

**LIKE & SHARE EACH MOMENT TOGETHER!**



**26TH ANNUAL**  
**#FAMILY CAFE 2024**

**FEATURING THE GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT ON DISABILITIES**

**HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO**  
**JUNE 14-16, 2024**



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR



June 14, 2024

Dear Friends,

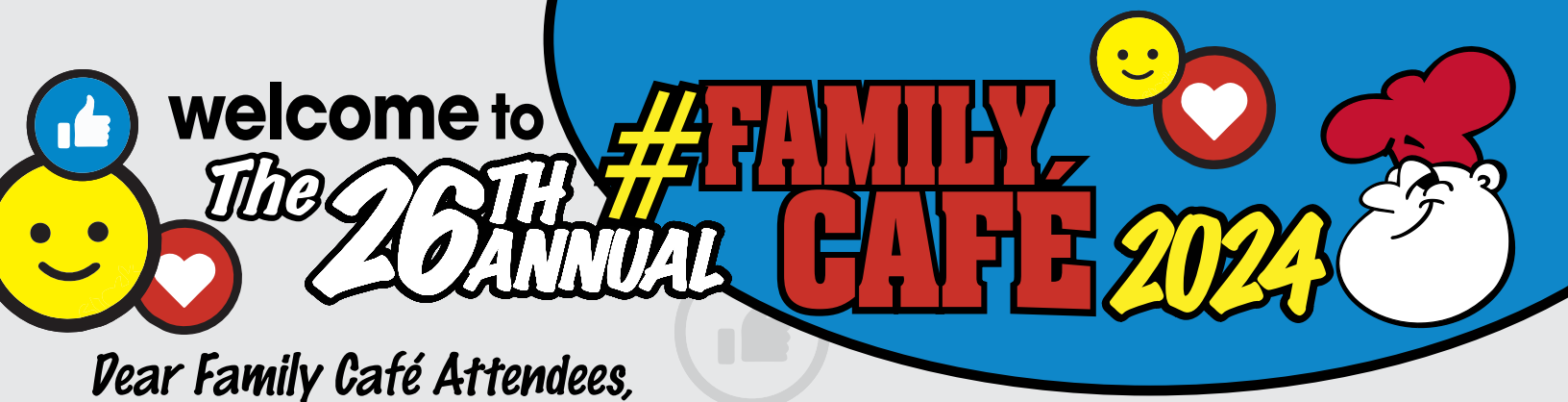
Welcome to the 26th Annual Family Café! I hope your time in Orlando allows you to connect with Floridians across the state and learn more about our many services available to help those with disabilities. As Governor, I will continue to ensure every Floridian has access to high-quality services to create a pathway for everyone to live up to their God-given potential and realize the American Dream.

Florida has taken action by providing resources like First Lady Casey DeSantis's Hope Florida initiative, which embraces the importance of community partnership in supporting individuals with disabilities. I appreciate all those who have dedicated their lives to care for others, and I send my best wishes as you enjoy this fantastic event.

Sincerely,

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

Ron DeSantis  
Governor



## Dear Family Café Attendees,

After celebrating a milestone in 2023, The Family Café is excited to welcome you to The 26th Annual Family Café and our next quarter century of Collaboration, Advocacy, Friendship and Empowerment! As always, we remain 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. Thanks for coming with us on this journey, and for being a part of our family!

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 to connect, learn, and find the resources you need in a friendly, family-centered environment. We've done our best to put together an event with something for everyone here in 2024!

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 230 across seven time slots. Many of them are organized into “tracks” by subject area. They include Advocacy, Assistive Technology, Birth to Age Five, Dads, Disaster Preparedness, Employment, Mental Health, Military Families, Recreation, Smart Money, Youth, and for the first time this year, Guardianship. 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 Executive Director of the National Disability Rights Network and parent to a child with a disability Marlene Sallo. She'll discuss what “accessibility” and “accommodations” really mean in the classroom and the culture. On Saturday, we welcome physician, advocate, and person in recovery Dr. Stephen Loyd for an essential conversation about opioids and addiction. Sunday will feature self-advocate and inspirational speaker Cam Calkoen and his message of dreaming big and doing more by “living for awesome.”

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. 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, meditation, self-advocate performances, the Book Fair, the “Club Café” youth room, and everything else The Annual Family Café has to offer!

We've done our best to bring together the information and resources you need in a space that celebrates the disability experience and families like yours. We hope The 26th Annual 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 14, 2024

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Taylor N. Hatch  
Director

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Suite 380  
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Florida  
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(866-273-2273)

Dear Annual Family Café Attendee:

On behalf of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), we would like to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café and Governor's Summit on Disabilities.

At APD, we are honored to serve incredible individuals and their families in living, learning, and working within their communities by creating multiple pathways to possibilities. Through the leadership of Governor DeSantis and the power of partnership, it's been an exciting year within the disability community! Some highlights include the launch of Hope Florida – A Pathway to Possibilities spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis, which is available for all Floridians to be connected with critical community resources to achieve goals and eliminate barriers. Additionally, the implementation of policies to keep critical money in the pockets of the people we serve through the 2024 Legislative allowance. Along with, incredible investments through the 2024 Legislative Session which include funding to support the iBudget waiver and the authority to begin the development of an additional pathway, which aims to close gaps and preserve high school graduation for the exciting time that it should be for all Floridians transitioning to adulthood. We know, to serve the best among us, we must maintain a standard of excellence and compassion while working in partnership to empower all Floridians to fulfill their God-given potential.

The Family Café fosters this environment by offering a welcoming and supportive atmosphere, a sense of community, that creates opportunities to share, connect, and learn from one another. We hope you take a moment to visit our APD booth in the Exhibition Hall where we look forward to meeting you and sharing more information about the services our Agency provides.

This year has been a great year to build upon existing foundations and we remain committed to working together boldly, as we all work to create an atmosphere that promotes individual and community well-being.

Again, we hope you enjoy your time at the conference and the presentations that have been thoughtfully prepared.

Sincerely,

Taylor N. Hatch  
Director



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

JASON WEIDA  
SECRETARY

June 14, 2024

To the 26th Annual Family Café Participants,

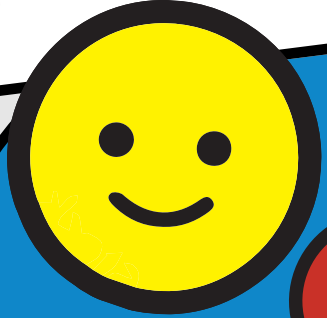
On behalf of the Agency for Health Care Administration, it is an honor to welcome you to the 26th Annual Family Café! Our Agency looks forward to collaborating with our partners at the Annual Family Café every year because this event provides a wonderful opportunity to support individuals with disabilities 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 26th Annual Family Café!

Sincerely,

Jason Weida  
Secretary



State Board of Education

Ben Gibson, Chair  
Ryan Petty, Vice Chair  
Members  
Monesia Brown  
Esther Byrd  
Grazie Pozo Christie  
Kelly Garcia  
MaryLynn Magar

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
fldoe.org

Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Commissioner of Education

June 14, 2024

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Cafe and Governor's Summit on Disabilities. This innovative event 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 nearly 2.9 million students. Florida continues to prioritize protecting parents' rights, investing in educators, enhancing access to services and working to increase student achievement.

FDOE is a national leader in education, as demonstrated by recent performance:

- The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results demonstrate Florida's continued commitment to the education of students with disabilities. 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 85.5% graduating in 2022-23. This is an increase of 19.5 percentage points since 2016-17.
- Florida was ranked #1 overall by the Heritage Foundation on the 2023 Education Freedom Report Card. Florida remains the top-ranked state across the board. Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature have expanded education freedom and promoted parents' rights while creating laudable returns on investment for taxpayers.

In 2021, the Gardiner Scholarship and John M. McKay Scholarship were consolidated and renamed the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA).

- FES-UA is designed to offer families of students with disabilities, as young as three years of age, access to additional educational resources.
- Families may choose to enroll their student in another public school or take the opportunity to receive a personal education savings account (ESA) for their student. With an ESA, parents deposit public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted but multiple uses instead of having their child attend a public school.



- An ESA can fund private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community or state college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials.
- Families apply and annually renew participation in FES-UA through one of the approved scholarship funding organizations responsible for determining eligibility, awarding and distributing funding to eligible student accounts and approving eligible expenditures.
- For the 2023-2024 school year, 83,941 students received the FES-UA, with an average scholarship worth about \$9,800.

Florida is the Education State, and without question, students, parents and teachers are all benefiting from our state's robust array of education options. I hope you enjoy the next three days, gathering new information and resources through breakout sessions, the exhibit hall and keynote speakers.

Sincerely,  
  
Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Commissioner



State Board of Education

Ben Gibson, Chair  
Ryan Petty, Vice Chair  
Members  
Monesia Brown  
Esther Byrd  
Grazie Pozo Christie  
Kelly Garcia  
MaryLynn Magar

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
fldoe.org

Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Commissioner of Education

June 14, 2024

Dear Conference Attendees:

On behalf of the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), I am honored to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Cafe conference. Our mission at VR is to ensure individuals with disabilities in Florida have increased opportunities for high-quality employment, including assistance in paying for the training or education needed to find a great job or career. During the conference, you will have the opportunity to learn more about different programs and services presented by experts in the field. Topics include:

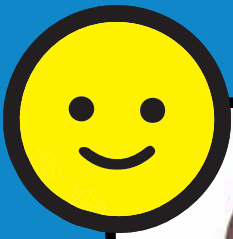
- Disability Disclosure in the Workplace
- Vocational Rehabilitation: The World of Work for Everyone
- Bridging Abilities to Employment: A Guide to Vocational Rehabilitation
- Exploring Your Employment Options with Ticket to Work

I would also like to invite you to stop by VR's booth in the exhibition hall to speak with VR staff, complete a referral or get additional information on how VR can help you in your employment journey. Thank you for making the commitment to attend this conference and learn more about the many opportunities available to Floridians with disabilities. If you should have any questions after you leave the conference, please feel free to reach out to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or any of our area offices throughout the state. More information about how to contact us is always available at <https://www.rehabworks.org/customers/contact.html>.

Respectfully,  
  
Victoria Gaitanis

Victoria Gaitanis  
Acting Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

[www.RehabWorks.org](http://www.RehabWorks.org)  
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1144 | Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 | 850 245-3399 | TTY Users Dial 711 | VP Users Connect via VRS



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Florida HEALTH**

June 14, 2024

Dear Family Café Participants:

As Florida's Surgeon General, it is my honor to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café Conference! The Family Café brings together thousands of Floridians, providing the opportunity to learn about the products, services, and organizations available to individuals with disabilities and special health care needs, and their loved ones.

Throughout the conference, the Florida Department of Health (Department) is offering exhibits, workshops, and resources about programs offered to support you and your family. Some Department events occurring include:

- The Children's Medical Services (CMS), Early Steps will be hosting Early Wishes, a family-run playgroup offering free play and interactive stations, including face-painting, adaptive toys, story time, and more, on Friday.
- The CMS Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program is sponsoring Club Café, an activity room for youth and young adults to "chill" and get resources on all eight dimensions of wellness to help increase their well-being including activities and fun games. Club Café will be open on Friday and Saturday.
- The CMS Medical Foster Care Program will be presenting "How Can We All Help Medical Foster Care Families?" Check your Family Café program for details.
- The CMS Health Plan will also host a workshop, providing families an opportunity to learn more about the benefits and services of the CMS Plan, as well as engage with CMS Plan staff and representatives. Check your Family Café program for details.
- The Public Health Dental Program will be presenting "Oral Health for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." Check your Family Café program for details.

Please stop by the exhibit hall to learn more about Department Programs including the:

- Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program
- Child Abuse Death Review
- Child Abuse Service Program
- Epilepsy Service Program
- Florida Asthma Program
- Newborn Hearing Screening Program
- Public Health Dental Program
- Diabetes Prevention and Management Program

I hope you enjoy the conference, and I am confident that you will obtain valuable information.

Sincerely,  
*Joseph A. Ladapo*  
Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD  
State Surgeon General

**Accredited Health Department**  
Public Health Accreditation Board

**Office of the State Surgeon General**  
352 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-300 • Tallahassee, FL 32399  
PHONE: 850-245-4210 • FAX: 850-922-8453  
[FloridaHealth.gov](http://FloridaHealth.gov)



**State of Florida**  
**Department of Children and Families**

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Shevaun L. Harris**  
Secretary

Dear Family Café Attendees:

I am delighted to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Family Café!

This year's theme, *Like & Share Each Moment Together*, captures the essence of our work so well. In the field of human services, we are presented daily with opportunities to support fellow Floridians and empower them to reach their full potential. At the Department of Children and Families, we refer to those opportunities as Moments of Impact, and we strive to maximize the possibility that each interaction holds.

We are proud to be among the state agencies dedicated to serving Florida's children, families, and vulnerable adults, and we are grateful for the contributions of our sister agencies and many community organizations. Together, under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, the State of Florida has made remarkable strides in both policy and financial investments to support the best interests of all Floridians.

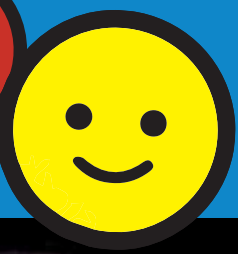
We are grateful for in-home and community providers who support vulnerable adults, including individuals with unique abilities, to live with dignity and maintain the most independence possible. Last year, the Department referred more than 1,100 Floridians between 18 and 59 years of age to a wide array of high-quality services through these providers. Equally exciting is our ever-growing partnership with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities through which we are leveraging our collective resources to best serve our fellow Floridians.

We are honored to serve the People of Florida, and we appreciate that Family Café provides this informative forum where we can engage with stakeholders and identify new opportunities for collaboration and improvement.

Sincerely,  
*Shevaun L. Harris*  
Shevaun L. Harris  
Secretary

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

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





STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Kevin Guthrie  
Director

June 14, 2024

Dear Family Café Participants:

On behalf of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (Division), it is an honor to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café. The Division wants to help residents with special needs, along with their families and caretakers, be as prepared as possible for any emergencies that may impact their community. The Family Café is a wonderful opportunity for us to collaborate with other great agencies to make sure residents are prepared. As the Executive Director for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, I am committed to supporting endeavors that empower our residents with lifesaving information. I encourage all participants to seize the opportunity this event offers to connect and encourage one another to be Make a Plan. The Division is ready to assist you and your loved ones before, during and after a disaster.

The 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season will begin on June 1 and run through November 30. No hurricane season is like the last, which is why we stress the importance of preparedness. Preparation starts with creating an individualized disaster preparedness plan and stocking your disaster supply kit with enough supplies to last every individual and pet in the household at least seven days. Kits should be stocked with essentials such as nonperishable food, water, medications, medical alert tags or bracelets, contact information for loved ones and medical providers, and any other important documents. Residents with special needs should also store extra batteries for power wheelchairs or other battery-operated medical or assistive technology devices. Individuals who do not directly impact an area it can still cause life threatening weather events such as flooding or tomodic activity, meaning emergency alerts can be the only way to know you may be at risk. Sign up for emergency alerts at [FloridaDisaster.org/AlertFlorida](http://FloridaDisaster.org/AlertFlorida). More disaster preparation information and a full disaster supply kit checklist is available at [FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare](http://FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare).

In addition to the preparation actions mentioned above, the Division encourages residents with special needs to register with the Special Needs Registry. This Registry allows individuals to connect with their local emergency management office and provides first responders with valuable information to keep you safe before, during and after a disaster. For more information or to sign up for the Special Needs Registry, please visit [FloridaDisaster.org/SNR](http://FloridaDisaster.org/SNR) or contact your local county emergency management office.

The Division looks forward to supporting you all as you prepare for the upcoming season and hopes you leave the Family Café feeling more knowledgeable of the resources at your disposal. Feel free to reach out to your local county emergency management office at any time if you have additional questions or concerns.

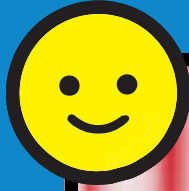
Sincerely,

Kevin Guthrie  
Executive Director

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Tel: 850-815-4000  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)

STATE LOGISTICS RESPONSE CENTER  
2702 Directors Row  
Orlando, FL 32809-5631



Stephanie Smith  
Chair

Adrienne Johnston  
President & CEO



June 14, 2024

Dear Attendee,

On behalf of CareerSource Florida, the Governor's designated organization responsible for workforce policy and investment, I am honored to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café.

This statewide event is designed specifically for Floridians with various disabilities and their families. You will have the opportunity to simultaneously connect with state agencies, commercial service providers, and peer groups to discover all the services available that best serve your needs. You will also learn how best to secure those services.

The CareerSource Florida network is one such provider of services to individuals facing barriers to employment such as low-income, deficient in basic skills, on public assistance, previously incarcerated, military veterans, and at-risk youth. In fact, in Fiscal Year 2022-23, the CareerSource Florida network served nearly 15,000 individuals facing barriers to employment who earned 11,719 credentials that led to in-demand, mid-to high-wage occupations.

Working to help Floridians find their path to economic self-sufficiency is more than a moral imperative; it is a strategic investment in Florida's future. At CareerSource Florida, we equip local workforce development boards with policy guidance and resources so they can support job seekers on a journey toward economic empowerment by providing consistent and easy to navigate services.

I am confident you will benefit tremendously from your time here in Orlando exploring all the opportunities this unique event hosted by The Family Café provides!

