging and there is no “one right way,” but we can learn from each other’s journey. Join me and my son, Mac, as we relate our successes and struggles along the way, and some lessons learned.

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Mac Starnes

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What is FFAST? How the Assistive Technology Act Works in Florida

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 8

The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) is the statewide nonprofit that implements the federal Assistive Technology (AT) Act in Florida. The AT Act provides access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services to individuals who have disabilities. Join representatives from FFAST as they explain what assistive technology is, what services the AT Act provides, and how this federal program has been implemented to serve every county in Florida through a collaborative network of partners.

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Pawsitive Actions

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 9

This is a professional and exciting presentation with 30 years of experience and professional training behind it. The audience will learn the basics of the federal and state laws regarding service animals and new changes. They will learn the differences between the types of working dogs as well as the different labels, e.g. therapy, esa, etc. They will also be able to ask questions and see a live demonstration of different sizes and breeds of service animals. Parents will learn their rights for children at schools with service dogs.

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Niki Crossway
Florida Service Dogs, Inc.
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Senses at Play for the Neurodivergent and their Families

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 10

This session is about bringing sensory play to life to enhance the experiences of the neurodivergent using a multisensorial approach to teaching and learning that will augment therapies provided by Occupational and Speech Therapists in a fun and interactive way. These techniques can be applied to everyday life using tools and materials that you already have in your own home. This interactive presentation will explain the benefits this type of play provides from first-hand experience by a neurodivergent parent, and give you hands-on practice and a sample resource to take home and use with your family member(s).

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Unlocking Your Inner Treasure

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 11

Everyone, regardless of disability, has something to offer to the world. It is a matter of unlocking the treasure box inside. Your inner treasure box consists of gifts and talents that are tailor-made according to your abilities. In this interactive workshop, learn how to find your treasure, develop the treasure and give it away. There is more to you than what meets the eye, and the world needs what you have to offer.

Chatequa Pinkston

Hidden Treasures Ministries

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

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 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 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.

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Galya Taborn

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Update on Access to the Oral Healthcare System for Individuals With Special Healthcare Needs

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 16

The presentation will provide an update on access to care to the oral health system for individuals with special health care needs. It will also look at various dental insurance and financing options that may be available. 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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Brain Inflammation, Sleep, Respiration and Repair

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 17

Rest is repair. At the end of each day, even the healthy brain experiences some degree of inflammation from the normal wear and tear of life. Sleep deprivation of mere days raises serious health risks, even risk of stroke, aneurism or worse. Contrast this small amount of time, however, with the even smaller amount of time a healthy person can go without oxygen, and it becomes clear why the brain places breathing as a higher priority to sleep. Yet, a brain-injured child needs both more oxygen and repair than a healthy child. Is your child getting enough?

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Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole with a Focus on Long Term Recovery

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 18

This session will include lessons learned by government and non-government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels from the 2022 hurricane season, including Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Topics such as evacuation, sheltering, feeding, housing, mental health, and long-term recovery will be examined, and the session will include a discussion led by APD and emergency management staff with many years of disaster training and experience about what this means for you and your family.

Karen Hagan

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

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Representative

Bureau of Recovery

Florida Division of Emergency Management

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Mental Health, What is it?

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 19

Mental and physical health are equally important components of overall health. Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. When the demands placed on a person exceed their resources and coping abilities, their mental health could be impacted. For example, if someone is working long hours, caring for a relative, or experiencing economic hardship, they may experience poor mental health. Mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United States. More than 50% will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime. 1 in 5 Americans (Youth and Adults) will experience a mental illness each year.

Jill Hill

Partnership for Child Health

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High School Progression & Transition for Students with Disabilities

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 20

This presentation will provide an overview of the graduation pathways available to students with disabilities, planning for the appropriate progression in high school, and the best practices of providing transition services to students with disabilities in Florida's schools.

Andrew Weatherill

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Debunking Myths for ABLE Accounts

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 21

ABLE accounts give Floridians with a disability a tax-free way to save, without losing public benefits – they are often compared to 529 College Savings Plans, checking and savings accounts, and even Special Needs Trusts. While ABLE accounts have some similarities to each of these options, what makes them uniquely different? In this presentation, we'll debunk the myths of ABLE accounts and set the record straight on topics such as eligibility and who can open an ABLE account, how much money can be saved, if it's the same as Able Trust, what is considered a Qualified Disability Expense, and more.

John Finch

ABLE United

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Essential Legal Planning for Special Needs Families

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 22

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

Travis Finchum

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Social Security Presents: Benefits for People with Disabilities

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 24

This session covers an overview of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs, eligibility requirements, when to apply for benefits, the application process, and details on how to use agency services.

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Dorothy Bailey
Social Security Administration
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UMatter: An Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program Increasing Opportunities for Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 25

Participants will learn about the Eileen Hoffman Hafer UMatter 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 UMatter 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 UMatter professional staff will provide a program overview, and discuss the five components of success, individualized goal setting, and the eight essential employment skills.

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Vocational Rehabilitation: Building Careers One Person at a Time

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 26

This session will provide an overview of Vocational Rehabilitation services and programs designed to assist individuals with the most significant disabilities, including those with significant cognitive and/or mental health challenges, 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 time to meet staff and ask questions.

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Handwriting and the Autism Spectrum: A Perspective From the Inside

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 27

Prepare for surprises! Listen to an adult with autism share her “life with handwriting” – her struggles mastering this skill, and self-remediation strategies that empowered her to help others with handwriting issues. Their perspective and different approach raises the following questions: How can handwriting instruction become more autism-friendly? How can handwriting instruction be accessible to all students? Why may some programs or techniques be counterproductive? How can instruction be universally designed to fit each learner?

Kate Gladstone

Handwriting Repair/Handwriting that Works

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My Needs Network

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 28

My Needs Network is a free web platform specifically built for parents, caretakers, service providers and all other members of the special needs community. Through several communication tools and a continuous growing resource database, members network with others to ultimately find whatever they need to improve their quality of life. My Needs Network depends on the special needs community to take ownership in providing resources, web platform suggestions and its overall purpose. In other words, My Needs Network is designed to both serve the special needs community and rely on their input to ensure that the resources, services, platform, and ideas always serve and reflect the community’s needs.

Mark Fafard

University of Florida, College of Medicine-Jacksonville

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Loving Oneself is Not a Sign of Selfishness/ Amarse a sí Misma no es un Signo de Egoísmo.

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 29

Taking care of our families is our main priority as parents, and we go to great lengths to maintain balance between work, family, and a multitude of therapies. As we focus on therapy and treatment for our child, we often forget about ourselves, and the impact on our lives. We forget the self-care and attention to mental health that we may need to keep us going. We may feel that seeking help or taking time for ourselves may be selfish, when in fact it is much needed. We welcome you to join us to talk about this topic. We are mothers of loved ones with ASD and other disabilities, and we have walked down this path and have been on the emotional rollercoaster. Let’s open the conversation on the importance of keeping ourselves going and taking care of our own health, and what we can do to spearhead changes around the topic of mental health.

Cuidar de nuestras familias es nuestra prioridad como padres pasamos por grandes fortalezas para mantener el equilibrio entre el trabajo, la familia y multitud de terapias. A medida que avanzamos entre los tratamientos de terapia para nuestro hijo (a) a menudo nos olvidamos de nosotros, el impacto en nuestras vidas, olvidamos anhelos, vidas personales y nuestra salud mental, olvidamos el amor propio que podemos necesitar para seguir adelante. Podemos sentir que buscar ayuda o tomarse el tiempo puede ser egoísta cuando en realidad es muy necesario. Le invitamos a unirse a nosotras para conversar sobre este tema, como madres de hijos con TEA y otras discapacidades, hemos recorrido este camino y hemos viajado por el camino de la montaña rusa emocional. Abramos la conversación sobre la importancia de seguir adelante y cuidar nuestra propia salud y lo que podemos hacer para encabezar cambios en el tema de la salud mental.

Jacqueline Marquez-DuPrey
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Nicole Perez

Introduction to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 30

This training will help attendees identify red flags and signs which may indicate that a child has brain-based difficulties as a result of prenatal alcohol exposure. The presentation will also help shift one's perspective through an understanding of social/emotional problems, difficult behaviors, and learning challenges experienced by these individuals as a symptom of brain dysfunction and not willful defiance and opposition.

Lindsey Munns
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Beating Down The Door Of Ableism

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 31

Are you frustrated by ableism in a world that is not built for you? Tired of the perpetual barriers ableism creates within the home, the community environment, and the workplace? We will tackle all of this and more in this presentation in order to empower you with proven tools to help you "beat down the door of ableism!"

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Five Steps to Sharpen the Mind in Autism with Nutrition

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 33

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, getting great results with a medication-only approach was challenging. So I returned to school and earned an advanced graduate degree in nutrition and functional medicine. My son significantly improved his behavior by changing his diet and adding healthy foods using different strategies like fruit and vegetable smoothies, paleo pancakes, and making vegetables delicious and not challenging to eat. I want to share my personal, most helpful nutrition tips for a healthy brain. This session will include sections on "The Brain-Boosting Effects of Healthy Fats," "Broccoli and Cruciferous Vegetables - Key for Neurological Health," "Vitamin D Deficiency and Replenishment as Vital for Stabilizing Emotions," "The Brain Diet - Eating Your Way to A Healthy Mind," "Exercise As A Powerful Brain Enhancer," and "Quick Healthy Recipes."

David Rivas

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Adaptive Cooking Interactive Session

Friday, June 9

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Manatee Spring I

Cooking is a basic life skill, and our goal is to assist individuals in creating independence through teaching adaptive cooking skills. In this interactive session, individuals of all ages will be able to create their own culinary creation using adaptive cooking techniques. Resources will be provided to successfully adapt basic recipes to create independence for all abilities.

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Old Fashioned Role Playing - Training for Characters

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Manatee Spring II

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This is an interactive workshop to teach youth how to role play and how to build a character. In this workshop for youth ages 10 to 25, youth will learn the basic principles of role playing (like Dungeons & Dragons, but this is not D&D). A very simple version of role playing will be shared, and each youth will then create a character and practice role playing using the rules. By the end of the workshop, youth will be ready to participate in a Role Playing Session using the character they have created. Dungeon Dice, rules, character sheet, and pencil will be provided. This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing.

John Ferrone
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Critical Needs for Moving from Pediatric to Adult Health Care Services

Friday, June 9
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Rainbow Spring II

Are you a professional, provider, agency, or organization serving youth/young adults (ages 12-26 years)? If you answered yes to any of the above, we need your help! We want to hear your experiences, thoughts, or critical needs in being able to prepare youth/young adults to move from pediatric to adult systems of care.

Join Florida Department of Health staff to share your stories and ideas for change. This information will be used to help support future activities related to health care transition, for youth and young adults with special health care needs.

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Cheri Andrews, RN, MBA, MSW,
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Lacy Dicharry, MS, MBA
(She/Her/Hers)
CEO | Executive Leadership Coach | Consultant
Dare to Lead™ Facilitator

4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Sunshine Health, Orlando M

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS



You Can Go To College Too!

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 1

Students with intellectual disabilities now have opportunities to attend postsecondary programs in Florida! The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities will share information about the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPctPs) available at technical colleges, state colleges and universities throughout the state. We will provide you with information about scholarships available to students attending FPctPs, the credentials and certificates students can earn, and how students are succeeding. Join us to learn how you can go to college too!

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Add This to Your High School Transition List: Moving from Pediatric to Adult Health Care Service

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 3

What is one important area that's often left out of transition planning? It's the steps to get ready to move from pediatric to adult health services. Is health care transition planning included in your Transition IEP? Are you working with your pediatric health care providers to get ready? If you want to know more about health care transition, attend this session! Florida's Department of Health Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program supports students, families, and professionals on this necessary part of transition planning. Join us for a current information and resource session on moving from pediatric to adult health care.

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The Criminal Justice System and People with Disabilities

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 4

Adults and children with disabilities, some as young as five years old, are discriminated against and

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

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Utilizing Child Abuse Death Review (CADR) Data to Develop Effective Statewide Prevention Initiatives

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 5

The Florida Child Abuse Death Review (CADR) System has successfully utilized CADR data to inform the development of prevention initiatives addressing contributing factors among the leading causes of preventable child death as demonstrated through the CADR case review process, including sleep-related infant death and drowning. This presentation will outline methods utilized in the development of data-informed prevention initiatives, Sleep Baby Safely and Keep Kids Safe From Drowning. Attendees will be able to demonstrate how data-informed prevention initiatives can address primary factors contributing to preventable child death and identify available and/or needed data sources. This presentation will encourage attendees to examine existing data-informed prevention initiatives and evaluate gaps which may be addressed through further prevention initiative development.

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Steps to Take in High School that Lead to Employment

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 6

It's all too cliché to say, but the things you do while in high school do matter in life. No, there isn't some permanent record to be mindful of, but there are some key steps students with disabilities in particular need to be mindful of while in high school. Learn from the State Director of a successful career and postsecondary exploration program, High School High Tech, about the key steps students and their families need to be aware of that will increase the likelihood of employment post-graduation.

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Fathers on the Ball!

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 7

In this roundtable-style discussion, we will pass the ball around (literally) and discuss our successes and our shortcomings. What strategies have we used to keep “on the ball,” to support our children with disabilities and our families? And in what ways have we “dropped the ball?” What can we learn from each other’s successes and areas for improvement? This will be a positive, judgment-free zone in which fathers can talk about everything in their lives, from presence, advocacy and leadership, to family roles and relationships, school, and employment. It will be informative and we’ll have fun. All dads are welcome, even if they don’t like sports!

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crose319@gmail.com



AT: Building District Capaci-TREE

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 8

“Assistive Technology: Building Capaci-TREE” is a collaboration between the Problem-Solving/Response to Intervention Technology and Learning Connections (PS/RTI TLC), Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI), and the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RMTC-D/HH) discretionary projects in Florida. In this interactive and engaging session, participants will receive information and resources for the recommendation, selection, and implementation of assistive technologies for students with IEPs, including and specifically for those who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) and visually impaired (VI). Assistive technologies specific to populations of students who are D/HH and VI will be investigated.

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Sherry Conrad
RMTC-D/HH
207 San Marco Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084
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Cheri Hart
FIMC-VI
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chart@fimcvi.org

Autistic Colleagues & Students Taught Me to Believe in Myself

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 9

This is about my life goal to inspire faith in autistic children, and the autistic people who are helping me achieve it. Inspired by my experience homeschooling my autistic sister in 2020, I started working with young autistic writers and actors to share their success stories with the world. These are people whose parents were told they would never speak, who were bullied in high school, and who barely made it through special education, now changing the world through art. I will show you their work in the new series we are creating based on their stories, “The Voice Inside.”

Gena Sims
Autism Theater Project
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Cutler Bay, FL 33157
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gena@autismtheaterproject.org

The Benefits of the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Celebration 10

This session will inform families about the legal history and principles of the least restrictive environment (LRE) and the progression of inclusion. Families will be provided with information on best practices for inclusive education and its benefits.

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Robin Petrick
Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)
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So, What Happens when the School Bus Stops Coming?

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Celebration 11

This is another time to benefit from connecting with caregivers/family, as we share our experiences with the reality of our children with special needs after the school bus stops coming. We know that we are not alone as we face challenges in this phase of life. You have a success story, let's learn from that too! Here is your opportunity to learn from other parents and share our experiences. You are invited to join us for an interactive, informal, relaxing conversation. Let's talk about experiences and concerns of interest to you.

Pam Kissoondyal
Florida & Virgin Islands DeafBlind Collaborative
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Overcoming Struggles as Special Needs Parents

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Celebration 12 & 13

Being a parent of a special needs child can be challenging. How to get a proper evaluation, what type(s) of therapy does your child needs and questioning if your child will be able to successfully live independently in a social world are just some of the struggles and challenges we face as special needs parents. Join us as we talk about how to overcome these challenges and build our confidence that our children will be productive people in our society.

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Youth Peer Mentoring: Building a Peer Mentoring Workforce

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Celebration 16

WIOA's Inclusion of "Instruction in Self-Advocacy, which may include Peer Mentoring," fueled Vocational Rehabilitation's interest in piloting and implementing peer mentoring programs as a self-advocacy support for students with disabilities. FL DVR's Youth Peer Mentoring (YPM) program leads the nation with an established network of trained and certified YPM providers. The YPM program's network of certified peer mentors (18-30) supports and connects students (14-21) and youth (16-24) with disabilities to 1) Community Service Organizations; 2) Social Engagement Support Groups, and 3) Employment-related Networks. Join us and catch up on the latest news in Florida VR's Youth Peer Mentoring Program.

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Accessibility within the Arts - Collaborating to Create Inclusive Programs

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 17

At this session attendees will be provided examples of how to collaborate in creating inclusive and accessible arts programs in their communities. Research has shown that enjoying the arts by attending events or participating in them enriches one's life. The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Michigan have created a very successful Accessibility Program that has provided access to thousands of individuals to attend films, holiday events, the museum exhibits and access to the historical village. Additionally the development of the Soul Studio programs will be discussed as well as local library programs that have been developed to offer inclusive options to attendees with disabilities. Discussion on utilizing Medicaid Waiver services for access to art and music therapy will also be included.

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Emergency Preparedness in Our World

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 18

Attendees will be given ideas and strategies to help make emergency preparedness a little smoother for their loved one who faces challenges, including those related to sensory, behavioral or communication needs.

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Understanding Florida's Mental Health System

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 19

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

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Aaron Victoria
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Hospital Homebound in Florida

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 20

Attendees of Hospital Homebound in Florida will gain clearer knowledge about the eligibility determination requirements districts are to follow for a student to receive Hospital Homebound services in Florida. The presentation will include protocols for the IEP team's review process of the evaluation, medical statements, and eligibility determination. Furthermore, attendees will understand HH services for students receiving treatment in another district/state and the role of residential facilities when needed. The presentation will wrap up by providing answers to frequently asked questions and offering resources for future reference.

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Angela.Roland@fldoe.org



The ABC's and 123's of SNTs

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 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 one. Attendees will learn cost-effective ways to establish these trusts, and 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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kimarie@specialneedslawyers.com

Amor y Alegría en Armonía

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 22

Inspirar y motivar a través de nuestra experiencia como equipo de trabajo con recién diagnosticados y con muchachos adolescentes con autismo y otros diagnósticos para brindarles herramientas para crear armonía e integración familiar.

Lalita Tooley
Abraza la ViDa; una guía para padres con hijos especiales
(813) 789-0203
embracinglifeas1@gmail.com

Dailis González

Human Trafficking

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 24

Florida is committed to combating human trafficking. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are at a higher risk of becoming victims of Human Trafficking. This presentation will raise awareness of the warning signs and what you can do to help combat human trafficking.

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Days with Dylan - Autism and Single Parenting Successfully

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 25

No one said this journey would be easy! As a single parent to a child who has nonverbal autism, Dylan, who is now a teenager, I feel like I'm finally starting to figure it out! I have plenty of tips and tricks to keep your household running effectively and safely. Learn about a day with Dylan which includes visual schedules, leisure activities, task boxes, chores, and a whole lot more! Plus advice on how I juggle a career, household obligations, and even dating! We learn the best from those with the firsthand experiences. You are not alone.

Sarah Durgee

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kijeks@yahoo.com

Luke Bernthal



Exploring Your Employment Options with Ticket to Work

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 26

In this session, we will discuss employment for persons with disabilities 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

FDOE, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Is There a Right Way to Teach Reading? Improving Reading Proficiency for Students with Disabilities

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 27

This presentation will focus on the science of reading, what skills are involved in becoming an effective reader, the cognitive developmental processes involved in learning to read, determining instructional methodologies, specially designed reading instruction, and developing progress monitoring plans to make sure what we are doing is working.

Wendy West

Disability Rights Florida

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Diversity and Special Needs: Tips to Connect and Engage with Multicultural Families

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 28

Understanding and supporting multicultural families is necessary for any organization in the special needs and neurodiversity fields. To help communicate with multicultural special needs families, it is essential to understand cultural background and express cross-cultural competence. Attendees in this session will learn practical tips on empathy, social awareness, and diversity equity teams when engaging with Hispanics (Latinos), African-American, and Asian-American families.

Joscelyn Ramos Campbell

Hope Torchlighters

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Transitions and Postsecondary Education / Transiciones y Education Postsecundaria

Friday, June 9

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 29

From the first moment we receive a diagnosis of ASD or any other disability, we launch into a journey of treatment and school meetings. We seek the best possible education for our loved ones. We move between transition meetings beginning with Part C, to Part B, IEP meetings, therapies and looking for resources on how we can provide the best education for our child. In this journey of transitions, we may forget that our loved ones will become an adult and may need additional supports. What does that transition look like? We will talk about the different stages of transition, focusing on post-graduation and the process. We will discuss what we can do as parents to prepare for the journey and prepare for our loved one's future.

Desde el primer momento que recibimos un diagnóstico de TEA o cualquier otra discapacidad nos lanzamos en un camino de tratamiento y encuentros escolares en busca de la mejor educación posible para nuestros seres queridos. Pasamos de la reunión de transición que comienza con la Parte C a la Parte B, las reuniones del IEP, las terapias y la búsqueda de recursos sobre cómo podemos brindar la mejor educación para nuestro hijo. En este viaje de transiciones, podemos olvidar que nuestros seres queridos se convertirán en adultos en los que pueden necesitar apoyos adicionales y cómo es esa transición. Hablaremos sobre las diferentes etapas de la transición centrándonos en el posgrado y el proceso, discutiremos lo que podemos hacer como padres para prepararnos para el viaje y prepararnos para el futuro de un ser querido.

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The Latest News on the Family Empowerment Scholarship Unique Abilities (FES-UA) for Florida Children PreK3-12

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 30

What is the Family Empowerment Scholarship Unique Abilities (FES-UA)? How do children qualify? How do parents apply? What are the various ways parents can use the funding to customize their child's learning experience?

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Legislative Wrap-Up for 2023 and How to Impact Legislation in 2024

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 31

Legislation that passed regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the 2023 Legislative session will be discussed. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council platform and work that was done with stakeholders will be highlighted. Tips on how to start working with legislators NOW will be outlined in preparation for 2024.

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Our Folks! Mobilizing Families in the Fight for Justice

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 32

This workshop will provide best practices for engaging in intergenerational organizing. Speakers will share tips and tools for engaging parents, youth, and elders while highlighting the importance of making movements accessible for families and leveraging the power of the people who we call kin. The formality of legislative spaces can often be unwelcoming to families which can be a deterrent for parents to advocate with their children or elders. This workshop seeks to help eliminate these barriers by bringing forward the voices of mothers who have years of experience advocating with their families. We'll cover stroller do's and don'ts with security, breastfeeding, unfriendly legislative staff, long hearings, and sensory developmental concerns with marches. We'll ask participants to voice their biggest concerns about advocating with families and provide resources for attendees to take home - including handouts built by MomsRising parent leaders.

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Old Fashioned Role Playing - Training for Dungeon Masters

Friday, June 9
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Manatee Spring II

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This is an interactive workshop to teach youth to be a Dungeon Master for role players who explore a dungeon. In this workshop for youth ages 14 to 25, youth will learn the basic principles of role playing (like Dungeons & Dragons, but this is not D&D). A very simple version of role playing will be shared, and participants will prepare to be the Dungeon Master for characters during the Role Playing Session. Participants will learn the rules, understand the example story, learn how to create a dungeon of their own, and practice how to guide a group of adventurers through the scenario. Dungeon Dice, rules, graph paper, a ruler, and a pencil will be provided. You'll be able to be a Dungeon Master at home for your friend group. This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing.

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6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The 25th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities featuring Governor Ron DeSantis, Plaza International Ballroom

8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Old Fashioned Role Playing - Dungeons & Dragons Play Session, Manatee Spring II

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This extended session will consist of youth who attended Session 1 to make a character and adventure in the story hosted by those who learned to be a Dungeon Master in Session 2. Youth must have attended one or the other to participate in Session 3. Youth will either be a Dungeon Master who will host the adventure, or a Character who will go on the adventure. Small groups will be created, each with a Dungeon Master and Characters, and they will be supervised, coached and supported as they play the role playing game they have learned in Sessions 1 and 2. Don't forget to bring your Dungeon Dice from Session 1 or 2! This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing.



FRIDAY

JUNE 9, 2023



Celebrating 25 YEARS

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

The 25th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities featuring Governor Ron DeSantis



Governor Ron DeSantis

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 here in our 25th year!

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 realizing the state's vision for Floridians with disabilities. It also serves to connect the people 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 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 directly from our state's leaders. We sincerely hope you take advantage of this opportunity to be a part of that dialogue at The 25th 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 25th 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

JUNE 10, 2023



Celebrating
25 YEARS

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Keynote Address
Plaza International Ballroom

The Stories We Tell

"The Stories We Tell" is a story about a black disabled girl turned woman, desperate to live out her dreams and prove herself, told through a series of stories about her childhood spent at her grandmother's house, the park up the street, elementary school scholastic book fairs, and more.

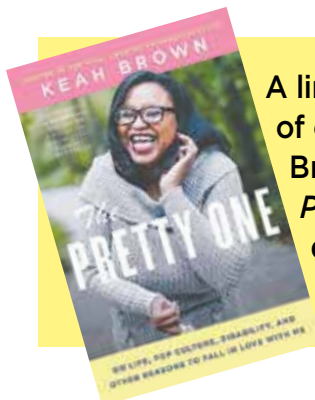
Keah will share her journey of becoming an author and advocate, beginning with the first book that made her want to be a writer: *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary, and falling in love with reading. She'll also extend the story to the first things she wrote in secret: bad poems, songs, and short stories.



Keah Brown

Then Keah will jump to high school years and her love for reading, expanding to authors like Sarah Dessen, and discovering at the end of high school that she wanted to be a journalist. She will also discuss college and the friends she made, new ways she learned to tell the stories of others, and why journalism became so important to Keah and her own storytelling.

She will also talk about her struggle to find a job in a newsroom, and her decision to start writing online that became the catalyst to her career truly beginning. That moment arrived with the first personal essay she wrote about her able-bodied twin sister, and led to major publications that came after.



A limited number of copies of Keah Brown's book *The Pretty One* will be distributed at this keynote!

She will also discuss her viral hashtag *#DisabledAndCute* and her first book, *The Pretty One*, how interconnected the sisters are, and what telling those specific stories shifted in her.

Keah will speak about who the book allowed her to meet and the relationships it formed. She'll discuss the origins of *Sam's Super Seats* and the publication of it. She will close out with *The Secret Summer Promise* and the importance of the stories we tell each other and ourselves.



SATURDAY

June 10

Celebrating 25 Years 1998-2023

- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Yoga, Peacock Spring
- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Zumba, Regency Rotunda
- 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
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Club Café sponsored by the Florida Department of Health, Orlando L
- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Sunshine Health, Orlando M
- 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections, Celebration 14 & 15
- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunshine Health Welcome Room, Rock Spring I
- 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friends of Bill, Peacock Spring
- 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 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. Chance 2 Dance, Regency Rotunda
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators & Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Celebration of Life, Blue Spring I
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 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
- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Sunshine Health, 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**
- 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 7:00 p.m. Old Fashioned Role Playing - Dungeons & Dragons Play Session, Manatee Spring I
- 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday Night Dance Party, Plaza International Ballroom

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS



So You Want to be an Actor!? How to Get Started

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 1

Getting started in the world of acting is tricky. There are scams and pitfalls to avoid. There are must-do things to keep competitive in an ever-changing industry as well. The Florida Youth Council's JJ Humphrey, nominated Outstanding Actor in a professional play for his role as Christopher in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, will share his experiences being an actor with disabilities, engage the audience in some acting warm ups, and answer questions. Visit JJ online at www.JJHumphrey.com or @jjhumphreyactor on all social media.