All the best to you –

Adrienne Johnston  
President & CEO

PO Box 13179  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
(850) 792-5242  
[careersourceflorida.com](http://careersourceflorida.com)



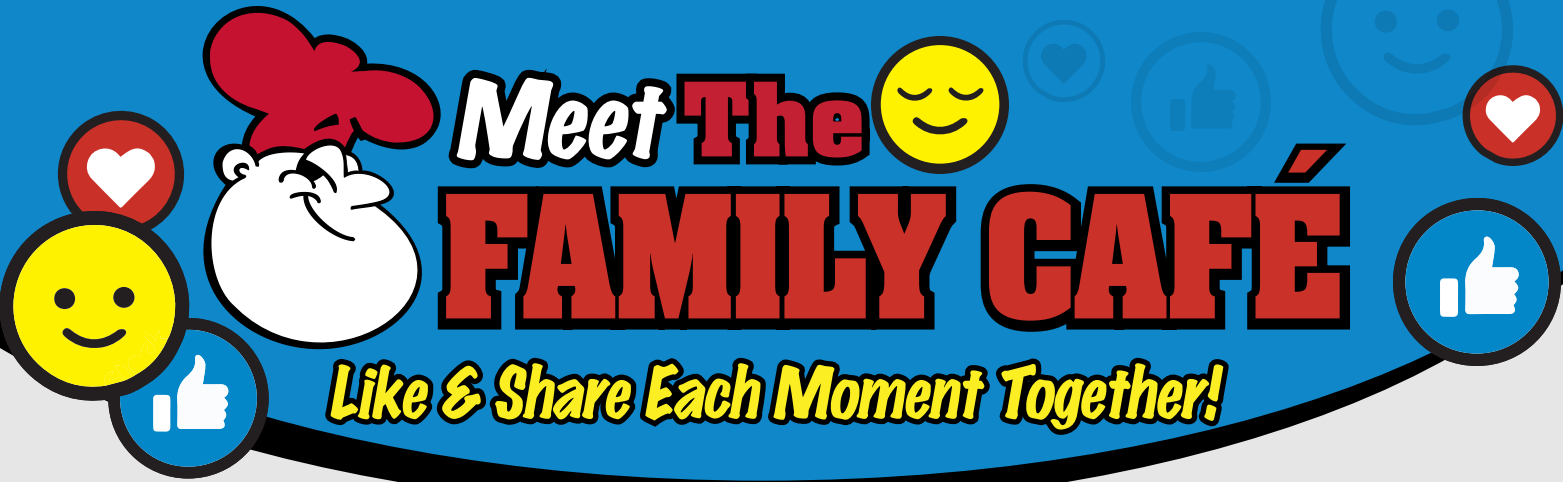


The ABLE Trust  
 ABLE United  
 Disability Rights Florida  
 Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
 Florida Community Care  
 Florida Department of Children and Families  
 Florida Department of Education  
 Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 Florida Department of Health, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program  
 Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services  
 Florida Department of Health, Early Steps Program  
 Florida Healthy Kids Corporation  
 Liberty Dental Plans  
 Nova Southeastern University College of Law  
 Simply Healthcare  
 Sunshine Health

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

The ABLE Trust  
 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 Education and Student Services  
 Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 Florida Department of Health, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program  
 Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services  
 Florida Department of Health, Early Steps Program  
 Florida Healthy Kids Corporation  
 Florida Youth Council  
 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.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jim DeBeaugrine, Board Chair

Lori Fahey

Staar Fields

Jeannie Forthuber

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Patricia Ann Oglesby

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Katie Smith

Tammy Turner

Gil Williams

## **STAFF**

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Jeremy Countryman, Vice President

Joe McCann, Policy Manager

Paula Roberts, Program Manager

Sarah Fahey, Financial Administrator

# EXHIBITORS

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## **ABLE UNITED**

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## **ABRAM'S NATION/THE SAFETY SLEEPER**

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## **ACCESSREC**

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## **ADVOCACY ABBY / SUPPORT NOW**

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## **AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION**

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## **ANGELSENSE, INC.**

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## **ANN'S ANGELS**

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## **AUTISM LICENSE PLATE**

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www.arcbroward.com

## **BAILES CONSULTING SERVICES**

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Sarasota, FL 34229  
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## **BEDS BY GEORGE, INC.**

219 Caravan Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
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mark@bedsbygeorge.com  
www.bedsbygeorge.com

## **BEST BUY EDUCATION**

7601 Penn Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 291-4406  
megan.henschen@bestbuy.com  
www.bestbuy.com/education

## **BLACKBACK WRITING**

2801 East Orchard Circle  
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www.blackbackwriting.com

## **BRAIN INJURY FLORIDA, INC.**

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darmington@braininjuryfl.org  
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## **BREVARD ACHIEVEMENT CENTER**

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www.bacemploy.com

## **BROOKS, LEBOEUF, FOSTER & GWARTNEY P.A.**

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www.toomuchstake.com

## **CAFÉ TA CENTER**

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## **CALMOSEPTINE, INC.**

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## **CARE OPTIONS FOR KIDS**

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www.careoptionsforkids.com

## **CARESOURCE/THE COLUMBUS ORGANIZATION**

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Tallahassee, FL 32308  
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nalebold-dearden@columbusorg.com  
www.columbusorg.com

## **CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES (CARD)**

12424 Research Parkway, Suite 365  
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terri.daly@ucf.edu  
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## **CHILDRENS MEDICAL SERVICES, OPERATED BY SUNSHINE HEALTH**

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Orlando, FL 32818  
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zhidy@sunshinehealth.com  
www.sunshinehealth.com

## **CUSTOM MOBILITY, INC.**

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## **DENTAQUEST**

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## **DEVEREUX FOUNDATION**

3550 North Goldenrod Avenue  
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## **DISABILITY RIGHTS FLORIDA**

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Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 617-6665  
dawnw@disabilityrightsflorida.org  
www.disabilityrightsflorida.org

# EXHIBITORS

## **DO UNTO OTHERS ASSISTANCE DOGS, INC.**

348 Buttonwood Way  
Lake Mary, FL 32746  
(407) 221-0570  
development@duoassistancedogs.org  
www.duoassistancedogs.org

## **EASTERSEALS**

2010 Crosby Way  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
(321) 759-3642  
scaporina@fl.easterseals.com  
www.easterseals.com

## **ECOROVER CHAIRS**

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Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 201-2944  
info@sportsability.org  
www.ecoroverchairs.com

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853 State Road 436, Suite 2045  
Casselberry, FL 32707  
(904) 662-7705  
hbeamenderfer@employu.org  
www.employu.org

## **EXCEPTIONAL VACATIONS**

9250 Glades Road, Suite 111  
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(561) 713-2711  
rebeccah@exceptionalservices.net  
www.exceptional-vacations.com

## **FAMILY CARE COUNCILS OF FLORIDA**

901 Industrial Drive  
Wildwood, FL 34785  
(800) 470-8101  
fccf.area15@gmail.com  
www.fccflorida.org

## **FAMU MEDICAL MARIJUANA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

625 East Tennessee Street, Suite 210  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 443-0797  
michelle.wilson@famuedu  
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## **FL SAND & FL SAND FELLOWS**

PO Box 848  
Middleburg, FL 32050  
(352) 224-0223  
contactflsand@gmail.com  
www.flsand.org

## **FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY (FAAST)**

2145 Delta Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 487-3278  
tmccann@faast.org  
www.faast.org

## **FLORIDA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (FCIC-USF)**

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MHC 2113A  
Tampa, FL 33612  
(813) 974-4612  
drbarnes@usf.edu  
flfcic.cbcs.usf.edu

## **FLORIDA CENTER FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES**

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Teaching Academy,  
4000 Central Florida Boulevard  
PO Box 161250  
Orlando, FL 32816  
(407) 823-5225  
iris.neil@ucf.edu  
www.fcsua.org

## **FLORIDA COMMUNITY CARE (ILS)**

4601 Northwest 77th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33166  
(833) 322-7526  
www.fcchealthplan.com

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES**

415 South Armenia Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33625  
(813) 871-7190  
mireya.hernandez@dbf.fldoe.org  
dbf.fldoe.org

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

325 West Gaines Street Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 245-3332  
derrinita.walker@vr.fldoe.org

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

325 West Gaines Street Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 245-0502  
cathy.russell@fldoe.org  
www.floridaschoolchoice.org

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD INJURY PROGRAM**

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-25  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 756-0189  
valerie.collins@flhealth.gov  
www.bs Cip.org

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION**

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-18  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 558-9664  
carmen.fabrepedrero@flhealth.gov

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES MANAGED CARE PLAN & SPECIALTY PROGRAMS MEDICAL FOSTER CARE PROGRAM**

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06  
Tallahassee, FL 32339  
(850) 841-8609  
joni.hollis@flhealth.gov

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES MANAGED CARE PLAN & SPECIALTY PROGRAMS SAFETY NET PROGRAM**

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Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(855) 901-5390  
CMSClinicalEligibilityUnit@flhealth.gov

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES TITLE V CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PROGRAM**

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Tallahassee, FL 32339  
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joni.hollis@flhealth.gov  
www.floridahealth.gov

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES, CHILD ABUSE DEATH REVIEW**

4025 Bald Cypress Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
(850) 841-8490  
brenna.radigan@flhealth.gov  
www.flcadr.com

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EARLY HEARING DETECTION INTERVENTION AND PARENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM**

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06  
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philicia.corbett@flhealth.gov  
www.floridanewbornscreening.com

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liz.gonzalez@flhealth.gov  
www.floridaearlysteps.com

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL  
SERVICES**  
2020 Capital Circle  
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(850) 841-8580  
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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
OFFICE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA USE**  
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**FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES COUNCIL**  
124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203  
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kristinv@fddc.org  
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**FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC & LEARNING  
RESOURCES SYSTEM (FDLRS)**  
3841 Reid Street  
Palatka, FL 32177  
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paynes@nefec.org  
www.fdlrs.org

**FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC &  
LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTER**  
1900 West Commercial Boulevard,  
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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
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slingam@peds.ufl.edu  
kumc.keiseruniversity.edu

**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
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info@sportsability.org  
www.myfwc.com

**FLORIDA GOODWILL ASSOCIATION**  
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www.floridagoodwills.org

**FLORIDA INCLUSION NETWORK**  
4600 University Center C  
Tallahassee, FL 32306  
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lsi-finadmin@fsu.edu  
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**FLORIDA INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS CENTER FOR THE  
VISUALLY IMPAIRED (FIMC-VI)**  
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www.fimcvi.org

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
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Tampa, FL 33689  
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case.fiu.edu

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outreach@healthykids.org  
www.floridakidcare.org

**FLORIDA MENTOR**  
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Tampa, FL 33610  
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www.sevitahealth.com

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kim.thomas@vr.fldoe.org  
www.rehabworks.org

**FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
AND THE BLIND, OUTREACH  
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valderramaj@fsdbk12.org  
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carrk@fsdbk12.org  
www.fsdbk12.org

**FLORIDA STATE PARK FOUNDATION**  
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Tallahassee, FL 32308  
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info@sportsability.org  
www.gatorland.com

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michael@greaterpromisefinancial.com  
www.greaterpromisefinancial.org

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ACCOUNTANTS**  
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phyllis@hmscpa.com  
www.hmscpa.com

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FOUNDATION, INC.**  
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(407) 274-2761  
amanda.glaeser@jonathanslanding.org  
www.jonathanslanding.org

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1800 Pembroke Drive  
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(650) 746-8135x782  
chrystal.ayala@kyocare.com  
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3109 West Dr. Martin Luther King  
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Tampa, FL 33602  
(352) 741-8729  
claguna@libertydentalplan.com  
www.libertydentalplan.com

**LIFE WORTH LEADING-  
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sfoster@macdonaldcenter.org  
www.macdonaldcenter.org

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(630) 995-0218  
dbeaver@mathematica-mpr.com

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NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212  
(619) 606-3212  
shannon.j.klein.naf@us.navy.mil

## **NATHANIEL'S HOPE**

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Orlando, FL 32809  
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www.nathanielshope.org

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middi.dzihic@nationwide.com  
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www.parentingspecialneeds.org

## **POSABILITY**

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Spring Hill, FL 34608  
(352) 593-0439  
info@posability.life  
www.posability.life

## **PROJECT 10**

140 7th Avenue South, SVB 100  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
dphillips5@usf.edu  
www.project10.info

## **PYRAMID, INC.**

311 North Spring Street  
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(850) 567-5752  
abush@pyramidinc.org  
www.pyramidinc.org

## **RARE PATIENT VOICE LLC**

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(410) 598-0076  
jennifer.messier@rarepatientvoice.com  
www.rarepatientvoice.com

## **REMOVING THE BARRIERS**

3035 Eliza Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 201-2944  
info@sportsability.org  
www.removingthebarriers.org

## **RESOURCE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

207 San Marco Avenue  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org  
www.rmtcdhh.org

## **RIFTON**

101 Woodcrest Drive  
Rifton, NY 12471  
(845) 633-6618  
deborahkeiderling@ccimail.com  
www.rifton.com

## **SERTOMA SPEECH & HEARING FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA**

5211 US Highway 19, Suite 200  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
(727) 358-6674  
ian@familyhearinghelp.org  
www.familyhearinghelp.org

## **SHAREWEAR**

922 Ponderosa Drive  
South Daytona, FL 32119  
(239) 410-0210  
lyndsey@sharewearshop.com  
www.sharewearshop.com

## **SHUFFIELDLOWMAN**

1000 Legion Place, Suite 1700  
Orlando, FL 32801  
(407) 581-9800  
dyork@shuffieldlowman.com  
www.shuffieldlowman.com

## **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

7185 Bentley Road, Suite 1  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
www.ssa.gov

## **SPARK PEDIATRICS**

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Port St. Joe, FL 32456  
(404) 665-7369  
taraw@sparkpediatrics.com  
www.sparkpediatrics.com

## **SPECIAL NEEDS LAWYERS, P.A.**

901 Chestnut Street, Suite C  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
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jennifer@specialneedslawyers.com  
www.specialneedslawyers.com

## **SPORTSABILITY ALLIANCE**

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

## **SPRINGBROOK AUTISM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

1 Havenwood Lane  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
(727) 459-6627  
monalisa.mitchell-gray@springbrookbhs.com  
www.springbrookautismbehavioral.com

## **STEP UP FOR STUDENTS**

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(904) 742-4606  
slope@sufs.org  
www.sufs.org

## **SUNRISE COMMUNITY**

9040 Southwest 72nd Street  
Miami, FL 33173  
(305) 495-2686  
vgonzalez@sunrisegroup.org  
www.sunrisegroup.org

## **SUNSHINE HEALTH**

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Orlando, FL 32818  
(813) 928-8950  
zhidy@sunshinehealth.com  
www.sunshinehealth.com

## **SUREHANDS LIFT & CARE SYSTEMS**

982 County Route 1  
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dsardella@surehands.com  
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debby.nicolosi@ucf.edu  
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(407) 928-9496  
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(850) 224-4670  
info@familycafe.net  
www.familycafe.net

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Oviedo, FL 32765  
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info@floridaincludesme.org  
www.floridaincludesme.org

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Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 224-4670  
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www.floridayouthcouncil.org

## **THERAP SERVICES**

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(321) 759-5377  
tricia.woods@therapservices.net  
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8004673224 ext 210  
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3035 Eliza Road  
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(850) 201-2944  
ballerino@ustaflorida.com  
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(407) 823-6064  
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ccie.ucf.edu/inclusive-education-services/

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Jacksonville, FL 32209  
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www.myneedsnetwork.com

## **WELLS FARGO ADVISORS**

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## **WHEELCHAIRS 4 KIDS**

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nina@wheelchairs4kids.org  
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## **WINDSOR LAW LLC**

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## **MICRO-ENTERPRISES**

### **3D PRINTING AND CRAFTS**

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806 Ulmer Road  
Frostproof, FL 33843  
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aheartforheros1@gmail.com  
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### **ABIGAIL'S WOOD CARVING ART**

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abigails-wood-carving-art.square.site

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### **ALL NATURAL DIPS**

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www.angelsbridginggaps.org

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www.equipment4life.com

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kfaison918@gmail.com  
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dlorman@asgo.org

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jacksonhousehold65@outlook.com  
www.youravon.com/thegroomsman

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bankablebodies@aol.com  
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## **BRIAN ANDERSON**

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www.hearingchallengecoach.com

## **HELPERTUNITY**

562 Azalea Bloom Drive  
Apopka, FL 32712  
(407) 234-4768  
eileenandgabriel@earthlink.net  
www.facebook.com/helpertunity

## **HMAARTISTRY**

6544 Everingham Street  
Sanford, FL 32771  
(407) 921-7806  
eallenfamily@gmail.com  
www.hmaartistry.com

## **HOPE EMERGING FROM SUBMERGING**

630 West 4th Street, #6001  
Jacksonville, FL 32801  
(323) 996-8809  
guthrie.crystal@icloud.com

## **HOW WAS YOUR DAY? STUDENT JOURNAL**

4706 Saddle Court  
Saint Cloud, FL 34771  
(407) 509-5439  
hwydjournal@gmail.com  
www.howwasyourdayjournal.com

## **HUGS OF FLORIDA, INC.**

300 Terrace Drive East  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
(727) 266-1550  
hugsflorida@gmail.com  
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## **JAIMIE'S JEWELRY**

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2350 North University Drive  
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## NICK'S ART PROJECT

7532 Nancy Lee Drive  
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## ORLANDO SWEET SHOP

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923 Northeast 6th Street  
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phpfinc@gmail.com

## REACHING FOR THE STARS

2425 Southwest 140th Court  
Ocala, FL 34481  
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15424 Southwest 63rd Terrace  
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Jim@SpecialCompass.org  
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Sufi.florida@gmail.com

## STAYOPTIMISTIC.COM

PO Box 305  
Orange Lake, FL 32681  
(561) 464-9922  
multibots.com@gmail.com  
www.stayoptimistic.com

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## THE ORLANDO DOG TRAINER

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## WE THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE

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Lily.mico@yahoo.com

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Ocala, FL 34473  
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grbxedwards@gmail.com

## BOOK FAIR

### A DIFFERENT NARWORLD

2116 Landside Drive  
Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 775-8697  
adifferentnarworld@gmail.com

### ABLED IN A DISABLED WORLD

10144 Arbor Run Drive, Unit 89  
Tampa, FL 33647  
(813) 600-7715  
melisa@evinbhartsell.com  
www.evinbhartsell.com

### BAHIA AND THE WOODCUTTERS

3628 Lincoln Way  
Cooper City, FL 33026  
(954) 649-6278  
slpmesa@aol.com

### CAPABLE: A STORY OF TRIUMPH FOR CHILDREN THE WORLD HAS JUDGED AS "DIFFERENT"

602 West Mountain Avenue  
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debwinking@outlook.com  
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www.hidden-treasures-ministries.com

## DON'T STARE AT ME PLAY WITH ME

7045 54th Avenue North  
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(727) 692-2679  
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## EMORI WEARS GREEN

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## EXTRAORDINARY JORDYN AND HER BIONIC EARS

10362 Centerwood Court  
Jacksonville, FL 32218  
(614) 560-1828  
drjasminesimmons@gmail.com  
www.drjasminesimmons.com

## I HEARD THE LIGHT: A MOTHER'S STORY OF HER SON'S JOURNEY THROUGH AUTISM TO SELF-EXPRESSION

357 Tavernier Circle  
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## JAMES WILLIAMS, PRESENTER AND AUTHOR WITH AUTISM

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## KATGIRL AND FRIENDS, INC.

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katmagnoli@gmail.com  
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## LIGHTS, CAMERA JOKES!