JJ Humphrey
The Family Café
820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Michelle Humphrey



We DO Talk About Bruno: Stories of Coping with the Sensitive Issues of Puberty With A Disability

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 2

Puberty and adolescence can be a difficult time for anyone, but coping with puberty and adolescence with a disability can bring additional challenges and issues. In this presentation, an autistic self-advocate, alongside two parent advocates, will team up to talk about their experiences either coping with puberty or raising an adolescent while coping with puberty, and will facilitate an open "safe space" where people with disabilities can talk about puberty issues freely for those who wish to speak up, without fear of being silenced. Yes, we will talk about Bruno in this session!

James Williams
Wisconsin's Community of Practice
on Autism Spectrum Disorders and
Developmental Disabilities
1827 Sunnyside Circle
Northbrook, IL 60062
(224) 628-6629
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Mary Pulles Cavanaugh
Winter Springs, FL 32708
(407) 497-2036
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Carolyn Gammicchia
Shelby Township, MI 49455
(586) 703-3866
gammicca@comcast.net

Pink Art Party

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 3

Calling all ladies! Prepare for the presentation with a powerful purpose! Pink Art Party will help female participants identify their circle of concern, influence and control. Be prepared to improve and balance stress levels and to move away from fear to fearlessness. Pink Art Party phenomenal women will learn how to process, push and persevere past their biggest concerns. Join us as we utilize creative visual art to build resilience for the day-to-day emotional, spiritual, and mental obstacles that women encounter. Charmaine and LaKeesha will facilitate a conversation and provide effective strategies to overcome challenges and improve how to live and lead.

Charmaine Jennings
Chosen Life Specialists, LLC
1746 West St. Joseph Street
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 291-2041
ChosenLifeSpecialists@gmail.com

LaKeesha Hines
Fire Starter Coaching Services, LLC
2116 Landside Drive
Valrico, FL 33594
(727) 213-8247
igniteitright@gmail.com

Diversity within Neurodiverse Spaces

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 4

As an African-American family traveling the road of Autism the view can be different. There are many cultural differences that exist within many minority communities, which can create barriers. These barriers often are as much internal as they are external. Having very open dialogue ultimately helps all that require neurodiverse services and support. Early intervention is the key . . . so having it is important.

Anita Whitby-Davis
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2330 Trimble Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
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awdavis@blautisminc.com

Austin Davis
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Tallahassee, FL 32317
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austin.thegreat0103@gmail.com



El Modelo de Coaching: Ayudándole a usted mientras usted ayuda a su bebe.

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
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. Unase 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?

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dtellado@peds.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

Lessons Learned While Navigating Your Diagnosis

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 6

Are you overwhelmed, terrified, and stressed by navigating and coping with your diagnosis? You are not alone! Dr. Monet Winslow and her husband, Charles Winslow, understand this all too well as parents of a daughter with a rare neuro-genetic disorder. Monet's experience as a pediatrician and Charles' experience as an Educational Consultant have given them unique perspectives and skills that have helped them as parents of a child with special needs. As parents, they have one goal: to ensure their daughter reaches her potential by setting high expectations. This presentation will equip you with principles and practical tips for navigating this challenging yet rewarding journey.

Monet Winslow
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aniyahjadewinslow@gmail.com

Charles Winslow
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Orlando, FL 32827
(516) 965-1835
charleswinslowiii@gmail.com



Just for Dads

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 7

Come join us for a time to socialize with other dads in this roundtable setting. Learn from other dads and voice your own concerns to seek out answers. In this setting, we aim to support each other and get one another through difficult hardships that we might be dealing with.

Tim Turner
39210 Lizabeth Circle
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 504-2912
Turner697@aol.com

Stand Firm, You Are The Mom!

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 9

Myself and my 30/yo daughter born with Spina Bifida, and a younger mother also of a child with Spina Bifida, have been through all the loops and traps of raising a special needs child. We want you to know that you can do it successfully without the stress.

Char Meese
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Sun City Center, FL 33573
charmese@aol.com

Natalie King
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Sun City Center, FL 33573
(813) 842-0948
Charmeese@aol.com

Living a Full Life with a Disability: Dating and Beyond

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 10

In this session Tricia and Wendy will discuss dating, marriage, sexuality, pregnancy, adoption and raising kids while having a disability. Tricia and Wendy are married to wonderful abled men and have children. Tricia had a daughter naturally and Wendy adopted twin girls. They are all 9 years old now and we'll discuss the many challenges parenthood brings as well as the joys. We'll also discuss financial questions such as Social Security and ways to work without losing benefits, having your partner as your caregiver, blended families (abled/disabled), and how to handle outside influences (such as in-laws). Let's talk about relationships, family and everything in between!

Tricia Riccardi
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Inverness, FL 34453
(352) 601-7090
triccardi77@gmail.com

Wendy Williams
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Palmetto, FL 34221
(941) 739-9397
Mccallwilliams@yahoo.com

Practice Self-Care in Just 2 Minutes a Day!

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 11

Are you practicing self-care? Seriously, with all we have to do from the time we are awake to the time we fall asleep, self-care is the last thing on our minds. Or, when we think about self-care it is quickly dismissed by all sorts of things getting in the way. In this session you will learn how to practice self-care in just 2 minutes a day. Your self-care is not only important for you, but, it is necessary for your loved ones as well.

Pam Kissoondyal
Florida & Virgin Islands DeafBlind Collaborative
3430 Northwest 60th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32653
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pamsk@ufl.edu



Mindfully Connected

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 12 & 13

Brene Brown wrote that "Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship." Did you know that strong social connections help us be resilient when we face life's challenges? In today's world, it is so easy to feel disconnected. In spite of technology and social media platforms, we can feel alone in our journey. Join us to discover insightful strategies to become mindfully connected and increase your ability to successfully navigate when life becomes hard.

Shannon Klein
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NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
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shannon.j.klein.naf@us.navy.mil

Michele Taylor
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NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
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A “New Breed” of Help for the Hearing Challenged - Especially Needed Now with OTC Hearing Aids Coming Out (Includes Practical Lip Reading)

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Celebration 16

Hearing challenges affect over 48 million Americans, including one out of every five men and one out of every eight women. As someone who has had hearing loss, tinnitus, balance issues, and hyperacusis starting at the age of eight, I can offer help. I've discovered that most people have no idea how much low-cost and free assistance is available, particularly now that online testing and over-the-counter hearing aids are available. This session will teach the basics of hearing loss, prevention, and pertinent resources. Attendees will discover how getting into the “Front Row” improves their emotional, social, professional, and personal lives.

Cheryl Nolte
Hearing Challenge Coach, LLC
PO Box 8704
Port St. Lucie, FL 34985
(772) 468-0123
speechreader2@gmail.com



What's New and Available in the World of Recreation for People of ALL Abilities?

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 17

Learn about the latest options, trends, and benefits of accessible and inclusive recreation and active leisure for people of ALL ages and abilities! This will be a fun session where you may ask your individual questions and explore options.

David Jones
SportsAbility
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Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 201-2944
info@sportsability.org

Fran Gilbert
SportsAbility
3035 Eliza Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 201-2944
info@sportsability.org



Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
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. This year's session will include lessons learned from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole by government and non-government agencies at the federal, state and local levels with a focus on the impacts to individuals with disabilities. Topics such as evacuation, sheltering, feeding, housing, and long-term recovery will be presented by APD staff with many years of disaster training and experience.

Karen Hagan
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Karen.Hagan@apdcares.org



Mental Health in Children and Youth with Epilepsy and Care for the Caregiver

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
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 discuss external factors of influence such as sleep and stress and how they can also impact children living with these conditions, and take a look at treatment strategies and how you can help them manage these conditions. Finally, we will explore ways that caregivers can be sure to take care of themselves.

Audrey Hall
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ahall@eafla.org

Monica Gonzalez
Epilepsy Alliance Florida
7300 North Kendall Drive, Suite 760
Miami, FL 33156
(786) 753-8660
mgonzalez@eafla.org

Dispute Resolution and Monitoring (DRM) Alternative Resolution Options

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 20

This presentation will provide an overview of the alternative dispute resolution options FDOE makes available to families of individuals with disabilities.

Bryce Milton
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
Bryce.Milton@fldoe.org



Special Needs Financial Planning

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 21

Special Needs Financial Planning is a critically necessary but often overlooked aspect of caring for an individual with special needs. In this presentation, the Chartered Special Needs Counselors from Aviance Capital Partners will provide an overview of the financial support programs available, as well as different account types and financial planning strategies that can be used to provide an increased quality of life to individuals with special needs. Specific items to be discussed are the creation of Special Needs Life Plans, Special Needs Trusts, 529 ABLÉ Accounts, Conservatorships, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security Disability Income and Supplemental Security Income.

Jack Campbell
Aviance Capital Partners
2180 Immokalee Road, Suite 301
Naples, FL 34110
(239) 598-4747
wealthrelations@aviancepartners.com

Section 504 Overview

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 22

This presentation will provide an overview of Section 504 and what resources are available to support parents and families of students with a Section 504 Plan.

Mirtha Brennan
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional
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Karla Bass
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Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
Karla.Bass@fldoe.org

Supporting Children with Oppositional Behavior Patterns

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 24

Are you a parent or professional who helps children who have oppositional behaviors? Is mainstream behavior management not working well? Trauma, anxiety, and chemical imbalances can all factor into this complex issue. Mainstream behavior management strategies may not be effective for those with oppositional behavior patterns. Participants will learn strategies to assist with preventing meltdowns and aid in de-escalation of big emotions, ways to prevent miscommunications and how to foster a diverse and inclusive environment, and how to encourage participation in self-advocacy and problem-solving.

Melissa Packwood, M.S.
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(407) 712-4368
fl.reading.coach@gmail.com



Overcoming Barriers to Successful Employment

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 26

Bryan Parent has overcome barriers to achieve his dream job of working at Publix. It's hard to determine when he's happiest—going to work or coming home. Being productive and experiencing the acceptance of peers at work has been a game-changer for his self-esteem and quality of work. Unfortunately, many employers still have misperceptions that people with developmental disabilities are not qualified applicants, that reasonable accommodations are too expensive or difficult, or that there won't be the same level of performance. This session will share resources and strategies used to break through these barriers and pave the path to successful employment.

Elizabeth "Tracy" Parent
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Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
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eliztracy22@gmail.com

Bryan Parent
1009 Southeast 14th Avenue
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(443) 668-6424
Bryan.blackbelt@gmail.com

Guardianship and Guardianship Alternatives – A Discussion about Supported Decision Making

Saturday, June 10

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 27

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

Z. Felicia Jordan

Disability Rights Florida

2400 East Commercial Boulevard, Suite 525

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33333

(800) 342-0823

feliciaj@disabilityrightsflorida.org

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

Saturday, June 10

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 28

Learn what compensatory education is and different ways in which it may be provided and calculated. We will discuss when and why your child may be entitled to compensatory education and have a brief overview of some related services that may be provided as compensatory education. We will explore examples and hypotheticals of cases when compensatory education has been requested and their outcomes.

Karem Castane-Blanco

Disability Rights Florida

2400 East Commercial Boulevard, Suite 525

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33333

(850) 617-9706

karemc@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Understanding Your Child's IEP and Knowing How to Advocate

Saturday, June 10

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 29

As an ESE ELA teacher, I write many IEPs for students with a strong focus on literacy instruction, but I have experience in all core subject areas. I would like to give information to parents about what to expect at a child's IEP meeting, questions that they can ask and how they can advocate for their child. I am not only a teacher in ESE but also a mom of an ESE student. This presentation will help parents to understand the IEP process better and to know the questions to ask of your child's instructors and administrators.

Melody Fletcher

St. Lucie County Schools

9461 Brandywine Lane

Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

mfletc2@wgu.edu

How to Get Help if You Have Been Abused

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 30

People with disabilities have higher rates of abuse and the abuse lasts longer, yet many people don't know how to get help or get out of an abusive situation. The Courthouse Guide is a tool developed to help victims/survivors understand the protection order process. This tool is in simplified language and uses pictures to explain this complicated process. The tool is available in English, Spanish, Creole, and ASL.

Deborah Dietz
Disability Independence Group
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Miami, FL 33133
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debbie@justdigit.org

Katherine Magnoli
KatGirl and Friends, Inc.
200 177th Drive, Apartment 211
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
(305) 785-3903
katmagnoli@gmail.com



Fundraising for Families and Non-Profits

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 31

Traumatic experiences go beyond the incident; the aftermath always requires fundraising. Learn how to plan and sustain fundraising campaigns for unexpected expenses for families and non-profits.

Jim Sayih
Special Compass
2114 North Flamingo Road, #1191
Pembroke Pines, FL 32028
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Michael Sayih
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Pembroke Pines, FL 32028
(305) 297-5328
info@specialcompass.org



Anyone Can Be a Self-Advocate - Here's How!

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 32

The focus of this breakout will be providing information to self-advocates, allies, caregivers, and other stakeholders about how to get involved in Florida's self-advocacy movement through a variety of opportunities, such as self-advocacy groups (including a virtual group), training, and joining local boards, councils, and advisory groups. Self-advocate leaders will also share simple and creative ways to incorporate self-determination and self-advocacy skills in one's everyday life.

Kelli Munn
FL SAND & FL SAND Fellows
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(352) 224-0223

Beyssa Buil,
Jason Hahr
FL SAND Fellows
contactflsand@gmail.com

Samantha Lebron,
Shelby Nurse,
Nicole Coratti
FL SAND Fellows

Florida's Medical Marijuana Use Program

Saturday, June
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Bayhill 33

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 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 should leave with a better understanding of Florida's Medical Marijuana Program.

Carmen Dixon
Office of Medical Marijuana Use,
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin M-01
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(561) 545-2043
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Todd Schimpf
Office of Medical Marijuana Use,
Florida Department of Health
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Todd.Schimpf@flhealth.gov

Presentacion de la Mesa Redonda del Autismo

Saturday, June 10
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Manatee Spring II

Una de las mejores formas de vincular a los padres y cuidadores de niños bajo el espectro del Autismo con recursos y 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 a compartir y haz nuevos amigos!

Cindy Borroto
7000 Northwest 173 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



Critical Needs for Moving from Pediatric to Adult Health Care Services

Saturday, June 10

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Rainbow Spring II

Are you the parent or caregiver of a youth or young adult (ages 12-26 years)? Are you a youth or young adult (ages 12-26 years)? If you answered yes to either question, we need your help!

We want to know the critical needs for moving from pediatric to adult health care services.

This session will be in an interactive focus group format, where families and youth/young adults can share their feedback, experience, and thoughts on preparing their youth/young adult in moving from pediatric to adult health care services.

Join Florida Department of Health staff to share your stories and ideas for change. This information will be used to help support future activities related to moving from pediatric to adult systems of care, for youth and young adults with special health care needs.

Joni Hollis RN, MSN, CNL
Title V Children and Youth with Special
Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Director
Children's Medical Services
Florida Department of Health
Joni.Hollis@flhealth.gov

Angie Chatfield RN
Title V Children and Youth with
Special Health Care Needs Program
Office of Children's Medical Services Managed
Care Plan and Specialty Programs
Florida Department of Health
Angela.Chatfield@flhealth.gov

10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Chance 2 Dance, Regency Rotunda

11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators & Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Celebration of Life, Blue Spring I

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Meet the APD Director

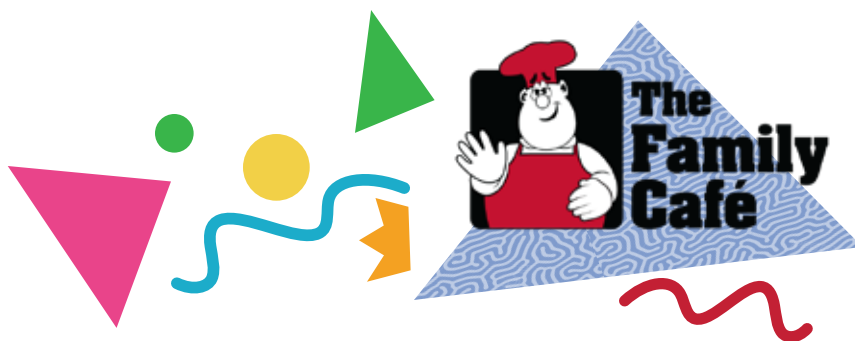
Saturday, June 10

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Plaza International Ballroom

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 Hatch's ongoing and future priorities for the agency.

Taylor Hatch
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Melanie.Etters@apdcares.org





Slaying the World Together: Common Disabilities

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 1

Have you ever felt like no one gets you, or your disability? Or that you feel that no matter how many times you explain yourself, no one hears you? The Florida Youth Council is here to listen. We are a group of youth of all different disabilities learning, teaching together, and reminding each other that we are not alone. Advocacy happens in a powerful way when we do it together. We do not all have the same disabilities, but we do all have the same goals. Join us to talk about how we change the world together one person at a time.

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

John-Howard Baldino
Shevie Barnes
JJ Humphrey
James Kuhlman
Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer
Josue Tapia
Serena Wetmore

Utilizing Anime and Related Media To Share Disability Awareness: A Field Guide

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 2

Many people with disabilities enjoy Japanese anime, manga, and related media. Some people with disabilities have found a welcoming social community within the fandoms of anime and manga. In addition, situations commonly encountered by people with disabilities appear in many Japanese anime shows, manga series, and related media. Listen to two anime fans with disabilities discuss how people can utilize anime, manga, and related media to share awareness of various forms of disabilities.

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

Hailey Buxton
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
(727) 415-8834
Kbuxton2@gmail.com

The Hug of a Lifetime

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 3

Are you struggling with exhaustion, worry and feeling like a hamster on the wheel? Are you finding it difficult to be present to this moment and not worry about the past or the future? 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
Silent Gifts Limited
Apartment 1207, 8 Hereford Street, Freemans Bay
Auckland 1011, New Zealand
(642) 142-7648
nicola@nicolairvine.com

Adult Accommodations: Creating and Thriving Independently

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 4

As an adult with disabilities, I find myself having to do things differently. So, I had to create my own accommodations. However, there are resources for those who may require extra assistance in order to live and thrive independently. With what I have learned from my own life and offering programs and other resources, you will come to understand that it is possible to live with a disability and be independent also.

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Tammy Turner
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Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 298-8012
tammyvturner@aol.com



Early Steps Playgroup

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 5

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

Abigail Weil
Early Steps of Southwest Florida
8961 Daniels Center Drive, Suite 401
Cape Coral, FL 33914



The Coaching Model: Supporting You as You Support your Young Child

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 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 Florida's Early Steps' implementation of the coaching model. Why is Early Steps adopting this model? What is coaching in early intervention? What is the goal of coaching? What is the role of parents? What does the visit look like?

Chelsea Saganich Rojas
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Gainesville, FL 32610
(352) 294-8462
cjsaganich@ufl.edu

Chante Carter
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Gainesville, FL 32610
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Alexandra Stoerger
University of Miami,
Early Steps Program
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Miami, FL 33136
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astoerger@med.miami.edu



Embrace, Empower, Cultivate: Fostering Independence in Children

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 7

The "Embrace, Empower, Cultivate: Fostering Independence in Children" 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 the child to develop that independence. Finally, the training offers some ideas for parents in learning how to let go in a constructive fashion.

Mark Keith
237 Cacique Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 827-2731



Technology and Everyday Apps that Empower Independent Living

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 8

Are you leveraging the benefits of apps and technology that can promote self-determination and autonomy with daily living skills? Learn about the types of enabling technology on the market (i.e., medication dispenser, Amazon Alexa products, sensor-based technology, self-regulating and wayfinding apps and much more) that empower independence and grant caregiver peace of mind. Discover resources to stay up to date about enabling technology and discuss best practices around the use of technology as a natural support.

Emily Danciu-Grosso
SimplyHome
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Arden, NC 28704
(828) 808-5411
emily.danciu-grosso@simply-home.com

Kerri Morse
Morse Consulting Group
1693 Jeaga Drive
Jupiter, FL 33458
(954) 868-5628
kerri@morseconsultinggroup.com

Medical Alert & Response Dogs

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 9

Join us for a look into how our highly trained medical alert & response dogs help those we serve. Extraordinary dogs allow individuals living with diabetes, epilepsy, POTs, and other complex conditions to lead safer lives. Hear real experiences from individuals partnered with a dog from Topaz. Learn critical information to look for and what to ask when exploring if an assistance dog is right for you or your loved one. Live demonstrations from Topaz Assistance Dogs in action!

Shoshana Tanner
Topaz Assistance Dogs
3530 12th Avenue Southeast
Naples, FL 34117
(972) 658-8171
Shoshana@topazassistancedogs.org

Robbie Tanner
Topaz Assistance Dogs
3530 12th Avenue Southeast
Naples, FL 34117
(972) 658-8171
Robbie@topazassistancedogs.org

What Parents Need to Know About Access Points and Inclusion

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 10

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
3000 Jolly Street
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 269-2326
pruitt.jeff@brevardschools.org

Jasheena Ekhaton
Florida Inclusion Network
4600 University Center, Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 645-7593
jekhaton@contactfin.com

Myers-Briggs and StrengthsFinder

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 11

The Myers-Briggs and StrengthsFinder tools are well-known and very credible self-assessment tools. They provide unique insights that an individual can use to help them ask and answer new questions about themselves, their role, their trajectory, etc. They are positive and empowering, and there is never a wrong answer. These tools position a person to understand themselves in their current situation, and think about new ways to overcome challenges as well as seize opportunities. Whether you have taken one or both assessments, or not and you're interested to learn about them, this breakout is for you. Bring your assessment results with you, or come and learn about how the assessments can be beneficial to your journey. Susan Ferrone, RN BSN, MPA, BA, is a certified administrator of both tools and she will provide an overview of the tools and how to access them. Additionally, she will engage members of the audience to answer questions about their assessment results, leading to discussion that will benefit everyone as they consider how the self-assessments could benefit them. Finally, participants will meet each other and leave with new relationships based on a shared appreciation for these tools. Susan will also be available during The Family Café for one-on-one conversations for those who would like to seek her out to discuss their assessment results in 15 minute conversations.

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



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

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 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 Liaisons 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
Whiting Field
7180 Langley Street,
Building 1417, Room 183
Milton, FL 32570
(850) 665-6105
dawn.m.kaunike.naf@us.navy.mil

Ginger Manley
Fleet and Family
Support Center NAS Pensacola
151 Ellyson Avenue, Building 625
NAS Pensacola, FL 32508
(850) 452-5118
ginger.j.manley.ctr@us.navy.mil

Independence Landing - Permanent Supportive Housing for Adults with IDD

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Celebration 16

Imagine a community where all abilities are celebrated, where persons with intellectual and developmental differences (IDD) are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Imagine Independence Landing, located in Tallahassee Florida. Independence Landing represents a new inclusive forward-thinking community which is affordable and provides quality services and supports which will enable each resident to maximize their independence. This presentation will provide an overview of Independence Landing including eligibility, costs, amenities, and services.

Kimberly Galban-Countryman
Independence Landing
3025 School House Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 339-6414
info@independencelanding.org



More Than Drama: Student Development Through the Arts

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 17

Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts) is known nationally for creating arts accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, & fine arts programs. Join the CFCArts Team as they share their collaborative approach in creating educational, student-centered arts programs utilizing the techniques of creative drama merged with the practice of social-emotional learning used by music therapists. This session is geared towards caregivers, teachers and paraprofessionals who desire to learn about the strategies we use to create a deeper impact in the development of our participants' hard and soft skills. Come prepared to laugh and learn with two ladies who get it!

Kaileigh Anne Tayek
Central Florida Community Arts
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32804
(419) 304-5753
kaileigh.anne@cfcarts.com

Caroline Del Rey
Central Florida Community Arts
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32804
(419) 304-5753
caroline.delrey@cfcarts.com



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

Saturday, June 10
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 Michael.

Christinne Gray
Rudd Disability Solutions
2000 Cheney Highway, Suite 103 #297
Titusville, FL 32780
(407) 697-1297
rudd.disabilitysolutions@gmail.com



Defining Behavioral Health and Mental Health: Mitigating Negative Interactions with Law Enforcement

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 19

Having viable knowledge of behavioral health and mental health can make the difference when law enforcement interacts with persons in crisis. Behavioral health and mental health have become interchangeable but there are distinct differences. Understanding the terms helps to mitigate negative interactions when law enforcement encounter individuals with either behavioral health issues or mental health issues and how they respond. The inability to recognize factors of behavioral health and mental health can influence law enforcement reactions during crisis to negatively impact individuals. Identifying factors of behavioral health and mental health can positively influence law enforcement reactions during behavioral health and mental health crisis.

Sabrita Thurman-Newby
The Ultimate Decision: A Program for New Directions
820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
sdnewby@gmail.com

Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 20

This presentation will provide an overview of the LEA responsibilities to parentally placed private school students with disabilities as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including the obligation to provide timely and meaningful consultation.

Sarah Maxwell
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
Sarah.Maxwell@fldoe.org



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

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 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. In this presentation, you'll learn how ABLE accounts provide an opportunity to save tax-free without impacting eligibility for public benefits like Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. You can contribute what you can, when you can, all with the help of family and friends – and the funds can be used at any time to pay for qualified disability expenses like doctors' appointments, transportation, housing, education, and even everyday living expenses like groceries.

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

Accessible Art Across the State with Arts4All Florida

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 22

Arts4All Florida, a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education, provides accessible and inclusive arts experiences across the state. Join us in this session as three of our teaching artists explain a bit about what they do in their artist residencies and then lead session participants in interactive art experiences.

Jennifer Sabo
Arts4All Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue,
EDU-105
Tampa, FL 33620
(813) 493-6183
jsabo@usf.edu

Nanci Dorau
Arts4All Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue,
EDU-105
Tampa, FL 33620

Raymond Jimenez/Chris Kahl
Arts4All Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue,
EDU-105
Tampa, FL 33620

Hooked on a Feeling: Helping Children Understand Emotions

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 24

It's important that your children feel like you understand them, and sometimes they need help explaining what they're thinking or feeling. Attendees of this workshop will get helpful guidance on how to help children define their emotions to better engage their children and keep the lines of communication open. Children who have experienced trauma may need additional support due to trauma's impacts on emotional development. Caregivers are the major agent of change and will develop skills to attune to a child's emotional state and promote secure attachment, which is the foundation of resilience. Presented by the Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan.

Graham Perkovich
Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan
PO Box 459089
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345
(855) 463-4100
gperkovich@centene.com



Social Security Presents: Navigating Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Work Incentives

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 25

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

Angela Love
Social Security Administration
5520 Gatlin Avenue, Suite 101
Orlando, FL 32812
(800) 772-1213
angela.love@ssa.gov

Rashod Barham
Social Security Administration
1200 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35285
(800) 772-1213
rashod.barham@ssa.gov



VR At Work: Increasing Opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 26

Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)'s core mission of helping people with disabilities find and maintain employment and enhance their independence drives the growth and innovation of new evidence-based programs and services that are relevant to improving employment outcomes for eligible individuals with physical and mental disabilities. VR has developed and begun piloting several new programs focused specifically on assisting and encouraging individuals with disabilities currently employed in, or contemplating, subminimum wage employment to move toward competitive integrated employment (CIE) outcomes.