1229 Graham Street  
Saint Louis, MO 63139  
(314) 484-5647  
aaronwemple@gmail.com  
www.lightscamerajokes.com

## LOOKING BEYOND THE STARS: THE JOURNEY OF A SPECIAL NEEDS MOTHER

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Jacksonville, FL 32222  
(904) 544-2432  
cunninbm1@gmail.com

## MAJOR FAITH

4506 8th Avenue East  
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(941) 962-4530  
jemkmc@gmail.com

## MAKENNA THE MIGHTY

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## MARLENE SOTO

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marlene@helpingswans.com  
www.helpingswans.com

## MARRIAGEABILITY

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Lakeland, FL 33811  
(215) 380-2485  
joan@luke14exchange.org  
www.luke14exchange.org

## MOVING PAST PTSD

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

## NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE

5556 Southwest Gray Fox Drive  
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(904) 553-7432  
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www.newworldsreading.com

## OPERATION LIGHT FORCE

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## TEARS OF PAIN, MY LIFE WITH AUTISM

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(321) 663-8538  
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## THE NEURAL CLASSROOM: RESTORING THE STRESSED BRAIN

413B Howard Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33815  
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reasontgetherlearning@gmail.com  
www.drvincecallahan.com/

## TREASURE OF MORPHEUS

1610 Orange Blossom Trail, #56  
Orlando, FL 32805  
(813) 337-9343  
animatorlesha@gmail.com  
www.hiddenstargraphics.com

# Help

# Support



## The Family Café



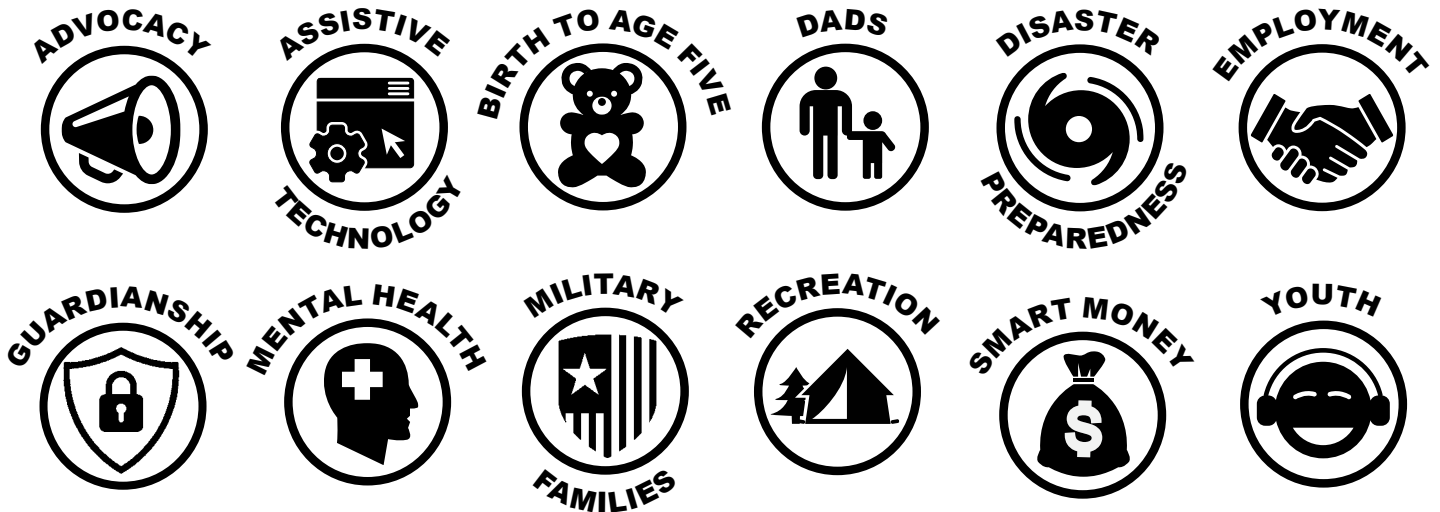
...by making a  tax-deductible donation today!

Thank you for your continued Support!



# The 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ TRACKED SESSIONS

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



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

Family changing rooms are located in Bayhill 23 and Silver Spring II.

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



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 Education

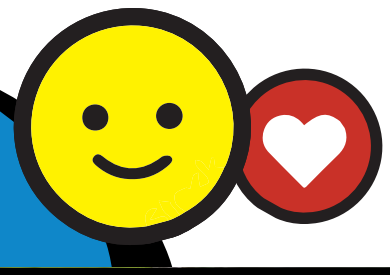


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

*Some sessions and activities at The 26th Annual Family Café may be photographed or videotaped. By participating in The Annual Family Café, registrants agree that The Family Café has the right to use their image, likeness, and/or voice or sound recording taken in connection to The 26th Annual Family Café in all media.*

# FRIDAY

## June 14, 2024



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

**Opening Session and Keynote Address  
Plaza International Ballroom**



**MARLENE SALLO**

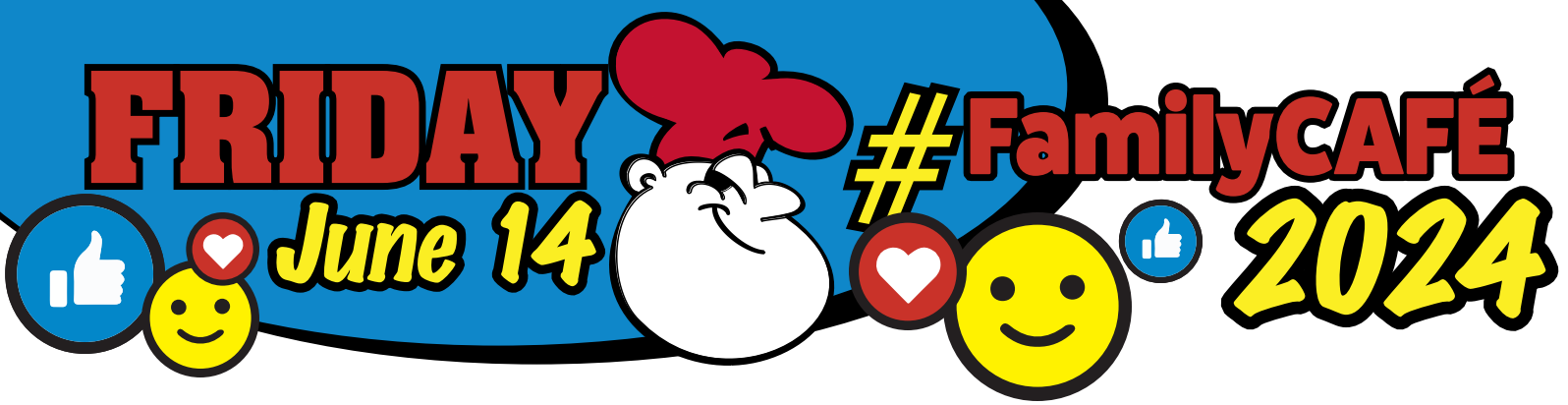
# We Are All Worthy, Always

The Family Café welcomes Marlene Sallo, Executive Director of the National Disability Rights Network and parent to a child with a disability, to The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café. She is the first woman, the first Latina, and the first person with a disability to lead NDRN, the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and the Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities.

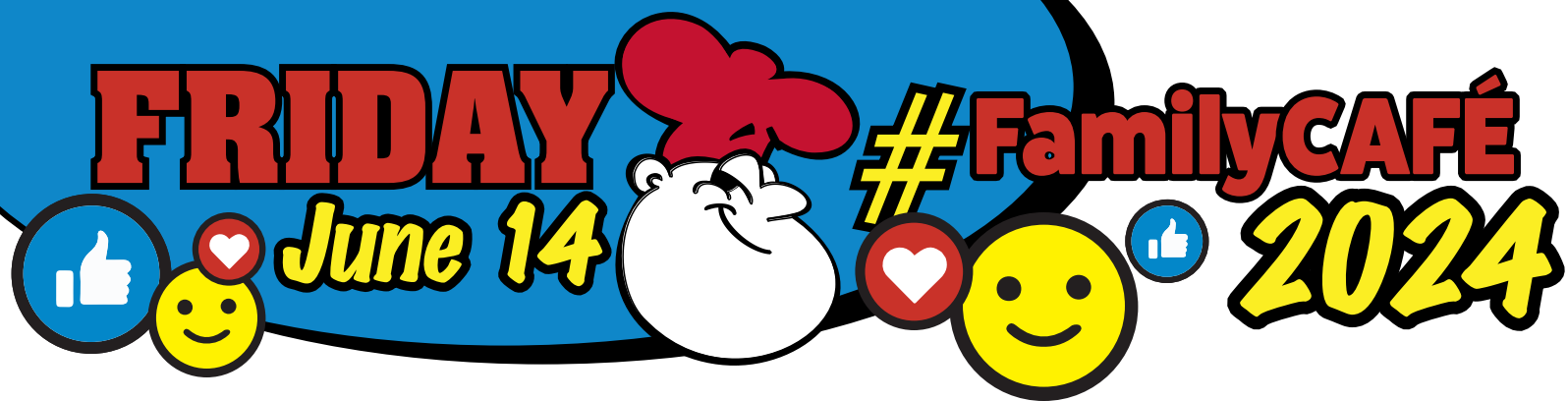
Before joining NDRN, Sallo served as Director of Preventing Targeted Violence at the McCain Institute for International Leadership; Executive Director of the Massachusetts Disability Law Center (DLC), the federally designated Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts; and an education attorney with Disability Rights Florida, providing protection and advocacy to students with disabilities and children in the state's child welfare system. In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed her to serve as staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and she also worked as chief of staff and senior counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service.

Join Marlene for a conversation about what “accessibility” and “accommodations” truly mean when it comes to the education and support of children and youth with disabilities. While these terms are often used in reference to individual changes to a classroom, curriculum, or learning environment, Marlene encourages families and advocates to think about them in the larger context of ensuring that our children, youth and young adults are welcomed into a culture of equity and justice. Every instance of accommodation or accessibility offers a chance to create a sense of acceptance for students, and to ensure that they always feel that they belong. Accommodations in learning environments are fundamental to the education of students with disabilities, but it is also essential that the students the system accommodates come away with the understanding that we are all worthy, always.





- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Old MacDonald’s Sensory Farm sponsored by Children’s Medical Services, Orlando M
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunshine Health Community Connection Center, Rainbow Spring I
- 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Florida Community Care Discovery Hub, Blue Spring I
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Children’s Medical Services Quiet Room, Rainbow Spring II
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. NSU College of Law Independent Living Kitchen – Where We Cook Up Supported Decision Making Agreements and other Guardianship Alternatives, Blue Spring II
  
- 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open, 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. SportsAbility Sampler, Regency Ballroom
- 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Club Café sponsored by the Florida Department of Health, Orlando L
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Performance by the 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. Performance by Rebecca Oslacky, Regency Rotunda
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hands-on Fun with Florida 4-H, Coral Spring
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections and Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, Manatee Spring I
  
- 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
- 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. *Early Steps, Early Wishes Playgroup, Orlando N (English & Spanish)*
- 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Old MacDonald’s Sensory Farm sponsored by Children’s Medical Services, Orlando M
- 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunshine Health Community Connection Center, Rainbow Spring I
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Critical Needs in Accessing Health Care Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs: A Community Forum for Families, Rainbow Spring II
  
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Disability Rights Florida Public Input Forum, Barrel Spring
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators and Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom
- 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
- 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level
- 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Performance by Milosz Gasior, Regency Rotunda
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor’s Summit on Disabilities, Plaza International Ballroom



## 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### **What I Need to Know to Successfully Transition from High School**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 1

Disability Rights Florida will present an overview on what a student with a disability should consider when transitioning from high school. We will cover the different options and considerations to prepare the student for life after high school and adulthood, including education, employment, self-determination, and benefits. This presentation will be interactive and open to questions from the participants. Session participants will also receive a copy of the Transition Toolkit and instructions on how to access the guide through Disability Rights Florida's website.

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Victor Panoff  
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### **Social Security Presents: Navigating Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Work Incentives**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 2

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

Tina Williams  
Social Security Administration

Dorothy Bailey  
Social Security Administration

Danielle West-Lane  
Social Security Administration





### **TikToking for the Greater Good**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 3

In April 2023, Mandy created a grocery haul video that caught the attention of United Against Poverty Orlando as a response to the negative stigma of food banks and other programs. This created a working relationship that has made headlines by raising money for a new roof for their grocery program. In this presentation, Mandy shares her experience and helpful tips in creating meaningful content for any nonprofit, self-advocacy group, sports team, etc.

Mandy Ranochak  
MAGICAL Self Advocacy  
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Orlando, FL 32811  
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amanda.ranochak@gmail.com



### **Access the Vote Florida (ATVFL): Voting with a Disability in Florida**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 4

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 an interactive activity that will incorporate voting facts and information. There will also be an accessible voting machine available to sample and test.

Deborah Dietz  
Disability Independence Group  
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Marilyn Baldwin  
The League of Women Voters Florida  
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Laura-Lee Minutello  
Disability Rights Florida  
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200  
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(850) 488-9071 x9730  
lauram@disabilityrightsflorida.org

### **Dispute Resolution and Monitoring (DRM) Alternative Resolution Options**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 5

The presentation is designed to assist parents with the available alternative resolution options, such as state sponsored mediation and facilitated IEP, to resolve disputes between districts.

Bryce Milton  
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Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
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bryce.milton1@fldoe.org



## **Disability and Disasters: Rights to Access and Accommodations**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 6

Persons with disabilities disproportionately face challenges and exclusion daily and magnified during all phases of a disaster. Persons with a disability are four times more likely to be injured or killed during a disaster. The health, safety, and independence of persons with disabilities are at a greater risk when emergencies and natural disasters strike. Many federal laws ensure access to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities for those with disabilities. This presentation will educate attendees on how these current laws are designed to ensure access to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities for persons with disabilities.

Bryan Russell  
Disability Rights Florida  
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 617-9748  
bryanr@disabilityrightsflorida.org

## **Raise a Capable Kid Regardless of Diagnosis or Challenge**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 7

No two kids are the same, but research shows that parents who raise their child to be capable share some game-changing habits! Parent, educator, and author Dr. Deborah Winking introduces 12 evidence-based Habits™ that will help you raise your child with maximum agency and independence. She offers compelling real-life stories and explains the neuroscience underlying each habit. “Capable” speaks first to parents, but equally to teachers, therapists, and doctors who support children or young adults who identify as neurodivergent or disabled. All participants will leave with practical strategies for making the Habits™ their own.

Deborah Winking  
Center for Educational Leadership (CEL)  
University of Washington  
602 West Mountain Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
(970) 686-7361  
debwinking@outlook.com

## **Facilitated IEP for Parents: Building Collaborative Partnerships**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 8

An effective way to build collaborative partnerships with your child’s IEP team is through Facilitative Practices. In a Facilitated IEP meeting, you can build partnerships, reach true consensus and agreements, focus the IEP on the needs of the student, and exercise effective communication and reflective listening. Parents too can feel capable to have a voice, and manage conflict. This session will help empower you as a parent to take an active role in your child’s IEP through some strategies we will share during the session.

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Rebecca Cox  
FDLRS Heartland  
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Lake Placid, FL 33852  
(863) 531-0402 x10715  
rebecca.cox@heartlanded.org

## **Creative Solutions to Optimizing Outcomes for Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 9

From eligibility to graduation, the needs of students who are deaf/hard of hearing are unique due to the low incidence nature and high variability of this population. In this presentation, we will dive into the highly-specialized considerations related to the education of students who are deaf/hard of hearing and explore resources for maximizing efforts to increase outcomes for this unique group of learners. Attend this presentation for information on eligibility for deaf/hard of hearing programs in Florida, considerations for where and how a student who is deaf/hard of hearing may receive instruction, communication considerations, and collaborative partners that can support students who are deaf/hard of hearing in Florida public schools.

Sherry Conrad

Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

207 San Marco Avenue

St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 827-2683

conrads@fsdbk12.org



## **Identifying Behavioral Triggers and Tips for Taming Them**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 10

Are you a parent or a professional who is often at a loss for managing challenging behaviors? Is the idea of an upcoming deployment or PCS causing extra stress and concern over how to manage behaviors that will be triggered by an interruption to your established routine? All behaviors are communication. This training will provide opportunities to observe typical and atypical behaviors across the board, identify possible triggers leading to challenging behaviors, and apply new tools and strategies to overcome these events. Come to this session and leave with a free tool kit to help alleviate stressors anywhere you go.

Kimberly Brown

Fleet and Family Support Center

920 USS James Madison Road

Building 1051

Kings Bay, GA 31547

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Katherine Jagger

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JBC

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## **Nonspeakers Glowup: Getting to Higher Ed from Special Ed**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 11

A large percentage of students either do not attend post-secondary or do not graduate with a bachelor's degree. Our family would like to share our experiences with accessing post-secondary education at a four year school with a significant disability. Grace has non-verbal autism and uses AAC and needs full time aide support.

Rachel Falleur

Belmont University

101 Digby Court

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Rachel.falleur@bruins.belmont.edu

Angela Falleur

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### Specialized Mental Health Counseling for Dual-Diagnosed Individuals

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 12

Mental health is an essential aspect of our overall health, even more so for those with special needs. Many practitioners are not equipped to assist those that are dual diagnosed. A significant amount of the special needs population is only referred to behavior therapy services but may not be aware of the benefits of specialized mental health counseling. This presentation will help with an understanding of mental health counseling and behavioral therapy, especially when the two services are used in conjunction for a greater success. We will also learn about the different funding sources available to cover these services.

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### Exploring Parent, Patient, and Provider Partnerships to Improve Access to Behavioral/Mental Healthcare

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Celebration 13

Families and their primary care providers can work together to improve children and youth's access to behavioral healthcare. Join the Florida Department of Health's Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program, to hear what we have learned from families and professionals about integrating behavioral healthcare into the primary care setting. We will also explore activities and resources for you and your doctor to improve children and youth's access to the behavioral healthcare services they need.

Staci Jagoe  
Title V Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs Program  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 491-0972  
Staci.Jagoe@flhealth.gov

Joni Hollis  
Title V Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs Program  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
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(850) 901-6303  
Joni.Hollis@flhealth.gov



## **What Happens After Graduation for Students with Intellectual Disabilities? College is for You!**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 14

Did you know students with intellectual disabilities now have the opportunity to attend inclusive Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTP)? The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities will share information about FPCTPs available at technical colleges, state colleges and universities throughout the state. Information about scholarships available to students attending FPCTPs, the credentials and certificates students can earn, and how students are succeeding will be presented. Join us to learn what opportunities are available after graduating from high school in this session. Learn how you can go to college too!

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## **Navigating the Decision of a Group Home**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 15

Are you looking for a place to support your loved one as they get older? What would happen to your loved one if you are no longer able to be a full-time caregiver? A group home may not be a desired solution, but sometimes is a necessary one. At this presentation, we will discuss the pros and cons of group homes.

Michelle Oreilly  
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Apopka, FL 32703  
(770) 633-2740  
moreilly23@yahoo.com



## **Achieving Your Networking Goals Through Social Media**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebration 16

We use social media all the time to watch videos, reconnect with friends, and to experience the world through the eyes of others. Have you ever thought of using it to connect with others and exchange information? Maybe you want to learn more about disability? Or want to help someone succeed in their goals, or even find a job? Join us for a discussion on how you can utilize social media to achieve goals.

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shevie@floridayouthcouncil.org

JJ Humphrey  
The Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino  
The Florida Youth Council

Tamara Koran  
The Florida Youth Council

Sydney Lanier  
The Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman  
The Florida Youth Council

Morgan Griffin  
The Florida Youth Council

Alex Gonzalez  
The Florida Youth Council

## **Embrace Life: Finding Gifts in Adversity**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 17

Join us for a passionate, multimedia presentation as renowned motivational speakers Wendy Soderman and her differently-abled son, Korey, share their heartfelt life story and transformational strategies on how you can face adversity with an “above the line” optimistic perspective. After participating in their “Embrace Life” inspirational presentation you will be empowered to face challenges and turn them into gifts of wisdom to create your own authentic life. Wendy and Korey’s life story was featured in a documentary narrated by Robert Downey Jr. They were also speakers on “The Secret” motivational cruise along with Bob Proctor and Rev. Michael Beckwith. “Wendy is proof that we can all have an extraordinary life.” Kenny Loggins (Grammy Award winning singer songwriter) “Wendy’s vision of creating a mindful generation is remarkable.” Goldie Hawn (Actress)

Wendy Soderman  
Breathe Modern Meditation  
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West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
(561) 313-9372  
soderman@learnideal.com

Korey Soderman  
Korey’s Krew  
230 Lytton Court  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
(561) 405-8219  
koreysoderman@yahoo.com



## **Fiduciary Accounting, Trusts & Taxes: What Guardians Need to Know**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 18

This presentation will provide an overview of the different reporting and filing requirements guardians need to be aware of. We will talk about court accounting requirements, and local, state, and federal tax requirements for both individuals as well as special needs trusts.

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Nicole Finegan  
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## **Accommodations: Assisting Students with Disabilities - The “What” for Parents and Families**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 19

This session will provide an overview for parents and families as we explore the accommodations consideration process. We will discuss how modifications differ from accommodations. This learning opportunity will support parents in being informed members of the IEP team.

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Sallie Payne  
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## **Just Keep Swimming: Thriving in the Midst of Grief & Loss**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 20

While there is beauty in loving and caring for children in an adoptive, foster, or kinship family, there are also various levels of grief and loss. We feel emptiness when a child moves on to another placement or is reunified, sadness when we see how trauma experiences have impacted their lives, and grief when we realize our kids' developmental differences might not allow for typical development. It is important to figure out ways to work through grief and loss without getting stuck in the seaweed. We must learn to "just keep swimming."

Barb Clark

NACAC

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## **Power of Community: The Journey of the Single Mom Raising a Child with Disabilities**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 21

Come join us for an informal discussion where we share our struggles and celebrate wins that come with the single mom's journey in raising a child with disabilities. What is one thing that, if you could share with another single mom just starting her journey, you would tell her? How do you take time for you? Do you have a tribe, a community that surrounds you? How do you find the grit and resilience to get through the tough seasons? What are your challenges and what comes easy to you? Come prepared to listen and share, both taking away invaluable information from someone who may have been where you are OR being a life-giving voice into someone else's journey.

Jennifer McKinney

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## **Planning with Special Needs Trusts and Planning YOUR Future**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 22

Properly structured trusts can determine how an individual with special needs is provided for. But they are only expensive pieces of paper unless they are properly and adequately funded. Find out what some possible funding options are and why some may be better than others. Long-term Care Planning for Parents of Special Needs Children Long-term Care (LTC) planning is something that parents of special needs children may want to take care of earlier in life than usually considered. Many of these parents face physical challenges in caring for their child that may increase their chance of needing LTC, but also increase the chance they may not be approved for a policy. The good news is that today's LTC solutions are not like your grandmother's LTC policy. Join us to learn more about why planning now is important, and the different options that exist today to help pay for future LTC needs.

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Steven Hamilton JD, CLU, ChFC

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## **Pawsome Actions!**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 24

A pawsitively exciting presentation! The audience will learn about what service animals are, where they can go, and the various types of jobs they can do. They will also learn the difference between emotional support, therapy, and service animals. A demonstration of some trained tasks will take place after the presentation.

Carol Christopherson  
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14897 Yellow Water Lane  
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buddynme@bellsouth.net



## **Disability Disclosure in the Workplace**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 25

Disclosure is the act of making your disability known to others. Disclosing a disability to an employer can be especially challenging. In this presentation, we will identify when it is appropriate to disclose and how much to disclose, recognize common illegal questions asked by employers, and introduce and summarize the ADA interactive process.

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Lindsay Rassoull  
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## **From DNR to College Graduate: A Dad's Strategies and Tactics**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 26

Tom and Linda's son Mac was very ill when he was born. At two months of age, the doctors at a nationally renowned hospital suggested a do-not-resuscitate order. They said he probably wouldn't live a year and would never have a normal sense of consciousness . . . "he will be a vegetable." Mac is now a college graduate and has a third-degree black belt in tai-kwon-do. When your child has a disability both parents are needed all the more. As Dads, we are at our best when our responsibilities complement and support the 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 the discussion of the strategies and tactics I used to help Mac succeed. Together we can share our successes, struggles, and lessons learned.

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Longwood, FL 32779  
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tomstarnes1@gmail.com

## Presenting Your Medicaid Fair Hearing

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 27

This presentation will assist the attendee in understanding how to present their Medicaid and Medicaid waiver Fair Hearing. Topics during the presentation include: Preparation prior to the Fair Hearing; Documentation and evidence to submit to the Fair Hearing Office; How to present your case; and What to expect during and after the Fair Hearing.

Angela Caldwell

Disability Rights Florida

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angelac@disabilityrightsflorida.org

## Asociaciones de Atención Médica: Familias y Proveedores que planifican juntos para obtener los mejores resultados de salud de su hijo

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 28

La asociación familiar con los proveedores de atención médica es importante para una atención centrada en el paciente y la familia. Usted es quien mejor conoce a su hijo. Puede participar en la toma de decisiones compartidas, la planificación de la atención médica y la preparación de la transición de la atención médica con los proveedores. La asociación con médicos y terapeutas garantizará la mejor atención para su hijo. El trabajo del Programa para Niños y Jóvenes con Necesidades de Atención Médica Especial de nuestro Departamento de Salud de la Florida apoya a las familias y proveedores que trabajan juntos en un hogar médico centrado en el paciente. Únase a dos de los líderes familiares de nuestro programa para obtener información, estrategias y recursos actuales para fortalecer su asociación con los proveedores de su hijo.

Carmen Melendez

Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program

Children's Medical Services

Florida Department of Health

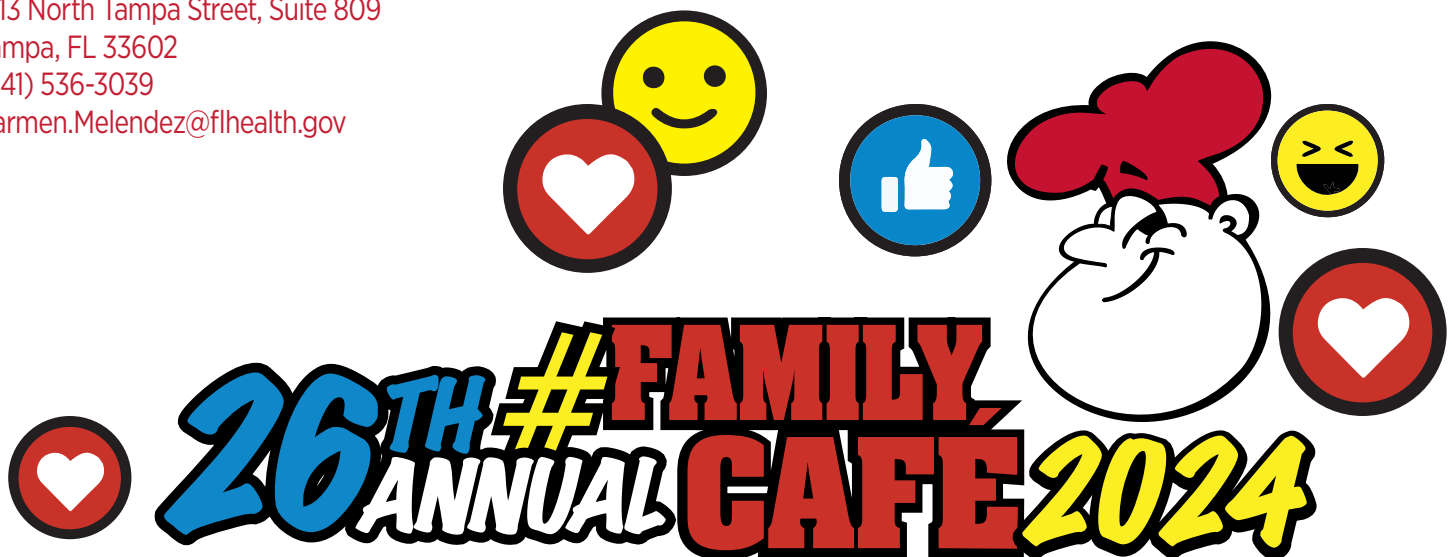
Park Trammel Building

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### **Hooked on a Feeling: Helping Children Understand Emotions**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 29

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.

Adriana Peralta  
Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan  
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### **Routine-Based Learning for Students with Visual Impairments**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 30

Routine-based learning that occurs in a natural environment, including the home, provides the most effective way to teach early intervention activities for very young learners and students with multiple impairments with a visual impairment. Skills learned are functional and significant for children and their caregivers when developmental interventions are embedded in children's regular routines and activities. Children learn new skills because they are predictable, functional, and arise multiple times throughout the day. Parents and guardians can focus on scaffolding additional, more complex learning based on what their child has previously mastered. When all team members working with a student use daily routines as the basis for a child's interventions, they can integrate learning activities without disrupting the flow of what children are naturally doing and learning. Embedding early intervention activities into routines and activities in the home results in increased skill development for young children with special needs or developmental delays.

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Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired  
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chart@fimcvi.org

### **Dress to Empower: The Adaptive Revolution (Bilingual (English/Spanish))**

Friday, June 14  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Bayhill 31

The presentation on adaptive apparel and inclusion will delve into the transformative world of fashion that caters to diverse abilities and needs. It will highlight the significance of adaptive apparel in fostering inclusivity within the fashion industry. The key points covered will include the evolution of adaptive fashion, showcasing innovative designs that prioritize both style and functionality. Emphasis will be placed on breaking down barriers by creating clothing that accommodates various physical abilities and challenges.

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Emeline Fines  
Lady Fines Adaptive Apparel & Rebels with a Cause  
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efines@ladyfines.com

## **The Secret of the Diagnosis: How Race & Culture affect Early Intervention and Therapy**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 32

There has been a great deal of discussion within established Autistic research think tanks concerning lack of outreach in socially economically challenged, minority, and ethnic groups. Over the last year, Blautism, Inc. & Blautism Education have worked closely with groups to tackle these concerns. One space which addresses these concerns holistically is rural communities. The impact in many of these areas addresses not only economics and race, but lines which intersect. Culture: which in rural America is not bound by color, but a way of life. Service Deserts: many service providers refuse to travel, and do not understand how to navigate the communities.

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## **Reimagining Residential Care for Kids in Foster Care**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Bayhill 33

Children with autism are 2.4 times more likely to enter foster care than children without any intellectual differences. We will explore the importance of establishing ideal group home settings to address the unique needs of children with Autism and other related diagnoses. Come to learn practical strategies to promote independence, create supportive environments, and how to increase community involvement for lasting impact.

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Shanita Hairston  
Strive Youth & Family Services  
295 Glenneyre Circle  
Saint Augustine, FL 32092



## **Explore the Benefits of Virtual Fitness: Adaptative Exercise Class**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Regency O

SportsAbility Alliance and SPIRIT Club believe exercise is essential to living a happy and healthy life, and should be accessible to everyone. Whether you're experienced with exercise or a total beginner; comfortable in gyms or don't feel like they are the right fit for you; able to participate in typical fitness programs or face limited opportunities due to a disability, virtual fitness can be an option as a place where you can successfully work toward your fitness goals. Join us for a virtual workout and experience the benefits of staying active. This fully inclusive and accessible workout provides adaptations for all levels of ability, so everyone can participate!

Fran Gilbert  
SportsAbility Alliance  
3035 Eliza Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 201-2944 x1  
fgilbert@sportsability.org

Jared Ciner  
The Spirit Club  
10417 Kensington Parkway  
Kensington, MD 20895  
(303) 883-4364  
jared@spirit-club.com



## **Cerebral Palsy Roundtable**

Friday, June 14

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Manatee Spring 2

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  
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cathybear143@aol.com

**2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda

**2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level

**3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Critical Needs in Accessing Health Care Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs: A Community Forum for Families, Rainbow Spring II**

Calling all families with children, youth, and young adults with special health care needs: The Florida Department of Health wants to hear from you. Please join staff from the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program and share your experiences in accessing health care for your children and ideas for improvement. Your voice will be heard, and the information will be used to help support future activities related to accessing patient- and family-centered health care services.

**3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Disability Rights Florida Public Input Forum, Barrel Spring**

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**

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

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Celebration 1

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

Angela Love  
Social Security Administration

Tina Williams  
Social Security Administration

## **My Needs Network: A Web Platform Designed for the Special Needs Community to Find the Resources they Need**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 2

My Needs Network is a free, user-friendly website designed to support special needs communities nationwide. It acts as a central hub for parents, families, social workers, case managers, and non-profits, making it easy for them to collaborate and access essential tools and services. The platform aims to simplify the process without requiring significant changes to their accustomed methods of finding resources. This presentation reviews the unique ways My Needs Network helps individuals discover both clinical and non-clinical tools and services. We will also discuss the platform's innovative 'community ownership' design, backed by research, ensuring its long-term sustainability.

Mark Fafard  
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College of Medicine-Jacksonville Office of Research Affairs  
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Jacksonville, FL 32209  
(904) 588-2855  
mark.fafard@jax.ufl.edu



## **FROM 1: Starting Your Family-Run Organization and Building a Board**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 3

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  
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jferrone@ferroneassociates.com

Joe McCann  
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jmccann@familycafe.net

## **Strategies to Support and Enhance Executive Functions Skills for Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 4

Join us for an engaging session on supporting and improving executive functions (EF) in children with Autism and other developmental disabilities. Learn about EF, its significance across environments, what age-appropriate EF skills look like spanning toddler to teen, and common challenges for children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Discover simple, impactful strategies for home and across environments designed for easy implementation through fun and interactive practice.

Elizabeth Parent  
1009 Southeast 14th Avenue  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441  
(754) 227-5043  
eliztracy22@gmail.com

## Overview of Section 504 (Bilingual (English/Spanish))

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 5

At the end of this training session, participants will gain knowledge of what a Section 504 Accommodation plan is and its procedures.

Mirtha Brennan  
Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
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mirtha.brennan@fldoe.org



## Managing the Unexpected: How to Navigate Everyday Emergencies and Build Personal Resiliency

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 6

Learn how to build your own toolkit to meet the challenges and potential emergencies unique to you and your family. Presenters will share their personal experiences with staying ahead of stress, utilizing sensory kits and other tools of the trade, and lessening the consequences of emergencies big and small that can pop up every day. Resources, community services, and strategies for successfully navigating everyday challenges will be shared by presenters with hands-on experience. Walk away with a "To-Do" list that can equip you and your family to become personally resilient, prepared for disasters, better equipped, and better able to effectively handle the stresses and unexpected stumbling blocks life has a way of throwing at you.

Kristin Korinko, PhD, BCBA, LMHC, NCC  
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karen.hagan@apdcares.org

## A Collaborative Approach to Supporting the Individual Needs of Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and or Blind/Visually Impaired in the Least Restrictive Environment

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 8

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.

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Florida Inclusion Network  
Florida State University, Suite 4500  
University Center Building C  
Tallahassee, FL 32306  
(850) 645-7593  
kclaude@fsu.edu

Sherry Conrad  
Resource Materials and Technology  
Center for the D/HH  
sherry.conrad@rmtcdhh.org

Cheri Hart  
Florida Instructional Materials  
Center for the Visually Impaired  
1208 Wishing Well Way  
Tampa, FL 33619  
(813) 485-4595  
chart@fimcvi.org

## **Safety in Our Schools**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 9

Students with disabilities connect uniquely with the world around them. Many have limited situational awareness, which can make it difficult for them to differentiate between what is safe and unsafe. Given the increase in Baker Acts, threat assessments, bullying and suspensions, it's more imperative than ever that parents know their rights to safe school environments and some of the solutions that could be right around the corner, such as cameras in classrooms. Don't miss this training that will include strategies that can be added to any IEP, crisis plan, or School Improvement Plan.

Stacey Hoaglund  
Autism Society of Florida  
5505 Southwest 119 Avenue  
Cooper City, FL 33330  
(954) 261-3703  
Stacey@autismfl.org



## **Military Family Town Hall**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 10

This military family town hall is a great way to start your Family Café! Come meet and interact with other military family members, civilian and military service providers, and Florida Military Family Special Needs Network partners. We would like to hear from you about your concerns and views on issues related to military lifestyle. There will be opportunities to identify gaps in the support systems for military-connected families, discuss effective interventions, voice concerns, and ask questions for follow-up action. All military-connected members and their families – including Active Duty, Reserves, Guard and Retirees – as well as any civilians who work with or who have loved ones in the military, will enjoy this session!

Scott Sevin  
Florida Military Family Special Needs Network  
1313 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 301  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
(305) 535-0914  
scott@7-dippity.com

Maria Barkmeier  
Florida Military Family Special Needs Network  
1313 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 301  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
(305) 535-0914

## **Top Ten Tips for Navigating the Child Find Process**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 11

“Top Ten Tips for Navigating the Child Find Process” is a must-attend session for anyone who is thinking about going through the public school district to acquire a free evaluation, or are getting ready to go through the process for a reevaluation. This session is also helpful for anyone who is unfamiliar with the child-find process and would like to learn what it is.