Horace Brown
FDOE, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
325 West Gaines Street, 11th Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-3360
Horace.Brown@vr.fldoe.org

Accessing Services Through the Medicaid iBudget Waiver

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 27

This session provides practical tips and advice for individuals with Autism applying to the Medicaid iBudget Waiver. Topics to be covered include Medicaid iBudget Waiver eligibility guidelines for individuals diagnosed with Autism, the iBudget Waiver application process, and the significant additional needs (SAN) process, including explanation of Rule 65G-4.0218, which governs the SAN process. Additionally, the session will include information regarding behavior analysis services, both prior to age twenty-one and after age twenty-one, along with tips for getting behavior analysis services approved. Join us for helpful information in navigating the Medicaid iBudget Waiver process.

Patrick Heidemann
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
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(850) 617-9757
patrickh@disabilityrightsflorida.org

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

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 28

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

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Ann Siegel
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anns@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Autism & The Law: Is Your Child/Adult Prepared for Law Enforcement Contact?

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 29

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

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

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



Family Literacy Advocacy presented by Learning Ally

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 30

Family Literacy Advocacy brings together parents to help better understand the importance of their role in supporting their children in reading and learning. In this session, parents will develop an understanding of the importance of literacy, how to advocate for their children within and outside of the school setting, and strategies for engaging children to get them reading.

Simone Smith, M.Ed.
Learning Ally
ssmith@learningally.org

Martaluz Pozo, M.Ed., Ed.S., Ed.D.
Learning Ally
mpozo@learningally.org



Access the Vote Florida (ATVFL): Voting in Florida

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 31

Access The Vote Florida (ATVFL) is the Florida chapter of AAPD's REVUP Campaign. REV UP stands for: Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power! The chapter is a 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 how to vote using an accessible machine, poll accommodations, what an elected official actually does in office, and how to run for office as a person with a disability.

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Olivia Babis
Disability Rights Florida
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Sarah Goldman
Florida Independent
Living Council
1882 Capital Circle Northeast, Suite 202
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(813) 892-9974
sarah@floridasilc.org



The Next 25 Years with The Family Cafe

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bayhill 32

Please join Board Members of The Family Cafe as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Family Cafe and prepare for the next 25 years of supporting Floridians with disabilities and their families. We will discuss what The Family Cafe has achieved, what is planned, and how you can get involved. We look forward to meeting you and to discussing how we can work together to make a more significant impact in the years to come.

Jon Scheinman
The Family Café
820 E Park Avenue, Suite F-100
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jescheinman@gmail.com

Gil Williams
The Family Café
820 E Park Avenue, Suite F-100
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gil_williams@mac.com

Jeannie Forthuber
The Family Café
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(407) 341-0190
jeannie519@gmail.com



Zumba Kids Learning Session (Ages 11 and Younger)

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Coral Spring I & II

Help your young child develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of their life. This class will teach caregivers how to incorporate music and dance into their everyday lives to build confidence while increasing self-esteem, memory, coordination and cultural awareness. This class session is for children with disabilities up to age 11 who are able to walk independently, along with their caregiver to assist in the session.

Paula Burns
Burns Dance & Fitness
2442 Nash Street
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 900-5162
burnsdancefitness@gmail.com

Moms to Moms

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Manatee Spring I

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

Pam Kissoondyal
Florida & Virgin Islands DeafBlind Collaborative
3430 Northwest 60th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32653
(352) 672-4598
pamsk@ufl.edu

Cerebral Palsy Roundtable

Saturday, June 10
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Manatee Spring II

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.

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

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
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Sunshine Health, 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 PM - 4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Vocational Rehabilitation: Your Path to Employment

Saturday, June 10

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Plaza International Ballroom

Victoria Gaitanis is the Deputy Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at the Florida Department of Education. She has more than 20 years of experience both as a boots-on-the-ground educator of students with disabilities and as a leader, serving and supporting the education of students with disabilities at the local, state and national levels. Ms. Gaitanis has a master's degree in Visual Impairments/Special Education, is a certified Florida educator and a Project Management Professional (PMP). As Deputy Director of VR, Ms. Gaitanis oversees the Bureau of Field Services, the Bureau of Vendor and Contracted Services and the Bureau of Compliance and Quality Assurance. She plays an integral role in helping Floridians with disabilities find and maintain employment and enhance their independence.

Victoria Gaitanis

FDOE, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1144

Tallahassee, FL 32399



The Accessibility Renaissance: Past, Present, Future

Saturday, June 10

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 1

Attendees will learn from current Florida State University (FSU) students who are excelling and overcoming barriers within a preeminent four year public university. Students will share reflections on their experiences and discuss what types of challenges a person with a disability might encounter during their university experience with academics and student life activities. Student panelists from the University of Choice (UoC) will discuss the past, present, and future of equal access/equity. Panelists will dig into the disability history of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the IDEA, and the ADA and how these foundational pieces shaped their world/educational opportunities. The panelists will also discuss the power of self-

advocacy with sustainable legislative change. We will emphasize the importance of interdependence and community-based relations when it comes to thriving in the world and as an individual with a disability.

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College of Business
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Mira Gaitanis
University of Choice (UoC)
Initiative at FSU
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Tyler Bruefach
University of Choice (UoC)
Initiative at FSU
OAS 108 Student Services
Building, 874 Traditions Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306
tbruefach@fsu.edu

Resilience - Your Key to Success

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 2

Research shows that the thing that has the most influence on success is surprising. It is NOT education, family demographics or even intelligence. The primary factor in those who are successful is grit. In this session you will learn how to practically use the latest scientific research to switch negative thought defaults to positive neuroplasticity, which is the key to limitless options for your future. Learn how to proactively use your mind to improve mood, increase hope and most importantly develop grit. In this workshop you will learn practical skills that will empower you, elicit hope and inspire you to take control of your future.

Steph Wohlfeil
Cultivate Life Body & Soul Inc.
607 Dogwood Run
Bradenton, FL 34212
(714) 328-0840
cultivatelifebodyandsoul@gmail.com

Florida KidCare: Simplifying Health and Dental Insurance For Kids

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 3

Health and dental insurance can be complicated, but Florida KidCare wants to help simplify it for Florida families. Florida KidCare is an affordable, high-quality health and dental insurance program for kids, from birth until their 19th birthday. Most families pay nothing or \$15 or \$20 a month for all eligible children in the household. In this presentation, we will take a deeper dive into Florida KidCare's programs, eligibility and more.

Gabi Lara
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
1203 Governor Square Boulevard, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 701-6168
larae@healthykids.org

Introduction to Practical Lip Reading - A Lifelong Skill that Benefits So Many Ways

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 4

Does hearing loss make you feel left out of conversations? Learn to lip read the practical way! In my intro to lip reading session, you will learn the basics that can help you as though you are in the “front row” right away! Lip reading works on all lips, with or without sound, doesn’t rely on hand signs, and can also be fun! Learn to lip read like Sherlock!

Cheryl Nolte
Hearing Challenge Coach, LLC
PO Box 8704
Port St. Lucie, FL 34985
(772) 468-0123
speechreader2@gmail.com



Taking Care of Yourself First

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 5

Feeling overwhelmed? Depressed? Losing hope about your dreams? 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. Learn how to make yourself and your health a priority while being successful taking care of your family and child with a disability. This workshop is taught by an Early Steps Family Resource Specialist, focused on infants and toddlers, but anyone who attends will benefit from the information that will be presented.

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

How to Create a Sensory-Friendly Space & Environment

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 6

What is a sensory-friendly environment? I don’t know what to do I don’t know where to start In this presentation session you will learn simple steps on how to design a space that is conducive to your students, clients, or employees. The result of a sensory-friendly space is higher productivity for an effective workplace/learning environment. Nicole Warren (founder of Chance 2 Dance, Inc. and development designer of Florida’s first sensory-friendly dance studio) will provide ideas, tools, and resources that are easily accessible to help you create a work or school environment that supports your team to learn, grow, and thrive!

Nicole Warren
Chance 2 Dance
540 South Maitland Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
nicole@chance2danceinc.org



26 Healthy Marriage and Relationship Habits: A Practical Approach from A to Z

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 7

After having to pause our favorite session that we had presented in past years, we are back for this memorable 25th Anniversary Family Café! We will look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones. The stress on a marriage or relationship can be more intense in families with special needs. Our time will be well spent together sharing real talk about ways to reinforce the foundation of your marriage and relationship, offering practical tips including role play, laughter, and having big fun! This upbeat session will include surprise giveaways too. We'll have a lot to cover within the time slot . . . soooo Be Ready!!

Robert Streater III
Team Streater Seminars and Services
3148 Dick Wilson Boulevard, Suite 2323
Tallahassee, FL 32301
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Malverna Streater
Team Streater Seminars and Services
3148 Dick Wilson Boulevard, Suite 2323
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 661-1202
malverna811@gmail.com



Assistive Technology Funding Resources

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 8

Learn about different types of funding options to help you obtain the assistive technology you need for greater independence. You will learn about different grant options, financing options, saving strategies and more.

Eric Reed
FAAST, Inc
2145 Delta Boulevard, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 508-6013
ereed@faast.org



The ABCs of Guardian Advocacy and Special Needs Trust

Saturday, June 11
3:00-4:00 PM
Celebration 9

In this seminar, Sarah AuMiller will address several of the legal challenges which will be encountered within the lifetime of a person with special needs. Whether the person is a minor, a young adult, or older adult, families or advocates must be prepared by addressing the special person's unique personal and social needs. Families of people with special needs face planning challenges that accompany longer life expectancies - a future without full independence - and the need to maintain an outstanding quality of life. You will gain an overview of how to create a customized, comprehensive plan for your special person.

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

Supporting Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired (B/VI) & Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 10

The purpose of this presentation is to give families an example of some of the resources and activities for supporting their child with these unique needs.

Scott Walsh
Resource Materials and Technology
Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
207 San Marco Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084
scott.walsh@rmtcdhh.org

Cheri Hart
Florida Instructional Materials
Center for the Visually Impaired
1208 Wishing Well Way
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 837-7826
chart@fimcvi.org

Parents PAWS & Progress

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 11

Join us to hear as parents share their experiences raising a special needs child while leveraging what we all love about dogs to bring out the best in their kids. Navigating developmental milestones with a child with special needs can be discouraging when slow progress is made. Learn how the right dog can be a therapy tool that helps overcome challenges in areas like Physical, Occupational, Social, and Speech development. See the Topaz Assistance Dogs in action as guests are invited to experience a facilitated meet and greet.

Robbie Tanner
Topaz Assistance Dogs
3530 12th Avenue Southeast
Naples, FL 34117
(972) 658-8171
robbie@topazassistancedogs.org

Mallory Zimmermann
Topaz Assistance Dogs
3530 12th Avenue Southeast
Naples, FL 34117
(972) 658-8171
mallory@topazassistancedogs.org



Meet Your School Liaison

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 12 & 13

Your School Liaisons are a valuable resource to assist in your child's education needs. This presentation will introduce you to the School Liaison Program, its 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.

Erin Pickard
Naval Support Activity Panama City
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Panama City Beach, FL 32407
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erin.h.pickard.naf@us.navy.mil

Venetia Waters
MacDill AFB Family Readiness Center
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MacDill AFB, FL 33621
(813) 828-0146
venetia.waters@us.af.mil

How to Silence or at Least Muffle Your Inner Critic

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Celebration 16

Everyone has an inner critic. Sometimes our disability feeds it. You may think you are the only person who battles with negative thoughts. But it's not true. Even some of the most famous and "powerful" people struggle with their inner critic. In this session learn how to counter the critic with truth, strategize on who can help you, and find out how to distinguish between your inner critic and critical thinking.

Jerry Borton
Luke 14 Exchange
3616 Harden Boulevard, #163
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 940-3816
jerry@luke14exchange.org



The Power of Sports, Recreation and Active Lifestyle

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 17

This session will touch on topics that include the healing power of movement, community building, working with others, and beyond. It will also look into friendly competition to enhance those interpersonal skills and how to locate resources within and outside the state.

Monica Quimby
Team USA
2209 45th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
(603) 969-2498
mswheelchairmaine2011@gmail.com



Appropriate Response - Appropriate Preparedness: Working with First Responders to Ensure Safe Communities for All

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 18

This session will provide attendees the opportunity to learn how to collaborate with your local and state first responder agencies to ensure safe communities for individuals with disabilities. Additionally resources will be provided to utilize personally to be prepared when in the community, while traveling, and in the instance of a natural disaster or for emergency preparedness.

Andrew Gammicchia
L.E.A.N On Us
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(586) 703-3844
agamich@comcast.net

Nicholas Gammicchia
Nick's Art Project
7532 Nancy Lee Drive
Shelby Township, MI 48317
(586) 703-3866
gammicca@comcast.net

Carolyn Gammicchia
The Developmental Disability
Institute at Wayne State University
7532 Nancy Lee Drive
Shelby Township, MI 48317
(586) 703-3866
gammicca@comcast.net



Meditation, Healing, and Wellbeing

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 19

Do you want to learn an easy way to meditate doing what you love the most? Then, this workshop is for you! You will learn the basics of meditation, strategies to boost your motivation, and ways to improve your wellbeing and keep your mental health in good shape.

Isabel Muriel
I'M Wellness
806 Morocco Avenue
Orlando, FL 32807
(407) 451-2395
Murieli@me.com

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

Data-based Decision Making for Students with Disabilities

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 20

This presentation will provide an overview of utilizing data to inform the identification and instruction of students with disabilities.