Kate McConnell  
ADAC  
3200 North Lake Shore Drive, 2404  
Chicago, IL 60657  
(773) 251-8033  
katemcconnell@theadac.com



## Dual Diagnoses: Serving Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Co-Occurring Mental Health Diagnosis

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 12

This session will cover APD's current collaboration with the Department of Children and Families to support efforts to address mental resiliency in Florida. APD is spearheading this program in Leon, Hillsborough, Broward, and Orange County.

Kristin Korinko, PhD, BCBA, LMHC, NCC  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
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kristin.korinko@apdcares.org

Rita Castor  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
111 So. Sapodilla Ave  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 837-5564  
rita.castor@apdcares.org

Silvia Quintana  
Broward Behavior Health Coalition  
3521 W Broward Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312



## Making Fitness Fun!

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 13

Most folks with special needs dislike the other "F" word, also known as fitness, because they associate it with years of therapy in a doctor's office or clinic, OR it's been used as punishment. In this course I will help you find ways to make fitness fun again using workout ideas and motivational tools that that have worked successfully for me. For the past 17 years I have been providing personal training services for special populations.

Anna Woods  
sheStrength  
4516 North Kent Road  
Buhler, KS 67522  
(620) 877-7503  
anna@shestrength.com

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

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 14

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  
Florida Department of Education  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
707 Carolina Avenue  
Lynn Haven, FL 32444  
(850) 872-4383  
brandi.boyerrutherford@vr.fldoe.org

Jesse Riddle  
Florida Dept of Education  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
8112 Centralia Court, Suite 102  
Leesburg, FL 34788  
(352) 630-6197



## What Comes Next? (Transitioning from Youth to Adult)

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 16

Ever finished a TV series, or trilogy but wondered what comes next? In the show that we call life, who is going to come in and guest star? Come join us and hear some of our FYC members talk about their experiences in what we call life while living with diverse disabilities.

Josue Tapia  
The Florida Youth Council  
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Derek Carraway  
The Florida Youth Council  
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Tallahassee 32301  
(239) 823-8790  
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Christina Waldron  
The Florida Youth Council

Morgan Griffin  
The Florida Youth Council

Jakel Baker  
The Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman  
The Florida Youth Council

Tamara Koran  
The Florida Youth Council

Sky Tristan-Elliot  
The Florida Youth Council

## Special Olympics Triathletes

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 17

Come and visit Marlynn Stutzman, the first female with Autism to run the Boston Marathon and the Iron Man in Kona, Hawaii in one year. She will share with you how Special Olympics helped her understand that she could make goals and complete them. You will learn how to break your dreams down into small parts, work hard, complete that goal, and then set another goal. With hard work and determination, you can reach your goals. Your goal is to become independent in your thoughts and dreams. I don't want people to be like me. I want you to be like you.

Marlynn Stutzman  
Special Olympics  
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New Port Richey, FL 34653  
(727) 364-7756  
marlynnstutzman@gmail.com

John Yerke  
Special Olympic Athlete Leadership Mentor  
4943 Myrtle Oak Drive, Unit 15  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
(727) 255-4618  
jyerke3@gmail.com



## Future-Proofing Your Child's Journey: Navigating Guardianship, Alternatives to Guardianship, and Special Needs Trusts

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 18

Join us for an insightful presentation exploring guardianship and its alternatives and special needs trust planning for individuals with disabilities. Designed to protect and maximize your child's potential and ease your worries, this session offers a comprehensive yet accessible overview for parents, caregivers, and professionals. We'll simplify complex topics, highlighting strategies for independence and financial stability, including ABLE accounts. Gain valuable insights and strategic approaches to enhance your child's future. This must-attend event promises actionable knowledge and inspiration. Don't miss the opportunity to explore effective options that can profoundly impact your child's journey!

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Hanney Narkir  
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hanney@floridalegacylaw.com

## What's New in Oral Healthcare and Coverage

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 19

Navigating the health care system is difficult for anyone. The presentation will provide an update on access to care to the oral health system for individuals with special health care needs. It will discuss dental insurance and financing options that are available in Florida and suggest helpful tips on how to navigate the system. It will also look at what is new in dental treatments and materials. The presentation will discuss various home care and treatment options that may be available – both traditional and non-traditional options – to aid in achieving better oral health.

Dr. Catherine Bridges, DMD  
Dental Executive Director, Division of Community Health Promotion  
Public Health Dental Program  
Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A14  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1724  
(850) 245-4333  
catherine.bridges@flhealth.gov



### The ABCs and 123s of SNTs

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 21

What is a Special Needs Trust (SNT) and why should families consider creating one? A Special Needs Trust is created to protect resources for an individual with a disability. Contrary to what you may have heard, Special Needs Trusts can be easy and affordable. We will discuss the various types of SNTs and how they can preserve the valuable public benefits for our loved one with a disability. Attendees will learn cost-effective ways to establish these trusts and provide for a sound, reliable plan to look after their financial legacy for the family member.

Kole Long  
Special Needs Lawyers, PA  
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Clearwater, FL 33756  
(727) 443-7898  
Kole@specialneedslawyers.com



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

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 22

This workshop will discuss what a Life Care Plan is and the steps recommended to create one for a loved one with special needs. The 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 own personal agenda. Following the planning stages can help insure the type of care and quality of life for your loved one's well-being today and tomorrow.

Douglas Vogel  
MassMutual Special Care  
4740 South Ocean Boulevard, 505  
Highland Beach, FL 33487  
(973) 303-7856  
dvoegel@financialguide.com

## **The Efficacy of Music Therapy on Verbal and Non-verbal Communication Development**

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Bayhill 24

This presentation will focus on the use of Music Therapy in children and adults with physical, behavioral, and developmental differences. It will focus primarily on how music is used as a medium to aid in communication. There will be particular emphasis on Music Therapy and non-verbal self-expression (additional emphasis on MT and AAC devices).

Karen Howell

Soundwave Music Therapy

8353 Fire Fly Lane

Jacksonville, FL 32244

(912) 996-5040

khowell@soundwavemt.com



### **Entrepreneurship: One Family's Perspective**

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 25

Our hopes and dreams for our daughter, Allison, were basic survival for her first 18 years. Now she is a successful entrepreneur! Allison will share her struggles and triumphs as she fought for her survival. She will relate how she has been able to fulfill her dreams of becoming a chef for her dog treat company. As a family, we've become a business! We all work together to help Allison accomplish her life-long aspirations and exceed her goals. The path to successful employment/entrepreneurship is challenging. We are happy to share our (six years and counting) journey with you!

Allison Fogarty

Doggy Delights by Allison LLC

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Clermont, FL 34711

(140) 720-5889

DoggyDelightsByAllison@gmail.com

Pat Fogarty

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John Fogarty

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### **Differently Abled (Overcoming Adversity)**

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 26

What started as a simple beauty pageant turned into so much more. When my special little angel and I perform on stage at these pageants in the talent portion, it is so much more than just a dance. When we hit the dance floor it shows that even though you're different, you are able. So put your dancing shoes on and let your light shine, as seen on our viral video "Mckenzie's Dancing Daddy" on YouTube.

Mike Carey

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West Melbourne, FL 32904

(470) 385-9366

Mgcarey2002@yahoo.com



## **The Criminal Justice System and People with Disabilities**

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 27

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

Andrew Sagona Esq.

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Orlando, FL 32828

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andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com

## **Health Care Transition Planning: Are You Ready?**

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 28

Health Care Transition planning is the process of moving from a child/family centered health care approach to an adult/patient centered health care approach. Parents and Youth: Are your pediatric health care providers helping you prepare for adult health services? Professionals: Are you supporting youth and families with health care transition readiness and information? We have resources to help! Florida Department of Health's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program assists students, families, and professionals on this needed part of health care transition planning. Join us for current information to help move from pediatric to adult health care services.

Linda Starnes

Title V Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs Program

Children's Medical Services

Florida Department of Health

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Carmen Melendez

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Children's Medical Services

Park Trammel Building

1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 809

Tampa, FL 32399

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Carmen.Melendez@flhealth.gov

## **Motivational Interviewing Skills: The Adolescent Years**

Friday, June 14

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 29

The application of Motivational Interviewing techniques with adolescents can really speak to their developmental needs for individuation and increasingly goal-oriented behaviors as well as target emergent issues that could lead to impaired health, such as substance use. This training offers insight into some of the basic Motivational Interviewing skills and how parents, caregivers, and clinicians can use these skills when working with children and adolescents. Presented by Sunshine Health.

Chad Sedam

Sunshine Health

PO Box 459089

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345

(866) 796-0530

Chad.R.Sedam@centene.com



## **Early Intervention Vision Screening: How to Screen Infants and Toddlers**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 30

This presentation will provide an understanding of the importance of screening vision birth to 3 years, how to provide the screening, follow-up, and the referral process.

Angel Perez  
Florida and Virgin Islands Deafblind Collaborative  
3831 Southeast 38th Street  
Ocala, FL 34480  
(256) 599-1254  
perez.angelea@ufl.edu

## **More Than Drama: Student Development Through the Arts**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 31

Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts) is known nationally for creating accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, & fine arts programs. Join the CFCArts Team as they share their collaborative approach to 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  
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Orlando, FL 32804  
(407) 937-1800x707  
kaileigh.anne@cfcarts.com

Caroline Del Rey  
Central Florida Community Arts  
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32804  
(407) 937-1800x707  
caroline.delrey@cfcarts.com

## **Latino Neurodiversity, Autism, and Other Psycho-Social Needs in the Workplace (Bilingual (English/Spanish))**

Friday, June 14  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 32

This presentation will review symptoms associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It will also provide an overview of the Latino family acculturation process. The presentation will provide strategies for businesses to increase sensitivity to sociocultural differences in the workplace. It will provide effective communication and social strategies employers can implement with employees diagnosed with ASD.

Yazmin Castellano  
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities - CARD USF  
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Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 974-0335  
ycastellano@usf.edu



**FAAST 101**  
 Friday, June 14  
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Bayhill 33

Join the FAAST team to learn about all of the services available across the state, from assistive technology training to borrowing assistive technology at no cost. We will cover all that FAAST has to offer and show you how to access the demonstration centers near you.

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 FAAST, Inc  
 2145 Delta Boulevard, Suite 200  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303  
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 mblimes@faast.org

Kailey Medlock  
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 2145 Delta Boulevard, Suite 200  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303  
 (850) 487-3278  
 kmedlock@faast.org

**Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities - Strengthening Foundations & Creating Possibilities**

Friday, June 14  
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Plaza International Ballroom

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) supports individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working within their communities by creating multiple pathways to possibilities. APD serves more than 60,000 people with developmental disabilities in Florida. With such an important charge of serving this incredibly sacred population, APD is mission-focused on providing needed supports and services, strengthening foundations, and creating pathways to possibilities for each individual to reach their God-given potential to thrive! Join APD Director Taylor Hatch as she shares about current and future goals of the Agency.

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

**Bardet-Biedl Syndrome and Other Rare Diseases Roundtable**

Friday, June 14  
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Manatee Spring 2

Those with rare diseases and their family and friends often find themselves feeling isolated or short on resources for their needs. This Roundtable is for families to hear from experienced professionals as well as to share the resources and help they have found in their personal journeys. Bardet-Biedl Syndrome is one of the syndromes that will be discussed as well as others.

Sherrie Knob  
 Bardet-Biedl Syndrome Family Association  
 372 Southwest Fuge Rd  
 Stuart, FL 34997  
 (386) 931-8641  
 fiveknobs@hotmail.com

- 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators and Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom
- 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
- 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level

## 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### **Zero Tolerance: The Role We All Play to Prevent Abuse**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 1

The Zero Tolerance Initiative represents an aggressive multi-pronged approach to dealing with abuse, neglect, and exploitation committed against individuals with intellectual and 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  
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Janette Canas  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399  
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Kari Anderson  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
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kari.anderson@apdcares.org

### **Self-Determination and Service Providers: Advocating Through Life's Journeys**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 2

This panel will discuss the challenges and successes of individuals who have had ups and downs along the path of life and who have found some innovative ways to live their lives. The panel will also discuss the importance of speaking up for yourself and working in partnership with service providers. The challenges of school, work, and the realities of day-to-day life and navigating through the decisions that make each person's life unique will be discussed. Focus on self-determination, how to you keep yourself on that path and in control of your life. Audience participation is encouraged. Natalie Jean is the APD Ombudsman and will serve as the moderator.

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Robyn Stawski  
Robyn.Stawski@gmail.com

Sara Canali  
Canalissi25@gmail.com

Rebecca Crosby, MSW, CHWC  
RebeccaRCrosby@gmail.com



### **Legislative Wrap-Up for 2024 and How to Impact Legislation and Policy in 2025**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 3

Legislation that passed regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the 2024 Legislative session will be discussed. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) 2024 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 2025, including covering the FDDC's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Toolkit. Additionally, opportunities will be shared regarding advocacy and leadership on the local and state level, using the FDDC's new Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities Guide.

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Florida Developmental Disabilities Council  
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(800) 580-7801  
margaretd@fddc.org

Kristin Vandagriff  
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council  
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Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(800) 580-7801  
kristinv@fddc.org



## Safe and Supportive Fundraising: The Dos and Don'ts of Medical Crowdfunding

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 4

Learn the ins and outs of trusted medical crowdfunding with examples of successful fundraisers, materials for outreach, and info on how to creatively tell your story to engage your community. Plan on leaving this session not only with the tools to put on a successful fundraiser, but with the confidence and understanding that there is no shame in asking your community for help. Many times, it is simply about changing the narrative, and Help Hope Live can help you do that.

Sonny Mullen  
Help Hope Live  
2 Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 100  
100 Matsonford Rd.  
Radnor, PA 19087  
(800) 642-8399x40  
smullen@helphopelive.org

## Florida Discretionary Projects Supporting Families

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 5

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) administers discretionary project programs to support students with disabilities and their families. This session will give an overview of the State of Florida Discretionary Project funded through BEES that offers direct support to students and families.

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Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
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Richard Strickland  
Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
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(850) 245-0475  
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## Disaster Strikes and Florida Responds: Takeaways from the 2022-23 Hurricane Season and Rescue Operations

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 6

This session will include lessons learned from the 2022-23 Hurricane Season, including Hurricanes Ian and Idalia, as well as Florida Rescue Flights from Israel and Haiti by government and non-government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. Topics such as evacuation, sheltering, feeding, housing, mental health, and long-term recovery will be presented, including a discussion of what this means for you and your family by APD, emergency management staff, and Family Initiative - with many years of disaster training and experience.

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Family Initiative  
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Kristin Korinko, PhD, BCBA, LMHC, NCC  
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Michael Taylor  
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## **FLIP It**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 7

The FLIP It strategy, developed by Rachel Sperry from the Devereux Center for Resilient Children, utilizes four supportive steps to help children identify their feelings, learn healthy self-control, and reduce challenging behavior. This workshop will provide parents, caregivers and educators an overview of each of the steps: Feelings, Limits, Inquiries, and Prompts. When used consistently and with fidelity, this research-based strategy can provide children with the skills needed to develop healthy coping strategies and problem-solving skills.

Anna Tedder  
FDLRS  
30 East Texar Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
(850) 430-7473  
atedder@ecsdfl.us



## **Military Families and Building Relationships with Community Partners**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 10

Creating a strong partnership with vetted local, state, and federal community partners results in a positive outcome supporting military families with special needs and helps build strong, resilient military families. MacDill Council for Educational Excellence is an example of how community partnerships can create real change. This partnership, with base leadership and the local school district, has resulted in a smooth transition for our military families in the area of special education and created some amazing change in our local military community. Join us to learn more about this partnership and get tips on how you can help influence positive change in your local area.

Venetia Waters  
MacDill AFB, Military & Family Readiness Center  
8105 Condor Street  
MacDill AFB, FL 33621  
(813) 828-0146  
venetia.waters@us.af.mil

Angela Ocampo  
MacDill AFB, Military & Family Readiness Center  
8105 Condor Street, Building 18  
MacDill AFB, FL 33621  
(813) 828-0122  
angela.ocampo@us.af.mil

## **The Case for Micro Programs in ADTs**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 11

Every individual is unique, and the services they receive should be as unique as they are. Micro programs offer individuals the ability to choose from a variety of specialized and interactive learning environments that best fit their needs, no matter what size program they attend. This presentation will cover what micro programs are, the benefits of microprograms to program participants, and ways to advocate for microprogram thinking at your local ADT.

Becca Eldredge  
The Loveland Center  
157 South Havana Road  
Venice, FL 34292  
(941) 4930-0016 x331  
beldredge@lovelandcenter.org

Patrick Guerin III  
The Loveland Center  
157 South Havana Road  
Venice, FL 34292  
(941) 493-0016 x302  
pguerin@lovelandcenter.org



### **Understanding the Stressed Brain**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 12

It is no surprise we all face stress in life. Have you ever wondered why some people can handle it better than others? In this workshop we will go back to the beginning by looking at early life stress and/or trauma to see how our established neural pathways impact our behavior and stress management. The tools given will help attendees to manage and reduce stress, as well as be a support to others.

Vince Callahan  
113 Crossing Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33809  
(863) 640-0077  
drvcallahan.ruth@gmail.com



### **Living a No Limits Life**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 13

Join Caleb Prewitt, USA Triathlon Ambassador, as he shares his journey to fitness, and ways that you can move towards a healthier lifestyle. Exercise and nutrition tips will encourage you to begin thinking of movement and better food choices, to help you feel better and improve your overall health. The presentation will include time for questions and answers about his personal journey as a triathlete, what keeps him motivated, and what's next.

Caleb Prewitt  
Caleb's Crew  
2306 Huckins Court  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
(904) 742-1215  
prewitt.karen@yahoo.com

Karen Prewitt  
Caleb's Crew  
2306 Huckins Court  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
(904) 742-1215  
prewitt.karen@yahoo.com

### **Independence Skills for People with Disabilities from the American Hobo Community: An Overview**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 14

Many people associate the American hobo with the Great Depression, but hoboes still exist in America in the present day and continue their lifestyle of independent traveling work. Some gather annually for the National Hobo Convention, held every August in rural Iowa. In this session, listen to an adult autistic self-advocate, who has volunteered with the National Hobo Convention and worked with American hoboes for nearly two decades, describe how his social connections with the American hobo community enhanced his ability to function independently in society as an adult with a disability, and how the strategies, skills, and techniques utilized by American hoboes to function within society at large can help adults with disabilities improve their independence skills as well.

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

Larissa Grabois  
150 Prospect Street  
Leonora, NJ 7605  
(201) 723-1884  
lara.grabois@gmail.com

## ¿Qué sucede después de la graduación de la escuela secundaria para los estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual? Tú también puedes asistir a la universidad! (What Happens After Graduation for Students with Intellectual Disabilities? College is for You!)

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 15

¿Sabía que estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual ahora tienen la oportunidad de asistir a Programas Integral de Transición Postsecundaria en la Florida (FPCTP por su sigla en inglés)? El Centro para Estudiantes con Habilidades Únicas en la Florida compartirá información sobre los FPCTP disponibles en colegios técnicos, colegios estatales y universidades en todo el estado. También compartirá información sobre becas disponibles para estudiantes que asisten a FPCTP, las credenciales y certificados que los estudiantes pueden obtener y cómo los estudiantes están teniendo éxito. Ven a conocer las oportunidades disponibles después de graduarse de la escuela secundaria. ¡Aprende cómo tú también puedes ir a la universidad!

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drew.andrews@ucf.edu



### Going to College and Excelling as a Student with a Disability

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 16

Attending higher education, with or without a disability, is one of the most significant decisions that a young person will make. Earning a University/College degree is generally recognized as one of the best ways to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. While all universities and colleges have nondiscriminatory practices with regards to admissions, academic supports and student life opportunities for individuals with disabilities, each program does have its strengths and weaknesses – just like it does for students without disabilities. Therefore, attendees will learn how to better evaluate the thousands of higher education choices based on their academic area of interest, programmatic accommodation needs and related personal challenges. This presentation will specifically cover academic accommodations, experiential learning, student life, housing and independent living. It will also profile how some current students at Florida State University (FSU) are excelling and overcoming (architectural, programmatic, communication and attitudinal) barriers at a preeminent institution within the state. In sum, attendees will learn that they too can attend, benefit from, and excel in higher education.

Elijah Toomey  
Florida State University  
5852 Appomattox Court  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
(720) 775-0711  
etoomey@fsu.edu

Mitch Tilmon  
Florida State University  
(901) 871-2089  
jmt21e@fsu.edu

Avery Shaver  
Florida State University  
(850) 591-8166  
ashaver@fsu.edu





## **Unleashing Resilience: Conquering Challenges Beyond Limits**

Friday, June 14

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 17

This workshop empowers individuals with disabilities through three key elements. Resilience Building: Equip participants with tools and a resilient mindset to navigate adversity effectively. Overcoming Limiting Beliefs: Provide insights and techniques to conquer self-imposed limitations, unlocking their full potential. Community and Support: Foster an inclusive community where attendees connect, share experiences, and find mutual encouragement, empowering them to overcome obstacles confidently.

Robert Streater III

Team Streater Seminars and Services, LLC

3148 Dick Wilson Boulevard, Suite 2323

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 400-3230

bobstreater3225@gmail.com



## **Finding the Innate Power Within You to Make Choices**

Friday, June 14

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 18

This presentation dives into the world of supported decision-making. It will cover what it is and how to use it. Additionally, we will cover how it benefits individuals with disabilities and their loved ones.

Morgan Patipa

Disability Rights Florida

2473 Care Drive, Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32308

(850) 617-9754

morganp@disabilityrightsflorida.org

## **Outreach for Families with Medically Complex Children**

Friday, June 14

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 19

Babies with CHARGE Syndrome are often born with multiple life-threatening medical challenges. While families handle all of their complications, they are challenged by the lack of information and knowledge a lot of professionals have regarding this condition. One of the hallmark symptoms of CHARGE Syndrome is hearing loss, and often this need is not addressed till much later in life due to other competing needs. The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation offers a lifeline for newly diagnosed families, connecting them with professionals, resources, support, and other families. We will share our successes with outreach activities with social media and other unconventional sources that have helped us identify new families in all states. We will share the impact and power of parent-to-parent support and how it builds our family's support systems and confidence. Strategies to better engage families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds will be shared.

Lourdes Quintana

CHARGE Syndrome Foundation

6628 Nightwind Circle

Orlando, FL 32818

(407) 884-6476

lourdes@chargesyndrome.org

## **She is Legendary! by Pink Art Party Women's Wellness**

Friday, June 14

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 20

The Pink Art Party "LEGENDARY" masterclass will help women understand what a legend is and to identify how they are legendary. The phenomenal women of Pink Art Party will learn how to reduce self-induced stress levels and balance the competing priorities in their lives as caregivers and individuals with unique needs. We will use art to unpack how to become a legend that accomplishes legendary things in a balanced way. Sessions include the use of visual art as a creative means to build resilience for the day-to-day emotional, spiritual, and mental obstacles that women encounter. Certified Professional Life Coaches, Charmaine Jennings and Lakeesha Hines, facilitate sip-and-share sessions that provide effective strategies to overcome challenges and improve how to live, lead, and leave a legacy of love and light.

Charmaine Jennings  
Chosen Life Specialists, LLC  
1746 West St. Joseph Street  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 927-0562  
ChosenLifeSpecialists@Gmail.com

LaKeesha Hines  
Fire Starter Coaching Services, LLC



## **It's Your Estate, Are You in Control?**

Friday, June 14

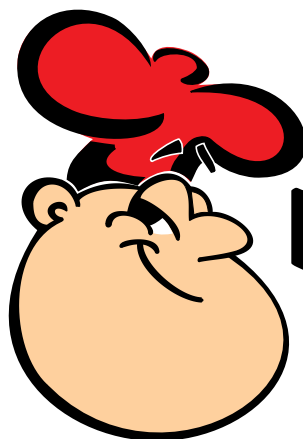
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 21

This presentation focuses on the importance of estate planning for families with disabilities. Every individual has an estate, including those with disabilities. We cover the core documents - wills, POAs, trusts and other documents - to gain control and get your estate in order. We also share current legislation and timely strategies to address estate taxes, income taxes, and transfer taxes. Finally, we will discuss the importance of trust planning, revocable trusts versus irrevocable trusts, flexible trust planning techniques, and special needs planning.

Karen Hofmann  
Prudential  
45876 Bristlecone Court  
Temecula, CA 92592  
(760) 707-4640  
Karen.Hofmann@prudential.com

Melissa Reece  
Prudential  
1746 Dowell Farm Trail Southwest  
Marietta, GA 30064  
(404) 416-1066  
Melissa.Reece@prudential.com



**LIKE & SHARE  
EACH MOMENT  
TOGETHER**



## **The Basics of ABLE United: Florida’s Disability Savings Program**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 22

Join us for a presentation on “The Basics of ABLE United: Florida’s Disability Savings Program.” This session will delve into the features and advantages of ABLE United, Florida’s unique savings program for individuals with disabilities. Learn how ABLE United can help you save for disability-related expenses while maintaining essential benefits and achieving financial independence. Whether you’re a Floridian with a disability, a family member, or a caregiver, this presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of how ABLE United can enhance your financial well-being and future prospects. Don’t miss this opportunity to unlock the power of ABLE United.

John Finch  
ABLE United  
2011 Delta Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
info@ableunited.com

## **Disability and The Faith Community**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 24

How can we help make our churches more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for kids and adults with disabilities and their families? Come learn about ways to engage your church with creative, practical and fun ideas including respite, wrap around care, and special events.

Marie Kuck  
Nathaniel’s Hope  
5210 South Orange Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32809  
(407) 857-8224  
info@nathanielshope.org



## **Pathways to Careers**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 25

The low employment rates for people with disabilities are a prevalent reality in the disability community. Pathways for career development through non-traditional means are one way to address the lack of opportunities and training. Discover ways to enhance learning for those that want to enter the workforce with an emphasis on the skills needed for careers in agriculture.

Vanessa Spero  
UF/IFAS Extension 4-H  
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

Serap Gorucu  
University of Florida, IFAS  
1741 Museum Road  
Frazier Rogers- Room 223  
PO Box 110570  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
(352) 294-6738  
serapgorucu@ufl.edu



## **Involving Dads: How to Encourage and Support Involvement by Dads**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 26

This workshop is designed to help moms, significant others, families, and professionals understand the issues that may impact involvement by fathers, to help moms, families, significant others, and professionals recognize and identify specific reasons a dad may not be participating, and to identify strategies for participants to use in helping fathers become more involved in their children's lives.

Mark Keith  
Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
207 San Marco Avenue  
Saint Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-2731  
mark.keith@rmtcdhh.org



## **Essential Legal Planning for Special Needs Families**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 27

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

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

## **Planificación de la Transición de la Atención Médica: ¿Está listo?**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 28

Planificación de la transición de la atención médica es el proceso de pasar de un enfoque de atención médica centrado en el niño/la familia a un enfoque de atención médica centrado en el adulto/paciente. Padres y jóvenes: ¿Les ayudan sus proveedores de atención médica pediátrica a prepararse para los servicios de salud para adultos? Profesionales: ¿Están apoyando a los jóvenes y las familias con información y preparación para la transición de la atención médica? ¡Tenemos recursos para ayudar! El Programa para Niños y Jóvenes con Necesidades Especiales de Atención Médica del Departamento de Salud de la Florida ayuda a estudiantes, familias y profesionales en esta parte necesaria de la planificación de la transición de la atención médica. Únase a nosotros para obtener información actualizada que le ayudará a pasar de los servicios de atención médica pediátrica a los de adultos.

Carmen Melendez  
Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
Park Trammel Building  
1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 809  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(941) 536-3039  
Carmen.Melendez@flhealth.gov

## **Orthopedic Care of the Child With Cerebral Palsy**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 29

In this session, we will discuss understanding the need for proactive orthopedic care, the natural progression of orthopedic deformities of children with cerebral palsy, the walking difficulties and needed intervention with cerebral palsy, the needed treatment to maximize function and walking in children with cerebral palsy, and the needed treatment to eliminate pain and discomfort in non-ambulatory children with cerebral palsy.

David Siambanes  
St Joseph Children's Hospital  
3003 West Drive Martin Luther King Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(951) 536-5411  
David.siambanes@baycare.org



## **From Lullabies to Learning: Music Therapy's Role in Early Childhood Development**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 30

"My child sang before they could talk! And danced before they could walk!" Have you ever wondered just WHY music is so invaluable in our kiddos' lives? In this interactive workshop, parents, caregivers, and professionals will learn what music therapy is, why it is so effective, and take home some music therapy-based strategies that will support all areas of their child's development. Disclaimer: Children's music isn't just for kids; Be prepared to leave with some catchy tunes that the whole family will love!

Caroline Del Rey  
Central Florida Community Arts  
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32804  
(407) 462-6855  
caroline.delrey@cfcarts.com

## **Maximizing Success in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): Research, Intake, Provider Selection, and Advocacy**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 32

This presentation will cover the process of researching companies based on receiving referrals for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), what questions to ask within the intake process of ABA, how to choose a provider that fits your needs, and how to advocate throughout your child's services.

Michelle Zeman  
VTCC  
754 Night Owl Court  
Winter Springs, FL 32708  
(407) 919-3629  
michellezemanbcba@gmail.com



### **Technology for Students with Visual Impairments: Here, There, and Everywhere**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 33

The variety of technology available for students who are visually impaired can be daunting to research and figure out! Come learn about the variety of technology, how assistive technology devices and services are determined in schools, and how it can be supported at home. For hands-on experience, come visit the Access Lab for students with visual impairments!

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

Sue Glaser  
Florida Instructional Materials  
Center for the Visually Impaired  
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Tampa, FL 33619  
(813) 837-7826  
sglaser@fimcvi.org

Cheri Hart  
Florida Instructional Materials  
Center for the Visually Impaired  
1208 Wishing Well Way  
Tampa, FL 33619  
(813) 485-4595  
chart@fimcvi.org



### **Role-Playing Adventures**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Manatee Spring 2

Dungeon Master John Ferrone returns to host a Role-Playing Room where players and other DM's can come and explore their favorite realms. Whether it's D+D, Middle-Earth Role-Playing, or some other game system, show up and join in the fun. No experience necessary, although youth under 10 may need assistance. Feel free to come in costume if you'd like. Bring your dice, too—and receive a set of dungeon dice. If you're a Dungeon Master or Game Master, you can pull together a group and take them through an adventure. And if you're a Player Character, bring your favorite Character and jump into an adventure. John Ferrone will conduct a dungeon crawl, too. Come and have a blast!

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

**5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Performance by Milosz Gasior, Regency Rotunda

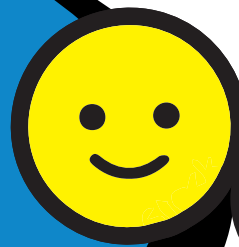
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

The 26th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities, Plaza International Ballroom



# FRIDAY

## June 14, 2024



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

Plaza International Ballroom



## The 26th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities featuring Governor Ron DeSantis

Ever since The 1st Annual Family Café in June of 1999, creating a space where 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 2024! 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 26th 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 26th 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](http://staarfields.com).



# SATURDAY

## June 15, 2024

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

Keynote Address

Plaza International Ballroom



**DR. STEPHEN LOYD**

# The Opioid and Addiction Crisis

The Family Café welcomes physician, advocate, and person in recovery from opioid and benzodiazepine addiction, Dr. Stephen Loyd for a conversation about opioids and addiction.

Dr. Loyd, who is an Internal Medicine/Addiction Medicine physician and Vice-President of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners, was the Assistant Commissioner (Opioid Czar) for Substance Abuse Services in the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. He gained national notoriety in 2021 with the release of the television series *Dopesick*, in which Michael Keaton portrayed a character based in part on his life story.

He has served as an expert witness in more than twenty federal and state cases against physicians who were improperly prescribing controlled substances, and was named an Advocate for Action by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), an office of the President of the United States.

Dr. Loyd was an original member (still active) of the Treatment of Chronic Pain Guidelines Committee which defined pain treatment for providers in the state of Tennessee. He has worked as an Addiction Medicine Physician in both the inpatient and outpatient settings, specializing in the treatment of opioid dependent pregnant women. Dr. Loyd has served on multiple drug courts in Tennessee, has worked with multiple community level anti-drug coalitions from Johnson County to Shelby County, and has worked with all levels of state law enforcement, mainly the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. He currently serves as Chief Medical Officer for Cedar Recovery in Tennessee and is the current Chair of the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council appointed by current Tennessee Governor Bill Lee.

Dr. Loyd has been in recovery from opioid and benzodiazepine addiction since July 8, 2004, and has delivered over five hundred educational lectures on addiction and treatment of opioid use disorder and proper prescribing of controlled substances.



# SATURDAY

## June 15



# #FamilyCAFÉ

## 2024



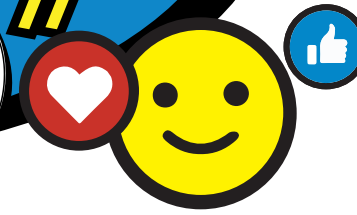
- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Meditation, Barrel Spring
- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Yoga, Manatee Spring 2
- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Zumba, Regency Rotunda
- 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Friends of Bill, Coral Spring
- 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open, Regency Ballroom
- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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 5:00 p.m. Children's Medical Services Quiet Room, Rainbow Spring II
- 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Florida Community Care Discovery Hub, Blue Spring I
- 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Club Café sponsored by the Florida Department of Health, Orlando L
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Children's Medical Services, Orlando M
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunshine Health Community Connection Center, Rainbow Spring I
- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections and Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, Manatee Spring I
- 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Arts & Crafts presented by Arts4All Florida, Orlando N
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. NSU College of Law Independent Living Kitchen - Where We Cook Up Supported Decision Making Agreements and other Guardianship Alternatives, Blue Spring II
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Performance by Radiant Voices, Regency Rotunda
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators and Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Celebration of Life, Coral Spring
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Critical Needs in Accessing Health Care Services for Youth and Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs: A Community Forum for Youth and Young Adults, Rainbow Spring II
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Performance by Trey Keesling, Regency Rotunda
- 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
- 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Children's Medical Services, Orlando M
- 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunshine Health Community Connection Center, Rainbow Spring I
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
- 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration Open, Registration Desk
- 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections and Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, Manatee Spring I
- 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. SCUBA for ALL, Terrace Pool

# SATURDAY

## June 15

# #FamilyCAFÉ

# 2024



**3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda

**4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level

**4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Performance by St. John & Friends, Regency Rotunda

**7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Saturday Night Dance Party, Plaza International Ballroom

### 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### **Medical Foster Care (MFC): There's a Role for Everyone—for You and Me!**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Celebration 1

The Florida Department of Health oversees the state's Medical Foster Care (MFC) program for children and youth with special health care needs. This critical program ensures that foster children with complex medical conditions can thrive in a safe and caring home environment. Families: Come learn about the MFC program and how you can be involved, from sharing information to other families in your community about MFC to considering if this might be an opportunity for your family. Agencies and Non-Profits: Learn how your organization can help support the recruitment and ongoing resilience of our MFC families.

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Division of Children's Medical Services Managed  
Care Plan of the North Central Region  
7899 Baymeadows Way, Suite 400  
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Joni Hollis  
Title V Children and Youth with Special  
Health Care Needs Program  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06  
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(850) 901-6303  
Joni.Hollis@flhealth.gov

#### **Purple Alert: When to Use a Purple Alert and How to Raise Awareness for Missing Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Celebration 2

Learn all about the Florida Purple Alert and how it supports locating missing adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This session will share when a Purple Alert is used and how to advocate for one should the situation arise.

Janette Canas  
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Kathy Cutler  
Missing Endangered Persons  
Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC)  
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Florida Department of Law  
Enforcement  
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KathyCutler@fdle.state.fl.us

Zachary Bradford  
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### **Fundraising for Families and Non-Profits**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 3

A disability lifestyle is costly. Fundraising for supportive equipment, transportation, and housing beyond your entitlements is essential. You will learn how to fundraise for your family or your non-profit with known steps and processes that help everyone. Your current benefits will not be affected. It is safe and secure.

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Jim@SpecialCompass.org

Michael Sayih  
Special Compass  
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(305) 297-5328  
Info@SpecialCompass.org



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

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 4

This break-out session will provide practical information to self-advocates, parents, caregivers, and other stakeholders about how to get involved in Florida's thriving self-advocacy movement. A variety of opportunities will be shared on topics such as how to join a FL SAND self-advocacy group (including a virtual group) or how to start a group in your community; self-advocacy training; and how self-advocates can join local boards, councils, and advisory groups. Presenters are all self-advocate leaders who will also share simple and creative ways to incorporate self-determination and self-advocacy skills into one's everyday life.