Patricia Bodiford
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education
and Student Services
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
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Patricia.Bodiford@fldoe.org

Ricky Strickland
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education
and Student Services
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(850) 245-0475
Richard.Strickland@fldoe.org

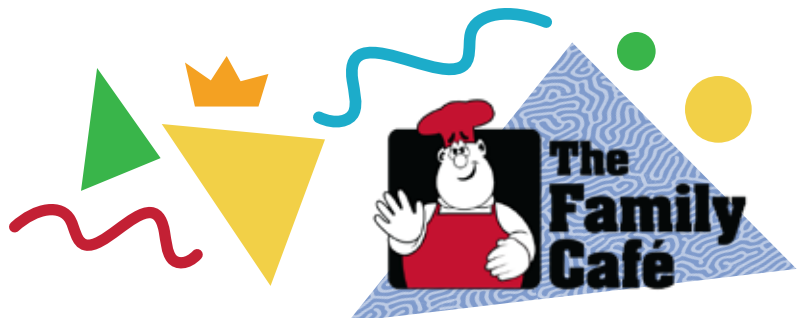


Avoid “Future Shock” and Own Your Future Path by Planning

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 21

Many caregivers and self-advocates feel stuck in their day-to-day and they put off necessary planning to ensure their future life. Instead of getting struck with “future shock,” embrace a planning mindset that helps you answer the questions that keep you up at night. Make a plan to address housing, employment, finances, benefits, services and community for the near and distant future.

Sarah Sullivan
The Arc Jacksonville
1050 North Davis Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 718-9312
ssullivan@arcjacksonville.org



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

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 22

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 - Suite 215
4030 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 414-5070
Mindy.Whitehead@apdcares.org

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

Putting Down the Gloves: A Parent's Guide to Positively Engaging & Collaborating with Schools

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 24

Let's face it - sometimes advocating for our children in the school system can feel like we're in a boxing match, but it doesn't have to! Learn the moves you need to make to get off the ropes and in the ring to positively and effectively engage and collaborate with schools to get the win for your child!

Erica Flores
Vincent's Clubhouse, Inc.
200 Shady Oaks Drive, Apartment 102
Palm Coast, FL 32164
(386) 585-0926
erica@vincentsclubhouse.org



Adult Day Training and Employment Redesign

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 25

This session will provide helpful information about the changes made to Adult Day Training and employment initiatives implemented by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to ensure compliance with the federal Home and Community-based Services Settings Final Rule. Emphasis will be on how these changes increase life skills development and access to the community, and create more pathways to employment for APD clients. This session will also include a review and update of the new prevocational service (Life Skills Development 4).

Liesl Ramos
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4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399
liesl.ramos@apdcares.org

Kent Carroll
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
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kent.carroll@apdcares.org



Social Security Presents: Navigating Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Work Incentives

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 26

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

Tina Williams
Social Security Administration
7185 Bentley Road, Suite 1
Birmingham, AL 35285
(800) 772-1213

Carolyn Smith
Social Security Administration
1200 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35285
(800) 772-1213

Planeando el futuro de su hijo: Estrategias Claves para Colaborar de manera efectiva en el equipo de IEP

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 27

Esta presentación le brindará información y estrategias para ayudarlo a abogar y participar significativamente en la reunión del IEP de su hijo(a). Definiremos qué es la colaboración y por qué es fundamental; explicaremos los elementos del Plan Educativo Individualizado (IEP), que envuelve ser un defensor; y discutiremos cómo navegar la cadena de mando dentro del distrito escolar, desde el maestro(a) de su hijo(a) hasta el director(a) de ESE del distrito. Además, brindaremos consejos sobre cómo practicar el poder de la comunicación persuasiva al expresar desacuerdos y sobre la importancia de estar preparados antes de las reuniones e interacciones con el personal del Distrito.

Daysi Ortiz
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
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daysio@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Grieving a Diagnosis

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 28

Parents often are thrown into a diagnosis and a treatment plan or are searching for a treatment plan straightaway, leaving us very little time to cope with this life-changing new reality. This session will help you identify the grieving process, validate your emotions, and help you cultivate your path forward. While every child and diagnosis is different, we have found there are some universal truths and best practices to keep us balanced as we move forward and help our children.

Jeanetta Bryrant
Abilities Workshop, Inc.
631 Palm Springs Drive, #107
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
(407) 951-6117
Jeanetta@abilitiesworkshop.com

More Than An IDEA: Equity and Innovation in Public Schools

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 29

This inspiring workshop will encourage parents/guardians, educators and providers to be innovative in their approach to teaching everything from academics to vocational and independent living skills. While an IEP provides the framework, thinking outside the box is vital for optimal growth from students and educators alike. As a professional advocate and clinician, Lisa infuses each and every interaction with positivity and hope for the future. In her current role, she is a self-employed advocate where she helps families navigate and negotiate special education services for their loved one. She is a current member in good standing of COPAA and NASW.

Lisa Eisenberg
Eisenberg & Co.
(407) 868-2256
Hello@lisaebenberg.com

Amy Volpe
(407) 756-5042

Accessible Life

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 30

Accessibility can be a daily challenge. Some days it is the big things, some days it is the little things. Join us for tried-and-true tips, ideas and conversation on how everyone can live a full and accessible life at home, school, or travelling. Recommended for all areas of life, all abilities and all ages.

Sherrie Knob
372 Southwest Fuge Road
Stuart, FL 34997
(386) 931-8641
fiveknobs@hotmail.com

Sarah Knob
372 Southwest Fuge Road
Stuart, FL 34997
(386) 237-7763
ray_of_sunshine1026@hotmail.com

Stephanie Knob
(386) 237-7764
stephanie_nole@hotmail.com



FROM! The Family-Run Organization Movement: Understanding Sustainability

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 31

This is the second of two presentations for family members who are exploring how to start and/or improve a family-run organization. We will begin with a brief overview and update regarding FROM (Family-Run Organization Movement), including an introduction to the FROM Guidebook, which is a resource that family members can use to enhance their organization-building efforts. The majority of our time will then be spent using the Guidebook, with a focus on understanding what it means to be sustainable. Practice by using the tools that are in the Guidebook, and receive a free copy of the Guidebook to take with you.

John Ferrone
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Hastings, NE 68901
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jferrone@ferroneassociates.com



The Florida Family Leader Network (FFLN): Providing Networking Training and Support for Family Leaders and Self-Advocates

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 32

In 2022, the Florida Family Leader Network (FFLN) embarked on a project to train family leaders, professionals and self-advocates to create purpose-driven support groups using an evidence-based model. Join members of the FFLN, meet other leaders and advocates and learn how to network using this model. Leave with a template and a set of skills that will help you network more effectively with friends, colleagues, fellow advocates, and coworkers.

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aminey@peds.ufl.edu

Pam Kissoondyal
UF Florida and Virgin Islands
Deaf Blind Collaborative
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pamsk@ufl.edu

Doris Tellado
North Central Florida Early Steps
1701 Southwest 16th Avenue
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(352) 322-0441
dtellado@ufl.edu



Advocate Like a Rockstar

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Bayhill 33

Advocates seek to have their voices heard. Competencies that support skills in interpersonal leadership, practical communication, and partnership development are key elements for success. Participants will learn how to share information with decision-makers to evoke positive outcomes effectively. Additionally, this session will share about a recently launched program out of the University of Florida called Empower U. Originally designed to address environmental issues, this program can be adapted to meet the needs of all groups seeking change in society.

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UF/IFAS Extension
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angelika.keene@ufl.edu

Vanessa Spero
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(321) 633-1702
vspero@ufl.edu

Shelly Johnson
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PO Box 110485
Gainesville, FL 32611
shelly.johnson@ufl.edu



Creative Drama for All

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Coral Spring I & II

Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts) is known nationally for creating arts accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, & fine arts programs. Join the CFCArts' Team and members of the UpBeat! Theater Troupe, 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

William Tayek
Central Florida Community Arts
2315 Upper Park Road, Unit 202
Orlando, FL 32814
(419) 304-5753
william.tayek@cfcarts.com

Autism Roundtable

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 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 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 173 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



Critical Needs for Moving from Pediatric to Adult Health Care Services

Saturday, June 10
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Rainbow Spring II

Are you a youth or young adult (ages 12-26 years)? If you answered yes, we need your help!

We want to hear about what you need to prepare for getting health care services as an adult, or what you have experienced so far. Join Florida Department of Health staff to share your stories and ideas for change. The information you share with us may help to improve the support others receive in the future. This includes help for youth and young adults with special health care needs or disabilities.

Rachel Baker-Blackwell MSW,
LCSW
Title V Program Specialist
South-Southeast Region
Office of Children’s Medical
Services Managed Care Plan
and Specialty Programs
Florida Department of Health
Rachel.Blackwell@flhealth.gov

Angie Chatfield RN
Title V Children and Youth with
Special Health Care Needs
Program
Office of Children’s Medical
Services Managed Care Plan
and Specialty Programs
Florida Department of Health
Angela.Chatfield@flhealth.gov

Lacy Dicharry, MS, MBA
(She/Her/Hers)
CEO | Executive Leadership
Coach | Consultant
Dare to Lead™ Facilitator

4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) General Updates

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Plaza International Ballroom

This presentation will provide general updates concerning the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Students Services at FDOE.

Jessica Brattain
FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-0475
Jessica.Brattain@fldoe.org



Come & Chat: Meeting the Florida Youth Council

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 1

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth with disabilities aged from 15-30. We have many different disabilities, and we advocate all over the state of FL. This is your chance to come and say hello, and learn a bit more about who we are and what we do! This will be a great chance to make a few new friends and to find out how to become a part of a great team. You're invited to come and hang out with us. We are so excited to meet you!

Florida Youth Council
The Family Café
820 East Park Avenue,
Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 224-467
jhansen@familycafe.net

Catalina Andonie
John-Howard Baldino
Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Alexander Gonzalez
Leah Gorman

Morgan Griffin
JJ Humphrey
James Kuhlman
Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer
Michelle Sandiford
Josue Tapia

Lilibeth Vega
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore



Transition Guide for Youth ages 16 through 25

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 2

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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Disability Rights Florida
2400 East Commercial Boulevard, Suite 525
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
(850) 617-9791
pamelaf@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Ann Siegel
Disability Rights Florida
2400 East Commercial Boulevard, Suite 525
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
(850) 617-9791
anns@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Autism Acceptance & Expression: Communicating Through Art

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 3

This Joseph's story. He is a young man with autism. He has great difficulty with expressive language. While working with his speech therapist, they discovered that Joseph enjoys expressing himself by creating art. This has been a very exciting path that has revealed new information about Joseph's thoughts, feelings, needs, and wants. In this session, Joseph, his speech therapist Martine, and Janian (Joseph's PCA) will present how art has given him new freedom to communicate.

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22937 Sterling Manor Loop
Lutz, FL 33549
(813) 300-7285
jbenito0905@gmail.com

Martine McKenzie
625 Luzon Avenue
Tampa, FL 33606
(202) 215-2066
martine@socialskillstrainer.com



Transitioning During the Early Years

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 5

This presentation will provide an overview of Early Steps transitioning into PreK age 3-5. Topics will include when and why a child leaves Early Steps in addition to the steps, the process and the roles of family and resources. The presentation will also include information on the Development Delay (DD) rule change and how that impacts the transition process.

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(850) 245-0475
LeNita.Winkler@fldoe.org

Debbi Nicolosi
Technical Assistance and
Training System (TATS)
(727) 418-6204
debbi.nicolosi@ucf.edu



Strengthening Father Presence

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 6

Father absence is significant nationwide and particularly among fathers of children with disabilities. This seminar will address father absence, father care, how to develop opportunities for fathers to improve their understanding of parenting, how to find needed support from other men, and practical ways to improve their relationship with spouses and children.

David Hirsch
21st Century Dads
1515 South Grove Avenue, Suite 3667
Barrington, IL 60010
(847) 421-3402
dhirsch1@mindspring.com

Richard Gathro
Pepperdine University, Retired
13935 Pinecrest Drive
Largo, FL 33774
(703) 597-4578
rgathro@gmail.com



Autism and the Military Dad

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 7

According to a 2020 government report, nearly 16,000 military dependents have some form of autism. Active-duty military families move frequently and struggle to get support for children with autism. Additionally, when the dad (or mom) is deployed, 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 available healthcare (TRICARE), educational and community resources, as well as tips and tricks to maneuver military assignments and benefit programs.

Jaime Parent
1009 Southeast 14th Avenue
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(410) 808-8142
jaime.parent@comcast.net

Beyond Tokenism

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 8

Self-advocates often get asked to be on boards and find that they are a mere token presence. "Beyond Tokenism" is a training to support self-advocates to be fully included on boards. This is an in-person version of the presenter's article on this topic. The presentation includes a powerpoint. The article this presentation is based upon can be found at: https://web.archive.org/web/20150201021554/http://ngsd.org/sites/default/files/research_to_practice_sd_-_issue_1_0.pdf

Bill Krebs
Keystone Human Services
1815 Newport Gap Pike, Suite A
Wilmington, DE 19808
(267) 257-0109
wkrebs@khs.org

Your Responsibility as a Guide Dog/Service Dog User

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 10

Are you considering using a guide dog for mobility, or a service dog for assistance? There is much discussion regarding the public's responsibilities for access. However, do you know YOUR responsibilities as a guide dog/service dog user? Come join me for an interactive discussion of the often overlooked responsibilities of being a guide dog/service dog user. We will cover topics including "You are ALWAYS an ambassador (you set society's precedent of what a 'service dog' is)," "You are responsible to keep your dog healthy (weight, immunizations)," "You are responsible to maintain the dog's training (consistency)," and "You are responsible to socialize the dog appropriately (EVERY interaction is a training session)." Remember, these dogs were chosen for this job because they are intelligent, and will learn a skill with minimal attempts. This applies to 'good' skills and 'bad' skills. Keep your dog top notch, because much work, and many laws have been put in place to protect your right to accessibility. Represent.

Tiffany Baylor
Pink Cane
4427 Anastasia Court
Tallahassee, FL 32305
(858) 987-3808
Gtaw06e@gmail.com

Early Tactile or Braille Literacy in the Home

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 9

This presentation will provide families with a brief overview of braille and tactile symbols. It will also include practical strategies and techniques for implementing and infusing beginning tactile literacy skills into the home and daily routines.