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## **The Latest News on the Family Empowerment Scholarship Unique Abilities for Florida PreK-12 Children**

Friday, June 14

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Celebration 5

Step Up For Students has administered scholarships for children with special needs since 2014 with the inception of what was known as the PLSA, and continues to be there through its various changes, through it becoming the FESUA, as it is now known. This workshop will review all the latest news about the FESUA scholarship and all the ways parents can use the scholarship to customize their child's learning experiences.

Stephanie Love  
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Paula Nelson  
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Clearwater, FL 33762  
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pnelson@sufs.org



## **Plan, Prepare, and Practice: Ready and Safe for All Types of Emergencies**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Celebration 6

In Florida, there are many kinds of unexpected emergency events. Hurricanes are only one type of emergency. We also need to consider house fires and wildfires, tornadoes and flooding, and even security-related events. Families also need to be prepared everywhere, from home, to school, work, vacation, and even while traveling in their car. Those of us with a child or youth with a disability have extra planning and preparation too. Learn some new strategies and tools to be fully prepared for all hazards. Help your family plan, prepare, and stay safe all year long.

Linda Starnes  
Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06  
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Linda.Starnes@flhealth.gov

## **How to Make the IEP Successful**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Celebration 8

Let's break down the IEP so it can be successful for your child. Learn what's important for you to know as a parent, what's most applicable for your child's individual needs, and the tools for a successful meeting.

Diana Hill  
Sanford, FL  
dianaryan84@gmail.com

## Access Points – Alternative Academic Achievement Standards (AP – AAAS)

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 9

This presentation will highlight the structure and alignment of Access Points to the general education standards. It will include an illustration of instruction in Access Points across all academic settings, and showcase resources and support on the Access Project's website.

Christi Yu  
Access Project  
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(321) 269-2326x12023  
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## Helping Military Families with Special Needs Through Transfers and Transitions

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 10

Come join leading Department of Defense officials supporting military families, including Tomeshia Barnes, Associate Director of the DoD's Office of Special Needs; Eric Sherman, Southeast Regional Liaison from the DoD's State Liaison Office; and CDR Matthew Cutchen, JAGC, USN, Staff Judge Advocate, Naval Air Station Jacksonville. While frequent relocations or changes in active-duty status are a routine part of military life, they can be challenging, especially for families with special needs members. What are your legal rights and requirements for education support after moving your family to a new location? How can EFMP family support and Services Plans be a resource to families during transfers and transitions? Come meet and interact with DoD experts, who will present an overview of supports that are available to help military family members with special needs plan, organize, and initiate transfers between duty stations and locations, or transition from active duty to inactive status.

Eric Sherman  
Florida Military Family  
Special Needs Network  
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Coral Gables, FL 33134  
(305) 535-0914  
scott@7-dippity.com

Matthew Cutchen  
Florida Military Family  
Special Needs Network  
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Coral Gables, FL 33134  
(305) 535-0914  
scott@7-dippity.co

Tomeshia Barnes  
Office of Special Needs  
Department of Defense

## Planificación para el futuro de su hijo: Estrategias Claves para una Colaboración Efectiva del Padre o Cuidador como parte del Equipo del IEP

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 11

Esta presentación le brindará información y estrategias para ayudarlo a abogar y participar como padre o cuidador, 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. Definiremos que es la Transición, los servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional (VR) y porque es importante estar preparados. Además, brindaremos consejos sobre cómo practicar el poder de la comunicación persuasiva al expresar desacuerdos y sobre la importancia de estar preparados con nuestra documentación antes de las reuniones e interacciones con el personal del Distrito.

Daysi Ortiz  
Disability Rights Florida  
1000 North Ashely Drive, #700  
Tampa, FL 33602  
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daysio@disabilityrightsflorida.org



### **Coloring for Quietude**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 12

This presentation will highlight the mental health benefits acquired from coloring. One of these benefits includes external and internal quietude. This helps participants of this activity to practice improving the quality of their inner and outer voices. It also helps to improve judgment. This activity also provides participants with artistic skill, talent and ability enhancement. It helps to build self-confidence, too, because participants are able to make works of art keepsakes to share.

Kathryna Rinderle  
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Kissimmee, FL 34744  
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### **New Technologies and the Opportunities Provided for Recreation for People of ALL Abilities**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 13

The recreation technology and adaptative equipment industry is exploding! New options are introduced all the time. Come learn about how new equipment and technologies are allowing people of all abilities to enjoy recreation and leisure activities. This is a fun, interactive session where you can ask your questions and share your knowledge and experiences.

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Fran Gilbert  
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info@sportsability.org

### **Now That I Am 30 & Over What Happens From Here?**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 14

Do you ever feel like you are alone in this journey? Well, you are not alone, and, in this session, we would like to show you that you are not alone. This is a chance for Moms and Dads to meet and discuss the trials and roads they are traveling or have traveled. In this session, we would like others to share their experiences and possibly help another person. Meet others and make lasting friendship so that in a time of need you might have someone to call on. As parents of young adults, we are finding that outside activities are few and far between, and with all us brainstorming, we may be able to create activities and build relationships with our young adults. The saying is true that "it takes a village," and we feel, sometimes more.

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## **Deferment and Extended Transition Programming (Ages 18-22): Information for Parents, Families and Community-Based Transition Stakeholders**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 15

This training will assist families and other transition stakeholders develop an understanding of the process and eligibility requirements for deferring a student's high school diploma. Included in the training will be federal and state legislation, timelines of required deferment-related activities, highlights of relevant transition individual education plan activities, and components and overviews of various extended transition programs and postsecondary options. Resources will be shared with participants.

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Lisa Friedman-Chavez  
Project 10: Transition Education Network  
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### **Disability Faceoff: A Trivia Style Game**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Celebration 16

What do Bingo, Yahtzee, Connect 4, and October all have in common? Disability Faceoff the game! Come join us to play and learn facts based on our history as a community and win some prizes while you're at it!

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shevie@floridayouthcouncil.org

Catalina Andonie  
The Florida Youth Council  
  
Jakel Baker  
The Florida Youth Council

Lilibeth Carlton Vega  
The Florida Youth Council  
  
Christina Waldron  
The Florida Youth Council

James Kuhlman  
The Florida Youth Council

Viv Banks  
The Florida Youth Council

Vanessa Muniz Pellicer  
The Florida Youth Council

### **Through My Mother's Eyes: A David Pedemonte-Forte Story (Bilingual (English/Spanish))**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 17

This is a story about me as a mother of David and the struggles that I went through to get him to where he is today. At the age of 5, David was diagnosed by the Miami-Dade County Public School board as profoundly autistic. But with hard work and faith, he graduated with a bachelor's degree at the age of 19, founded a non-profit organization that caters to autistic children, and is now a motivational speaker. David and I represent proof of hope to parents of children with autism, reminding them to never give up.

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David's Global Community Development Corp.  
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David Pedemonte-Forte  
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### **Supported Decision Making**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 18

In this presentation, you will learn about supported decision making and what it is about, and how I use it to help make my own decisions. You will also learn how I use it for my day-to-day life, and the pros and cons of supportive decision making.

Michael Lincoln-McCreight  
Magical Self Advocacy  
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### **Record Keeping - Start Early, You May Need it for a Lifetime**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 20

With the current APD requirements for “ALL” evaluations, IEPs, therapy reports, etc., this presentation will give tips on record keeping and organization. You have to find what will work for you, but you need to keep records.

Denise Torres  
The Arc Jacksonville  
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### **Intro To Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 21

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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## **Special Needs Trust Services: Helping Address the Needs of Individuals with a Disability**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 22

The presentation will help the 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.

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Wells Fargo Bank  
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## **Myers-Briggs and StrengthsFinder: 2 Tools to Assist You to Confidently Advocate and Take Charge of your Journey**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 24

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 journey, 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  
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sferrone@windstream.net





## **Bridging Abilities to Employment: A Guide to Vocational Rehabilitation**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 25

This session will highlight the Vocational Rehabilitation programs and services available to assist individuals with most significant disabilities, including those with significant cognitive and/or mental health challenges, to become successfully employed. Services to be discussed include Supported Employment, Individual Placement and Support, Supported Self-Employment, and Discovery/Customized Employment. Session participants will learn how to access these services and have the opportunity to ask questions. Join us to discover the supports and strategies offered through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to help everyone who wants to work!

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## **For Dads: Getting Involved**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 26

This workshop is designed to help dads understand some of the issues that can negatively impact their involvement as fathers with their children, to help them recognize and identify specific reasons they may not be participating, and to identify strategies to help them become more involved in their children's lives.

Mark Keith  
Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
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## **Financial Accountability for Disabled Individuals who Have Been Abused, Neglected or Exploited**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Bayhill 27

Most people don't know that Florida law extends special legal protections to disabled individuals who have been abused, neglected, or exploited. When caregivers take advantage of the people they are charged with protecting, caregivers, and those who employ them, can be held financially responsible for the harm they cause. Unique provisions of Florida law not only allow for financial recovery from caregivers, and their employers, it also provides for the payment of attorney fees in bringing the wrongdoers to justice. This program will explain the legal rights of disabled individuals when they are abused, neglected, or exploited.

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## **Understanding Down Syndrome Regression Disorder: An Introduction for Families**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 28

This session is specifically designed to introduce families supporting individuals with Down syndrome to Down Syndrome Regression Disorder (DSRD), a condition in which a small percentage of adolescents and young adults with Down syndrome experience a significant loss of previously acquired skills. During this presentation families will learn the characteristics of DSRD, current advancements, clinical trials, and where to find support. Participants will receive handouts with resources for learning more about DSRD and online support group information.

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Johnny Gibson III  
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## **Florida KidCare: Simplifying Health Care Coverage for Kids**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 29

Florida KidCare is the state's affordable, high-quality health and dental insurance program for kids from birth until the 19th birthday. In this session, you will learn about the four Florida KidCare programs, how eligibility is determined, the rich benefits available, and more. We will also take a dive deep into the State of Florida's CMS Health Plan, designed specifically for children with complex health care needs. Navigating health insurance options can be overwhelming – families can count on KidCare to make it simple.

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Felicia Thomas  
Children's Medical Services Health Plan  
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## **Connecting through Play: Following the Child's Passions and Interests as an Opportunity to Connect and Support Development**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 30

Children learn best through play, and for children with autism, play may look unconventional. It may be tempting to correct the child to play the "right" way; but when we follow their ideas, they become more engaged and motivated. The benefits of following the child's interests include: helping them feel understood, safe and validated; fostering autonomy and confidence; and enhancing opportunities to connect. This presentation will provide guidelines on how to successfully use the child's interests to support development. We will also discuss how to navigate challenges that hinder connection when following their interest.

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Natalie Kitts, OTR/L  
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## **The Anime Connection: Utilizing Anime and Related Media to Share Disability Awareness**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 31

Many people with disabilities enjoy Japanese anime and related media and are members of the anime fan community. Listen to three anime fans with disabilities discuss how Japanese anime and related media can be utilized to teach awareness about varying disabilities, share how anime conventions and related events have successfully implemented various policies to make their conventions and events more inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities alongside what event organizers can learn from those policies, and describe how people with disabilities can build lasting friendships within the Japanese anime fan community.

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Danica Lane  
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lorettalane@me.com

## **Sensory Island**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 32

"Your sensory systems help keep our bodies and minds at an optimal state of alertness and arousal for any given situation. Calm enough to listen, attend, work, and engage but not so calm that we're falling asleep. Alert enough that we can take in the information in our surroundings and be ready to respond, but not so alert that we're hyperactive and bouncing off the walls" (The Inspired Treehouse). This learning experience will help you develop understanding of the difference between sensory responses and behavior responses in order to develop strategies to help your child deal with sensory challenges. Throughout this training we will put you in situations to test your sensory limits. We will review each system and provide strategies for children who are "seekers" and "avoiders."

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Kristin Radloff  
FDLR NEFEC  
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radloffk@nefec.org



## **FAAST Assistive Technology Demonstration featuring OrCam Vision Products**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Bayhill 33

Join FAAST to learn all about the OrCam family of products. This presentation will feature hands-on demonstrations and learning opportunities for these groundbreaking assistive technology devices.

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Marquesas Blimes  
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### **Adaptive Chair or Wheelchair Zumba**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Manatee Spring 2

Physical activity need not be strenuous to achieve health benefits. 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. This class session will be designed to exercise while sitting in a chair or wheelchair. 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!

Paula Burns  
Burns Dance & Fitness  
300 Terrace Drive East  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
(727) 900-5162  
burnsdancefitness@gmail.com

### **Creative Drama for All**

Saturday, June 15  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Barrel Spring 1 & 2

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  
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32804  
(407) 937-1800x707  
kaileigh.anne@cfcarts.com

William Tayek  
Central Florida Community Arts  
250 Southwest Ivanhoe Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32804  
(407) 937-1800x707  
william.tayek@cfcarts.com



## **Empowering Exceptional Education: Enhancing Student Success Through Bureau Resources**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Plaza International Ballroom

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) at the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will provide an informative session to empower families of exceptional education by providing insights into valuable resources and discretionary projects available free of charge through the Bureau. Highlights will include an overview of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services; a showcase of available resources and tools to support exceptional education; insights into innovative discretionary projects aimed at enhancing student success; case studies illustrating the impact of Bureau resources on student outcomes; strategies for effective integration of Bureau resources into educational practices; and a networking opportunity and a Q&A session with Bureau representatives.

Join us at this engaging session to discover how the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services transforms educational practices and supports student success. Together, we can improve outcomes for all students. We look forward to welcoming you to this enlightening presentation!

Alice Schmitges

Florida Department of Education

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

325 West Gaines Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 245-0903

alice.schmitges@fldoe.org

### **Moms to Moms**

Saturday, June 15

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Coral Spring 1 & 2

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

University of Florida, Florida and Virgin Islands Deaf-Blind Collaborative

1600 Southwest Archer Road

PO Box 100234

Gainesville, FL 32610

(352) 672-4598

pamsk@ufl.edu

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

NSU College of Law Independent Living Kitchen – Where We Cook Up Supported Decision Making Agreements and other Guardianship Alternatives, Blue Spring II

**10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Performance by Radiant Voices, Regency Rotunda

**10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level

**10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Gatorland Animal Show: Live Alligators and Crocodiles, Regency Ballroom

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Celebration of Life, Coral Spring

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Critical Needs in Accessing Health Care Services for Youth and Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs: A Community Forum for Youth and Young Adults Rainbow, Spring II**

Calling all youth and young adults ages 14 to 21 years and their caregivers: The Florida Department of Health wants to hear from you. Please join staff from the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program and share your experiences in accessing health care and ideas for improvement. Your voice will be heard, and the information will be used to help support future activities related to accessing patient- and family-centered health care services.

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Eligibility for APD Waiver Services**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 1

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 Pre-Enrollment and assignment of a Pre-Enrollment 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 in Pre-Enrollment and services available to individuals enrolled on the iBudget waiver.

Liesl V. Ramos  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950  
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liesl.ramos@apdcares.org

Lorena Fulcher  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
4030 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 488-5998  
lorena.fulcher@apdcares.org

**Social Security Presents: Benefits for People with Disabilities**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 2

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

Danielle West-Lane  
Social Security Administration

Rashod Barham  
Social Security Administration

Angela Love  
Social Security Administration





### **Families Unite: A Movement Driven by Personal Stories**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 3

Embark on a meaningful journey as we dive into the heart of advocacy, fueled by the personal stories of families impacted by developmental disabilities. This presentation explores the transformative power of shared narratives in igniting a movement for change. Discover how families' personal stories can drive awareness, shape policies, and foster a sense of community support. Join us in understanding the profound impact that genuine storytelling can have in mobilizing a collective voice for a more inclusive and empathetic society. Together, let's build a movement that embraces the strength found in our shared experiences.

Amanda Hayes  
We the People, By the People, For All the People  
120 Elsie Drive  
East Palatka, FL 32131  
(386) 972-0165  
amandahayeshr@gmail.com

Stephanie Nordin  
We the People, By the People, For All the People  
stephanie@autismcollier.com

Tom Nurse  
We the People, By the People, For All the People  
tnurse@snadvice.com



### **Ever Wonder What Family Care Council Is All About?**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 4

Ever wonder what Family Care Council is all about? We have been around 30+ years as the family voice. There are 15 local Family Care Councils throughout the state that consist of Governor-appointed volunteers and others 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 areas and are a great source of information and support through shared experiences. Families helping families. Meet your area Chairs and attending APD regional representatives. Come participate in the development of programs and services to improve the lives of these exceptional citizens with Unique Abilities. The mission of Family Care Council is to educate and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families while partnering with the Agency for Persons with Disability (APD) to bring quality services with dignity and choice.

Melody Hearn  
Family Care Council  
901 Industrial Drive, Suite 100  
Wildwood, FL 34785  
(800) 470-8101  
fccf.area15@gmail.com

Paula James  
Family Care Council  
901 Industrial Drive, Suite 100  
Wildwood, FL 34785  
(800) 470-8101

### **Hospital Homebound: From Eligibility to Practice**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 5

Attendees of this session will gain clearer knowledge about eligibility determination requirements districts are to follow, and the IEP team's review process of the evaluation, medical statements, and eligibility determination. The "practice" portion of the presentation will cover different modes of educational services students within the most restrictive learning environment can receive including related services. Also discussed are students receiving treatment in another district/state and the role of residential facilities when needed. Follow-up Q & A cards will be provided.

Angela Roland  
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Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
325 West Gaines Street  
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(850) 245-0475  
angela.roland@fldoe.org





## **There is No Time to Prepare like the Present: Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery 101**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 6

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 Idalia, Israel rescue flights, and a discussion about the effects of disasters on children and individuals with disabilities and how to "explain the unexplainable" to them and help them be prepared to survive.

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Karen.Hagan@apdcares.org

Michael Taylor  
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1313 North Tampa Street, #515  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 233-4311  
Michael.Taylor@apdcares.org

## **Back to the Basics: Math Tips and Strategies for Parents**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 7

Join us as we cover math tips that can help move your child along in their learning! Topics covered include math anxiety and strategies to help alleviate it, as well as essential math instructional strategies to know and learn about. We will also practice fun ways to encourage math fact fluency with your child, so come prepared for some exciting games involving everyone's favorite subject!