Cheri Hart
Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired
1208 Wishing Well Way
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 837-7826
chart@fimcvi.org

The Resilient Woman: A Celebration of Strength & Encouragement!

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 11

This highly motivational session incorporates relevant information and inspiration. It's a gathering of hearts, souls, and minds of women who know the meaning of perseverance, determination, overcoming, and fortitude. It celebrates all women who run their lives fueled by their passion! From the moment we awaken each day . . . it's on. We run, run, run . . . doing whatever it takes to keep things together and moving along. So much of our lives belong to others that we are concerned about, care for, and love. Yes, your resiliency needs to be applauded and saluted for your contribution to your family. Please join us for this time of celebration!

Malverna Streater
Team Streater Seminars and Services
3148 Dick Wilson Boulevard, Suite 2323
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 661-1202
malvernal@yahoo.com



Resources to Better Help You

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 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 OneSource; MFLCs; Tutor.com; Step-Up for Students; Family Support Centers; BGCA; Peers Sponsoring and more!

Lacey Allen
117 McMillian Street, Building 90304
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544
(850) 884-6938
lacey.allen.1@us.af.mil

Dawn Mills
NAS Key West
Building #V-4189
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 293-4442
dawn.m.mills.naf@us.navy.mil

De vuelta a la realidad: La transición del cuidador al bienestar personal y al empleo/Back to Reality: The Transition of the Caregiver to Personal Care and the Workplace

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Celebration 16

Después del diagnóstico de su hijo(a), es importante reinventarse. Ofreceremos consejos para cuidar su relación, fortalecer el vínculo de su hijo(a) con hermanos(as) y parientes cercanos, cómo sentirse mejor consigo mismo(a) y recuperar la autoconfianza. Discutiremos cómo padres/madres/cuidadores pueden retomar su carrera profesional después de la transición de su hijo(a) de Early Steps y responderemos preguntas como, por ejemplo: ¿Cómo puedo... ..buscar trabajo y prepararme para una entrevista después de una pausa? ...justificar una brecha en mi currículum debido al diagnóstico de mi hijo(a)? ...explicar mi situación sin hacerme inaccesible o inelegible? ¡Abierto a todas las familias!

After your child's diagnosis, it is important reinvent yourself. We will provide tips to take care of your relationship, strengthen your child's bond with siblings and close relatives, to be there for yourself and regain self-assurance! We will discuss how parents/caregivers can resume their professional career after their child's transition from Early Steps, and address such questions as: How can I . . . look for a job and prepare for an interview after a break? Justify a gap on my resume due to my child's diagnosis? Explain my situation without making myself inaccessible or ineligible? Open to all families!

Sandra Angulo-Duncan
Pediatric Department
Early Steps Program
University of Miami
1120 NW 14th Street, 12 Floor
Miami, FL 33136
(305) 243-6660
sea38@med.miami.edu

Nelsy Crowell
Gulf Central Early Steps
2757 Cyrus Avenue
North Port, FL 34288
(260) 466-5486
NelsyCrowell@hpcswf.com



Super Bowl 57 Experience as Special Olympics Florida Reporter

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 17

The session will feature a Special Olympics Florida reporter sharing about his Super Bowl 57 experience in Arizona.

Malcom Harris Gowdie
Stand Up for Independence
1857 Southwest Whipple Avenue
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953
(772) 209-1801
jamal1389@outlook.com

Amy Volpe
(407) 756-5042



Beyond Hurricanes: Planning and Prep for All Hazards

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 18

Living in Florida, every year we are reminded about preparing for hurricanes. This planning and preparation is very important, however there are other unexpected types of emergency events beyond hurricanes we also need to consider: wild fires and house fires, homeland security-related events, even car accidents. Add a few new tools to your planning toolkit to help you and your family be fully prepared for all hazards, and learn how you can engage in your community to add the voice of lived experience in local emergency planning and preparedness.

Linda 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



Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Specialty Plan: Understand Your Benefits

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 19

Navigating your health benefits can be challenging. Learn more about the benefits and services available under Sunshine Health's Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Specialty Plan and how to make the most of them. Our team of nurses and social workers will work with you and your providers to guide you through the healthcare system. 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 benefits and services that help improve the lives of members and their families.

Carole Matyas
Sunshine Health Serious Mental Illness Specialty Plan
P.O. Box 459089
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345
(866) 799-7321
carole.matyas@sunshinehealth.com



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

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 21

This workshop will discuss what a Life Care Plan is and the steps recommended to create one for a loved one with special needs. As a caregiver of a dependent with special needs the single most important issue on your mind is what will happen to your dependent after you're gone. 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. Following the planning stages can help ensure the type of care and quality of life for your loved one's well-being today and tomorrow.

Douglas Vogel
MassMutual Special Care
4760 South Ocean Boulevard, #505
Highland Beach, FL 33487
(561) 757-6767
dvogel@financialguide.com

Updates on CDC+

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 22

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 - Suite 215
4030 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 414-5070
Mindy.Whitehead@apdcares.org

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



Eligibility for Participation in APD Services

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 24

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

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

Martha Mason
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Martha.Mason@apdcares.org



Opportunities in Agriculture

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 25

Agricultural employment spans a variety of possible occupations (landscapers, farmers, gardeners, etc.) for people with disabilities. This session will focus on the benefits and options for jobs in the agricultural industry and share information about a program called AgrAbility. AgrAbility is a national program that has recently come to Florida to assist people in the agricultural industry who have disabilities. Supported by the Center for Independent Living in North Central Florida and the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, AgrAbility offers services in education, outreach, and job support.

Vanessa Spero
University of Florida
3695 Lake Drive
Cocoa, FL 32926
(321) 615-7323
vspero@ufl.edu

Tony Delisle
Center for Independent Living of
North Central Florida (CILNCF)
222 Southwest 36th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 378-7474
tdelisle@cilncf.org

Lindsey Head
Center for Independent Living of
North Central Florida (CILNCF)
222 Southwest 36th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 378-7474
lhead@cilncf.org



VR's Pre-Employment Transition Services for Student with Disabilities

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 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.

Brandi Boyer Rutherford
FDOE, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
2505 West 15th Street, Suite B
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 872-4383
brandi.boyerrutherford@vr.fldoe.org

Jesse Riddle
FDOE, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
8112 Centralia Court, Suite 102
Leesburg, FL 34788
(850) 938-2518
Jesse.Riddle@vr.fldoe.org

The ABCs of OCR

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 27

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 Evesole
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 488-9701 ext 9702
laurene@disabilityrightsflorida.org

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

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 28

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.

Nancy Torres
University of Miami
11601 Northwest 12th Avenue
Miami, FL 33166
(305) 243-5814
nlt33@miami.edu

Paulina Wolff
University of Miami
11601 Northwest 12th Avenue
Miami, FL 33166
(305) 243-5330
pxw262@med.miami.edu

Autism & The Law Part 2: Current Trends of Police Interaction & Individuals with Autism

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 29

This is the second part of a two-part series that focuses on what parents/guardians need to know to better prepare their child/adult with autism for law enforcement officer interaction. This session will focus on highlighting current trends that have lead to police interaction for those with autism including discussion about Baker Acts, arrests, pat downs, dispatch, and responding officers' actions.

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, 33154
(305) 528-0995
hgonzalez@balharbourfl.gov

PTA Special Education Toolkit

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 30

PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. We advocate for the health, safety and education of all children. With the help of our sponsors and members we are able to form partnerships and coalitions to work towards our mission. In 1897, the National Congress of Mothers was formed by a group of parents concerned about the education as well as health and safety of children. In 1908, the organization changed its name to The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association. Today, now called National PTA, the organization has over six million members. The Florida PTA has more than 150,000 members. Florida PTA develops a plan of work that ties into the vision of PTA and benefits children with exceptionalities and their families. This involves putting on workshops, working with other committees such as Resolution, Legislation and College and Career Readiness as well as being actively involved in PTA events such as the Leadership and Legislation Conferences.

Enrique Escallon
Florida Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
4371 Southwest 150th Court
Miami, FL 33185
(305) 761-7205
Escallon@bellsouth.net



Celebrating 30 Years of the Family Care Council

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 31

Come join us as we celebrate the 30th year since Family Care Councils were formed. There are 15 local councils throughout the state that consist of governor-appointed volunteers who provide education and empowerment for self-advocates in Florida, as well as parents, siblings, grandparents and guardians. The Family Care Councils partner with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) at the state and regional level to make sure families have input in statewide policies. Local councils hold meetings and events in their area and are a great source of information and support through shared experiences. Families helping families. Meet your area Chairs and attending APD regional representatives as we celebrate 30 years of collaborating for Florida families.

Denise Torres
The Arc Jacksonville
1050 North Davis Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 358-1200
dtorres@arcjacksonville.org

Paula James
Family Care Councils of Florida
8900 140th Street
Seminole, FL 33776
(727) 741-1032
paujam7@aol.com





Becoming the Advocate You Were Meant to Be!

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 32

Have you ever thought about growing your confidence and advocacy muscle? The FDDC's Partners in Policymaking program is a leadership and advocacy training course that gives people with developmental disabilities and family members the skills they need to become systems change agents. Partners participants learn from nationally recognized speakers on topics that change peoples' lives. If you want to be a leader in your community, Partners is for you! Attend this session to learn more.

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

Exploring Guardian Advocacy

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Bayhill 33

The DIAL Clinic will discuss legal decision-making for children with disabilities upon reaching the age of majority, and what that means for them and their families. While many default to guardianship, this presentation will primarily focus on Guardian Advocacy, an underutilized alternative that may be more appropriate and cost-effective. While Guardian Advocacy, section 393.12, Florida Statutes, is the law across Florida, navigating the court system can be challenging, and may also differ from circuit court to circuit court. During this presentation, we hope to provide you with the tools to decide on the best alternative for you and your family.

Leigh Markowitz
NSU, Shepard Broad College of Law
3305 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
(954) 262-6138
lmarkowi@nova.edu

Talhia Rangel
NSU, Shepard Broad College of Law
3305 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
(954) 262-6138
ts872@nova.edu



Adaptive Chair or Wheelchair Zumba

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Coral Spring I & II

People with disabilities and their caregivers often avoid exercise because they think there will be no use if they are not sweating and keeping up with everyone else. Physical activity need not be strenuous to achieve health benefits. Zumba is an international dance program for all ages and all ability levels. Zumba is often referred to as "exercise in disguise." You will have so much fun enjoying the music you will forget you are exercising. This class session will be designed to exercise while sitting in a chair or wheelchair.

Paula Burns
Burns Dance & Fitness
2442 Nash Street
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 900-5162
burnsdancefitness@gmail.com



SibShop

Saturday, June 10
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Manatee Spring II

This workshop is for the brothers and sisters that have a sibling with a disability. Sibshops are evidence of their loving concern for the family member who will have the longest-lasting relationship with a person who has a disability. However, for the kids who attend them, Sibshops are lively, pedal-to-the-metal events where they will: Meet other sibs (usually for the first time); Have fun; Talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with disability with others who “get it”; Play some great games; Explore how other brothers and sisters handle sticky situations sometimes faced by brothers and sisters; Laugh; Learn about the services their brothers and sister receive; and, Have some more fun!

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

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Old Fashioned Role Playing - Dungeons & Dragons Play Session,
Manatee Spring

It's time for good ol' fashioned imaginative play—no video games or technology. This extended session will consist of youth who attended Session 1 to make a character and adventure in the story hosted by those who learned to be a Dungeon Master in Session 2. Youth must have attended one or the other to participate in Session 3. Youth will either be a Dungeon Master who will host the adventure, or a Character who will go on the adventure. Small groups will be created, each with a Dungeon Master and Characters, and they will be supervised, coached and supported as they play the role playing game they have learned in Sessions 1 and 2. Don't forget to bring your Dungeon Dice from Session 1 or 2! This event is delivered by John Ferrone, a 40-year veteran Dungeon Master for Middle-earth Role Playing.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday Night Dance Party, Plaza International Ballroom



7-10PM
SATURDAY NIGHT

DANCE PARTY

PLAZA INTERNATIONAL
BALLROOM

AMPLIFY
your event



ENTERTAINMENT

Highlights

Join us for a ... **FAMILY-STYLE MORNING ZUMBA DANCE PARTY** for all ages and all abilities. (Wheelchairs and welcome too!) "No wrong moves just unexpected solos" Bring a towel, water bottle and party attitude.

Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m., Regency Rotunda



REBECCA OSLACKY is a proud disabled woman, entrepreneur, performer and professional event singer that has performed at countless venues throughout Florida.

Friday, 1:00 p.m., Regency Rotunda



TEONA HAUGABOOK
Miss Wheelchair Florida

YOGA Join the yoga class to learn more about how yoga can be accessible for everyone beyond the physical aspects.

Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m., Peacock Spring





ENTERTAINMENT

Highlights



SARA GAVER
Ms. Wheelchair USA
2022-2023

GET READY TO GROOVE! The Pyramid Players are thrilled to be back for the 25th Anniversary Family Café!

Friday at 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.
Saturday at 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.,
Regency Rotunda



Believe in the ... **ART**
OF THE POSSIBLE
Bill Fuller, Pyramid Co-Founder
1941-2023



THE C2D PERFORMANCE TEAM

is a dedicated group of dancers who have been invited to audition for this studio program. **See them Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** Regency Rotunda



UNCLE PAUL

Make sure to get a picture with our mascot!
Find him on Friday and Saturday



FREDIDANCE PROJECT

The mission of FrediDANCE Project is to enrich the lives of individuals and the community through dance as a living art form.

See them performing throughout the day on Saturday!

SUNDAY

June 11

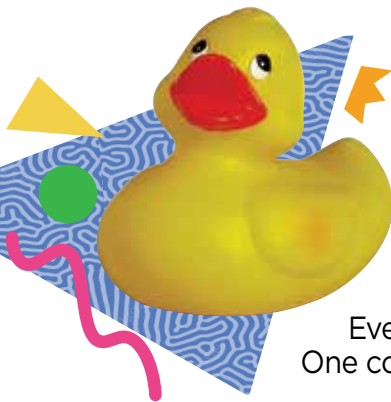
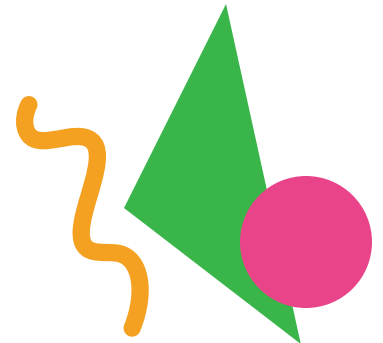
Celebrating 25 Years 1998-2023

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Look up and Live! You are in the Victory Circle!
Rainbow Spring II

Champions in the disability community, I want to encourage you to hold onto the promise of Romans 8:37. You are more than conquerors through Christ, and with His help, you can overcome any obstacle. You are not alone in your struggles, and you have already won the victory through Him. Let us walk in faith and confidence in the love and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be Encouraged!

Rev. Robert E. "Bobby" Streater, III, MA

- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** Yoga, Peacock Spring
- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** Zumba, Regency Rotunda
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** Club Café sponsored by the Florida Department of Health, Orlando L
- 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
- 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, Peacock Spring
- 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



Duck Race Sponsored by SportsAbility **9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Grotto Pool**

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



Celebrating
25 YEARS

JUNE 11, 2023

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

Find Another Dream



Maysoon Zayid

After a virtual appearance at The 22nd Annual Family Café in 2020, The Family Café welcomes back actress, comedian, writer, and disability advocate Maysoon Zayid, live and in person!

Maysoon is a graduate of and a Guest Comedian in Residence at Arizona State University, and a Princeton University Arts Fellow for 2021-23 and will begin two years of teaching and community collaboration in September.

She is the co-founder/co-executive producer of the New York Arab American Comedy Festival and The Muslim Funny Fest. She was a full-time On Air Contributor to *Countdown with Keith Olbermann* and a columnist for The Daily Beast. She has most recently appeared on Oprah Winfrey Networks In *Deep Shift*, *60 Minutes*, and *ABC News*. Maysoon had the most viewed TED Talk of 2014 and was named 1 of 100 Women of 2015 by BBC.

As a professional comedian, Maysoon has performed in top New York clubs and has toured extensively at home and abroad. She was a headliner on the Arabs Gone Wild Comedy Tour and The Muslims Are Coming Tour. Maysoon appeared alongside Adam Sandler in *You Don't Mess with the the Zohan* and has written for VICE. She limped in New York Fashion Week, is a recurring character on *General Hospital*, and is the author of Audible's *Find Another Dream*.

This candid, inspiring, laugh-out-loud keynote will cover topics ranging from beating the odds, to fostering inclusivity and battling discrimination, to the challenges facing the disability community.



CLUB CAFE

FOR YOUTH AGED 15-30 YEARS ONLY

FRIDAY 10 AM - 6 PM

SATURDAY 8 AM - 10 PM

SUNDAY 8 AM - 10:30 AM

ROOM ORLANDO L

The Club Café is a place for youth ages 15-30 to come “chill” and get resources on all 8 dimensions of wellness to help increase their well-being including activities and fun games.

8 DIMENSIONS OF WELLNESS:

- Spiritual
- Physical
- Occupational
- Intellectual
- Finances
- Environment
- Emotional health
- Social life

*Come
check
it out!*



SPORTSABILITY ALLIANCE

formerly Florida Disabled Outdoors Association

in partnership with:

GATORLAND
ALLIGATOR CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Activities and Providers:

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9 at 3:00pm and
SATURDAY, JUNE 10 at 11:00am**

Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators & Crocodiles (gatorland.com)

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

9:30-10:30am What's New and Available in the World of Recreation for People of ALL Abilities?

2:30-5:00pm SCUBA Demonstration: at the Quiet Pool (Upper Pool Deck/Recreation Level: Life Worth Leading (lifeworthleading.org)

Register at SportsAbility Sampler Hall

THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE:

- Archery: FL Fish and Wildlife Commission (myfwc.com)
- Tennis: United States Tennis Association (usta.com)
- Track Chair: EcoRover Chairs (ecoroverchairs.com)
- Axe Throwing: (removingthebarriers.org)
- And More!

www.sportsability.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 at 9 AM- Rubber Duck Race

Don't miss this sell out event!

SportsAbility Alliance will be hosting our Annual Rubber Duck Race on Sunday, June 11. Rubber ducks can be purchased from the SportsAbility booth during Family Cafe. Sunday morning the ducks will be placed at the pool starting line and race to the finish! If your ducks are winners, you win amazing prizes!



BOOK FAIR

**JOIN THE FAMILY CAFÉ'S
VERY OWN AUTHORS**

... in **Regency Ballroom Q**
as they read aloud from their books.



Book Readings will take place
from **1:30 PM to 6:00 PM**
on **Friday, June 9**, and
from **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM**
on **Saturday, June 10**.

**COMFY FLOOR CUSHIONS
WILL BE PROVIDED!**





The PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections Project ...

... is excited to offer an engaging accessible Tech Expo. Come, engage in a kid-friendly hands-on experience as you immerse yourself in FUN, using assistive technology.

**INTERACTIVE
TECHNOLOGY EXPO
WITH ROBOTS, VR,
4D, MUSIC +++
AND PROJECT
RESOURCES.**

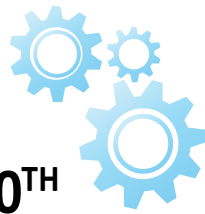
FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH

Open from
1:00pm – 5:00pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH

Open from
9:00am – 2:00pm

Celebration 14 & 15



This event will be held in
Blue Spring 1 room from
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM on
Saturday, June 10th.



Celebration of Life Love Never Dies

In the honoring, in community, we find comfort amid our grief.

Give yourself the gift of community and ceremony. Come share, feel supported in your grief and connect with others as we celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have passed away.

Honoring our loved ones is an important part of the grieving process. It allows us to remember and celebrate the life of the person who has transitioned, while also acknowledging the legacy they have left behind.

For individuals with physical or mental disabilities, the loss of a loved one can be especially difficult to process. It can be more challenging to navigate the emotions that come with losing someone they care about deeply. Coming together within The Family Café community provides safety and comfort, allowing healing to continue.

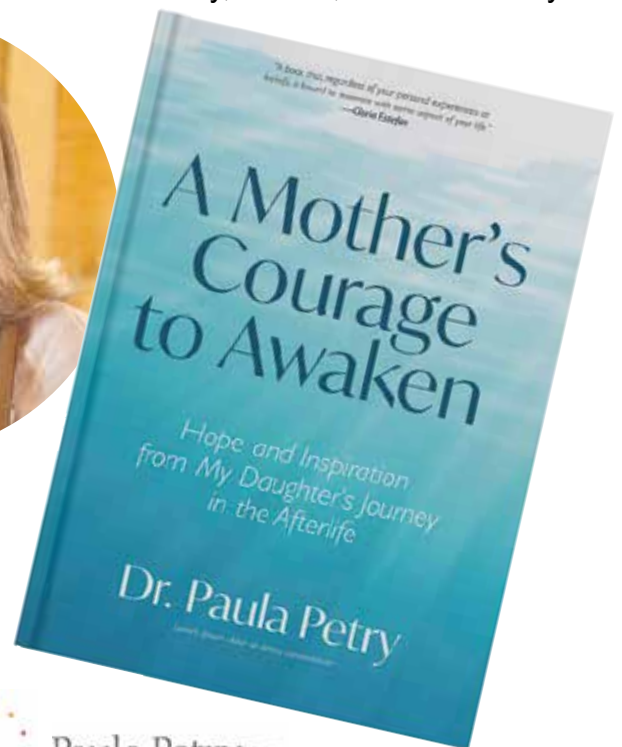
Your facilitator will be Paula Petry, PhD. She is an author, presenter and creator of *Destiny Code* for youth, parents, and teachers. She will share a healing path forward for you as she presents, *Ten Healing Gifts from My Daughter, Alexandra*.

Copies of her memoir, *A Mother's Courage to Awaken*, 2020, will be made available. In her book, she describes the challenges of raising

a child with a disability, the Florida parent movement she helped ignite, her daughter's death, and the transformational power of grief.

You will receive a selection of poems and a memento.

The Celebration of Life Ceremony began in 2012 with the loss of a member of The Family Café's Florida Youth Council, Ms. Lizzy Barrows. Lizzy lives in our hearts as we gather each year to recognize her loving spirit and significant impact on her family, friends, and community.





**Children's
Medical Services
Health Plan**
OPERATED BY SUNSHINE HEALTH

**WE GET YOU
MORE.**



Congratulations Family Café on 25 years!

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.

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.

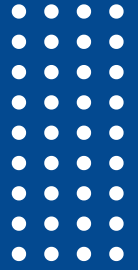
800-342-0823

TDD 800-346-4127

www.DisabilityRightsFlorida.org



Disability Rights
FLORIDA

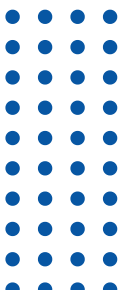


The Able Trust is proud to sponsor the Family Café Expo and support their commitment to providing resources and opportunities to persons with disabilities and their families.

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.**



**sunshine
health**[™]

***Congratulations
Family Café on 25 years!***

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

JOB HUNTING? WE SHOULD TALK.

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

**CONNECT WITH EMPLOYMENT
SPECIALISTS STATEWIDE**

abilitieswork.employflorida.com
(844) 245-3405



A proud partner of the **AmericanJobCenter** network

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

Access to Care is Our #1 Priority



Because everyone deserves a **healthy smile!**

LIBERTY Dental Plan is committed to reducing barriers in our communities to make our members shine, one smile at a time.



Libertydentalplan.com

THE 16TH 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
16th Annual Youth Summit
On **August 4-5** 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 16th 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.

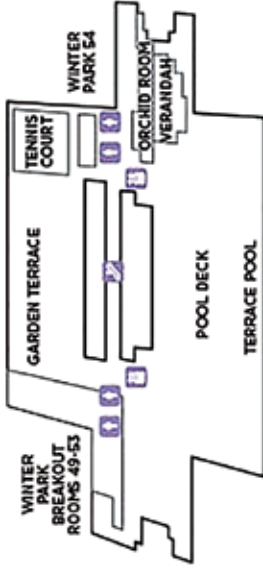
The **16th Annual Youth Summit** will be held at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando **August 4-5, 2023**. Limited financial assistance is available. If you are not requesting financial assistance, please contact The Florida Hotel and Conference Center directly at **407-859-1500** to make reservations. The room rate is \$112 per night.



We look forward to seeing you in Orlando in August!

Hyatt Regency Orlando

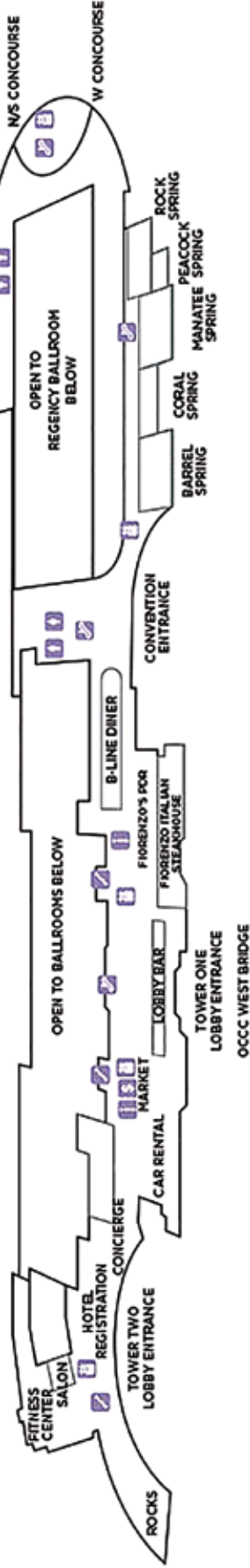
FOURTH LEVEL



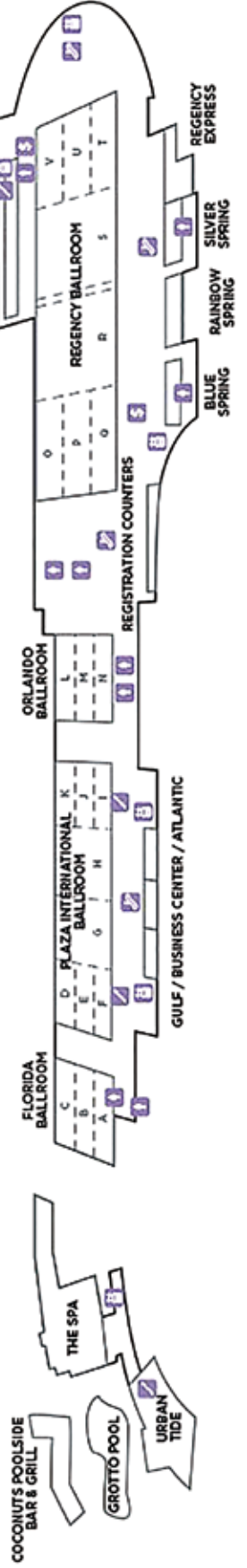
THIRD LEVEL



LOBBY LEVEL



LEVEL ONE



KEY

- Restrooms
- Escalator
- Stairway
- Elevator
- Information
- ATM

Join the momentum!

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

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

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

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

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



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



See you next year!

26TH ANNUAL Family CAFE

JUNE 14-16, 2024

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



The Family Café



The Family Café is on Facebook!



Follow us @TheFamilyCafe



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