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FDLRS Heartland  
1076 US 27 North  
Lake Placid, FL 33852  
(863) 840-2875  
lisa.shin@heartlanded.org

Pamela Czekaj  
FDLRS Hillsborough  
306 North Knights Avenue  
Brandon, FL 33510  
(863) 837-7777  
pamela.czekaj@hcps.net

## **Keep it Real: Interactive Reading Experiences for Children with Visual Impairments**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 8

The emergent literacy years for young children are the most crucial in language and literacy development, which include having varied experiences, observing others reading and writing, and learning book concepts. Due to a lack of incidental learning, children with visual impairments miss out on 80-90% of what happens in their world, and therefore are at risk of not developing valuable emergent literacy skills. Children with visual impairments learn best through concrete, hands-on experiences with real objects. A variety of homemade books using real objects in place of or addition to pictures can be used to make the joys of learning to read and write process accessible and enhance the experience for any children with or without additional disabilities. Get hands-on with experience books, story boxes, and object books!

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

## Special Education PTAs in Diverse and Inclusive Schools (Bilingual (English/Spanish))

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebration 9

PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. We advocate for the health, safety and education of children. Our members are able to form partnerships and coalitions to work towards our mission. This presentation will share information and resources that will allow the participants to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for children. In 1897, the PTA was formed by a group of parents to address the education, health and safety of children. Today it has over 6 million members. Florida PTA has over 150,000 members.

Enrique Escallon  
Florida Parent Teacher Association  
(PTA)  
1747 Orlando Central Parkway  
Orlando, FL 32809  
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Karen Mazzola  
Florida Parent Teacher Association  
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Felita Tutt  
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(PTA)  
1747 Orlando Central Parkway  
ORLANDO, FL 32809  
(305) 761-7205  
education.committee@floridapta.org



### The Road Ahead

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebration 10

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 Café, 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.naf@us.navy.mil

### Planning for your Child's Future: Key Strategies for Parents/Guardians for Effective IEP Team Collaboration

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebration 11

This presentation will provide you with information and strategies to help you advocate and meaningfully participate, as a parent or guardian, in your child's IEP meeting. We will define what collaboration is and why it is critical; explain the elements of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which involves being an advocate; and discuss how to navigate the chain of command within the school district, from your child's teacher to the district's ESE principal. We will define what Transition is, how it involves Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services, and why it is important to be prepared for transition. In addition, we will provide tips on how to practice the power of persuasive communication when expressing disagreements, and on the importance of being prepared with our documentation prior to meetings and interactions with District staff.

Daysi Ortiz  
Disability Rights Florida  
1000 North Ashley Drive, #700  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(800) 342-0823  
daysio@disabilityrightsflorida.org



## **Addressing the Stigmas of Autism in the Black Community: Discover Ways to Mitigate the Negative Impact to Improve Mental Health**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 12

There is a stigma attached to meeting the needs of autistic individuals within the Black Community. Unfortunately, Black people may go undiagnosed from a lack of testing. Symptoms of autism may be dismissed or attributed to dysfunction. Individuals can, and often do, experience trauma and mental health crisis from a lack of understanding from caregivers, educators, and other members of their immediate community. Too often signs of autism in the Black Community create stigmas of fear for negative labeling and blame.

Sabrira Thurman-Newby  
The Ultimate Decision: A Program for New Directions  
2611 Holton Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32310  
(850) 241-4181  
sdnewby@gmail.com

## **Discover the Building Blocks to an Eco-Adventure!**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 13

Eco-Action and Climate-Caring Careers can be accessible to EVERYONE – if you look at what is already around you! This session BUILDS on last year's workshop, where Helpertunity introduced the art of packing recyclable plastics into 'bottle bricks' to make RC-Bot Games and Eco-Crafts as a Family Enterprise. Now, we are raising our Maker Challenge to the next Eco-Arts Adventurer level! Participants will learn how they can hand-pack and connect specially made interlocking bottle-bricks into life-size playscapes, like bridges, barges, pet houses, and beyond! Together we'll design miniature models of what YOU could DO & BUILD to keep Florida Clean & Green!

Eileen Callejas  
Helpertunity, Inc.  
562 Azalea Bloom Drive  
Apopka, FL 32712  
(407) 234-4768  
eileenandgabriel@earthlink.net

## **What Happens when the School Bus Stops Coming?**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Celebration 14

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 for this phase in 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  
University of Florida, Florida and Virgin Islands Deaf-Blind Collaborative  
1600 Southwest Archer Road  
PO Box 100234  
Gainesville, FL 32610  
(352) 672-4598  
pamsk@ufl.edu

## **Embrace, Empower, Cultivate: Fostering Independence in Children**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebration 15

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

Mark Keith

Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

207 San Marco Avenue

Saint Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 827-2731

mark.keith@rmtcdhh.org



### **Come and Chat**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebration 16

Code Green! Repeat Code Green! Calling all Leaders! For the last 16 years, The Florida Youth Council (FYC) has helped bring leadership and advocacy to young adults with disabilities living in the state of Florida. Members of the FYC are located all over the state and provide a means for youth and emerging leaders to determine what problems are significant to their generation and to communicate those issues in their state and local communities. Our work is not done yet, and if you want to be a part of the journey, then come meet our fellow members for a fun and interactive session.

Alexander Gonzalez  
The Florida Youth Council  
713 East Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(239) 823-8790  
shevie@floridayouthcouncil.org

Shevie Barnes  
The Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia  
The Florida Youth Council

JJ Humphrey  
The Florida Youth Council

Sky Tristan-Elliot  
The Florida Youth Council

Tamara Koran  
The Florida Youth Council

Viv Banks  
The Florida Youth Council

Michelle Sandiford  
The Florida Youth Council

James Kuhlman  
The Florida Youth Council

Serena Wetmore  
The Florida Youth Council

Leah Gorman  
The Florida Youth Council

Derek Caraway  
The Florida Youth Council

Jakel Baker  
The Florida Youth Council

Christina Waldron  
The Florida Youth Council

Lilibeth Carlton Vega  
The Florida Youth Council

Vanessa Muniz Pellicer  
The Florida Youth Council

Catalina Andonie  
The Florida Youth Council

Morgan Griffin  
The Florida Youth Council

Sydney Lanier  
The Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino  
The Florida Youth Council

## **Living and Learning with Autism: A Story of HOPE**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 17

This presentation is a remarkable and true story about Dr. Jekanowski's son, Tom, who was diagnosed with severe autism at 27 months. Today, Tom is a Phi Beta Kapa college graduate, who holds a master's degree in history, works full time and enjoys apartment living with his older brother. This presentation shares the approaches and strategies, over the years, which helped Tom develop communication and social skills and ultimately gain independence. This is a story of how one family supported and worked together with Tom's therapists, educators, schools, and community agencies to optimize his progress. This presentation includes Tom's writings and is intended to encourage families and professionals who love and/or work with individuals with autism.

Elizabeth Jekanowski

Martin County School District

1225 Northwest 21st Street, #1002

Stuart, FL 34994

(772) 285-0336

jekfla3@bellsouth.net



## **Guardian Advocacy is Guardianship for Parents Like Us**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 18

Jeffrey Rapkin, an attorney who has been practicing since 1996, and who has an adult daughter with autism, will bring packets and assist you in drafting your own Guardian Advocacy. A Guardian Advocate is very similar to a Guardian in the traditional sense, but it is not exactly the same. Guardian Advocacy is the twin sibling of Guardianship. Unlike Guardianship, however, it does not require an attorney and was designed by lawmakers to be "DIY" for parents of adult disabled children. He will assist with the difficulties which occur when special-needs children turn 18.

Jeffrey Rapkin

Law Office of Jeffrey A. Rapkin, Esq.

18245 Paulson Drive

Port Charlotte, FL 33954

(941) 916-4096

email@rapkinlegal.com

## **Using Telehealth to Reduce Hospital Visits and Support Best Health**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 19

In 2023, CBC began a partnership with StationMD to provide primary care telehealth consultation in its residential programs throughout Florida. In that time, we have seen a substantial reduction in ER visits and urgent care visits, avoiding these difficult and sometimes traumatic service environments while ensuring compassionate, timely, and effective care to the people we serve. In our presentation, we will review the implementation of the StationMD partnership, the hurdles we had to overcome, and the impact that it has had on the people we serve, our staff, and our programs as a whole. A representative from StationMD will be on hand to help explain how their system works.

Richard Edwards

Community Based Care, LLC

4000 Paramount Parkway, Suite 100

Morrisville, NC 27560

(336) 553-5971

redwards@cbcare.com

Karen Gertz

Community Based Care, LLC

4000 Paramount Parkway, Suite 100

Morrisville, NC 27650

(910) 782-4286

gertz@cbcare.com

## **Self-Care for the Caring**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 20

Do you set aside your personal needs to care for your loved one? At times do you feel too tired to or feel like there is no time to do something for yourself? Taking care of you gives your loved one the best version of you. This presentation will help you discover why self-care is vital to your loved one's care. You will take away strategies to find time for you, and start on a path of reconnecting with your intuition about your needs.

Natalie Slate

5090 Velda Dairy Road

Tallahassee, FL 32309

(850) 228-5589

nslate@inursecoach.com



## **ABC's of Special Needs Trusts and Guardian Advocacy**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 21

This informative workshop is designed for parents, guardians and advocates of individuals with special needs. Attorney Sarah AuMiller will discuss the importance of legal and estate planning for families with special needs. A family member with special needs creates an added layer of complexity to estate planning - the need for advanced trust planning and guardianship. In this workshop, you will learn the basics of special needs trusts - both first-party and third-party trusts, including why they are important for protecting government benefit eligibility and providing lifetime protection for vulnerable individuals. We will also explore both guardianship and guardian advocacy - when each is appropriate and why they are essential for the protection of your loved ones.

Sarah AuMiller

The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan

254 Plaza Drive

Oviedo, FL 32765

(407) 977-8080

marketing@hoytbryan.com



## **Top 5 Reasons You Need an ABLE Account**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 22

Join us for an informative presentation on the "Top 5 Reasons You Need an ABLE Account." Discover how ABLE accounts can be a game-changer for individuals with disabilities and their families. Learn about the tax advantages, financial flexibility, and empowerment that come with having an ABLE account. Whether you're a person with a disability, a family member, or a financial professional, this presentation will highlight the key benefits of ABLE accounts and how they can improve your financial future and quality of life.

John Finch

ABLE United

2011 Delta Boulevard

Tallahassee, FL 32303

info@ableunited.com

## Community Lunch (Bilingual (English/Spanish))

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 24

There is a power in being in community, specifically in a community full of love for one another and oneself. This concept is present when you share a meal with the person to your left, with the person to your right. It is in the basic things in life that we realize no matter how we may be different, we are one community, and in community you are in a family. This is the story of how something as simple and day-to-day as meals provides a common ground for all and what this common ground means for the growth of an individual and the community they are a part of. Come and feel welcomed.

Andrea Delgado

Cuban Buffet

345 East 49 Street

Hialeah, FL 33013

(786) 562-3387

Andrea.Cubanbuffet@gmail.com



## Exploring Your Employment Options with Ticket to Work

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 25

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

Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

325 West Gaines Street, Room 1151

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 245-3271

Willette.Bowers@vr.fldoe.org



## MISSION: Nourish & Cherish!

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 26

This session is strictly for "Grown Folks" who are serious about developing and/or maintaining a healthy relationship or marriage. Experience real talk on what is needed to make sure you are getting the adequate nourishment needed to sustain it and ways to cherish what you have with each other! This session will not disappoint . . . leave feeling more determined with a healthier mindset to feed your love for others the right ingredients.

Robert Streater III

Team Streater Seminars and Services

3148 Dick Wilson Boulevard, Suite 2323

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 728-3042

bobstreater3225@gmail.com

Malverna Streater

Team Streater Seminars and Services

3148 Dick Wilson Boulevard, Suite 2323

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 661-1202

malverna1@yahoo.com

## **Being Prepared for Encounters with Law Enforcement**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 27

Encounters with law enforcement happen every day, at any time, and when you least expect them. They can be uncomfortable, stressful, and frightening, especially for someone with a disability. But knowing what to say and do, practicing, and being prepared can help make these situations easier for you to handle and safer for you. This seminar will focus on various scenarios someone can expect if they interact with law enforcement, and train attendees on how to calmly navigate these situations.

Andrew Sagona, Esq.

1627 River Reach Drive, Apt 33

Orlando, FL 32828

(407) 319-0615

andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com

## **Care Mapping: A Visual Family Story and Family-Professional Partnership Tool**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 28

Those with disabilities and chronic health conditions and their families lead busy, complex lives. Navigating medical, educational, and community-related systems is complex. Many professionals we work with only know part of the picture about all the services each family uses. Care mapping is a tool that helps families and care professionals work together for improved health outcomes. It's a family-driven and person-centered process that highlights a family's strengths and visually shows the big picture with many details about a family's resource needs and support activities. Come learn how your own family care map will strengthen your family-professional partnerships with care providers, educators, and community agencies.

Angela Miney

Pulmonary Division

University of Florida

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Linda Starnes

Title V Children and Youth with Special

Health Care Needs Program

Children's Medical Services

Florida Department of Health

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(407) 858-5550

Linda.Starnes@flhealth.gov

## **Childhood Trauma and ADHD: An Overview of Symptoms and Interventions**

Saturday, June 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bayhill 29

This training offers insight into several important symptomatic and diagnostic issues related to both childhood trauma and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). An emphasis on trauma-related experiences and therapeutic interventions is provided. Additionally, the importance of provider self-care and issues of compassion fatigue and professional burnout are explored. Presented by CMS Health Plan.

Chad Sedam

Sunshine Health

PO Box 459089

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345

(866) 796-0530

Chad.R.Sedam@centene.com





## **Early Steps Playgroup (Bilingual (English/Spanish))**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Bayhill 30

Our playgroups are created to work with the families and teach them strategies to play while working with their children, and to help families find support from the community and also other parents.

Imperia Torres  
Early Steps SWFL  
8961 Daniels Center Drive, Suite 401  
Fort Myers, FL 33912  
(239) 292-2995  
Imperiatorres@hpcswf.com

Nelsy Crowell  
Early Steps SWFL

Lizeth Navarro  
Early Steps SWFL

## **Music and Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Bayhill 31

Music has a powerful ability to connect people, elicit emotions, solidify memories, and change moods. The ability to appreciate music is not limited to those with auditory access. In this presentation, participants will receive information on music as it relates to consumers who are deaf/hard of hearing. Common barriers to music instruction and components of Universal Design for Learning as well as specialized accommodations for students who are deaf/hard of hearing to access music will be addressed. Strategies for increasing accessibility for listeners of varying ages and hearing levels will be shared, as well as famous musicians who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Sherry Conrad  
Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
207 San Marco Avenue  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-2683  
conrads@fsdbk12.org

## **Amor y Alegría en Armonía**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Bayhill 32

Lalita Tooley es una mujer mexiquense radicada en Florida hace más de 25 años, es licenciada en educación y orientador familiar, graduada de la maestría de Comunicación y Educación de la Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona en España. Al nacer su primer hijo se dedicó a sacarlo adelante a pesar de todos los diagnósticos que el pequeño Connor tenía, hoy a sus 20 años es un muchacho sano, deportista y que vive muy feliz. El objetivo para realizar esta conferencia es Inspirar y Motivar a través de la experiencia de más de 23 años para apoyar y orientar a los PADRES con HIJOS Especiales recién diagnosticados así como muchachos adolescentes con autismo y otros diagnósticos para brindarles herramientas de aprendizaje de la forma más fácil, divertida y dinámica para crear armonía e integración familiar. Les comparto con Amor mi historia para acompañarles a ver que hay perfección en donde se cree que no. ¡Los espero a ti y toda tu familia! Los niños son bienvenidos

Lalita Tooley  
Abraza la ViDa; una guía para padres con hijos especiales  
9807 Lychee Loop  
Riverview, FL 33569  
embracinglifeas1@gmail.com



### **Unlocking Home Accessibility: Pathways to Access**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Bayhill 33

This session offers a practical overview of home modification options for individuals with disabilities. It highlights the importance of specialized home modification assessments, ensuring safety and suitability for individual needs. Since 2016, the Assistive Technology Evaluations & Services team has specialized in home accessibility and assistive technology. They combine theoretical knowledge with practical experience, focusing on the challenges and solutions in home modifications for individuals with disabilities. Their expertise includes navigating funding options and ensuring functional, beneficial modifications. They have guided families and professionals, emphasizing technical skill and a commitment to improving life quality for those with disabilities.

Jeffrey Davis  
Assistive Technology Evaluations & Services LLC  
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Winter Garden, FL 34787  
(352) 536-4981  
assistivetechologies@gmail.com

### **Vocational Rehabilitation: Supporting Opportunities for Floridians with Disabilities**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Plaza International Ballroom

Since 1925, the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (FLDVR) has been helping Floridians with disabilities find or maintain employment. Every year, thousands of our customers are successfully employed while tens of thousands participate in experiences and services to get them closer to their goal. The Division's focus on positive outcomes for their customers means continuously evaluating how we help. Join VR's Acting Director Victoria Gaitanis in an informative session about improvements FLDVR has made in the last year.

Victoria Gaitanis  
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1144  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 245-3285  
Victoria.Gaitanis@vr.fldoe.org



### **Young Leaders Zumba Dance Party (Ages 15 - 30)**

Saturday, June 15  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Manatee Spring 2

Are you a young leader who likes to move and groove? If you can't wait to get on the dance floor any chance you get this is the perfect session for you. A career as a Zumba Instructor can be a perfect part-time gig to give you a little income and a fun career. Many youth with disabilities have become Zumba instructors because of their passion for movement and dance. This workshop will help show the basics of what it takes to become an instructor and as well as help you build confidence and leadership skills. Come join the fun!

Paula Burns  
Burns Dance & Fitness  
300 Terrace Drive East  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
(727) 900-5162  
burnsdancefitness@gmail.com

<b>12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.</b>	Performance by Trey Keesling, Regency Rotunda
<b>12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</b>	Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
<b>1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.</b>	Keynote Address, Plaza International Ballroom
<b>1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	Old MacDonald's Sensory Farm sponsored by Children's Medical Services, Orlando M
<b>1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	Sunshine Health Community Connection Center, Rainbow Spring I
<b>2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b>	Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda
<b>2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</b>	Registration Open, Registration Desk
<b>2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</b>	Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/RtI Technology and Learning Connections and Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, Manatee Spring I
<b>2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	SCUBA for ALL, Terrace Pool

## **3:00 PM - 4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### **Introduction to Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) Program**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 1

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.

Susan Nipper  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 414-8871  
susan.nipper@apdcares.org

Hillary Jackson  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
401 NW 2nd Avenue Suite S-811  
Miami, FL 33128  
(305) 808-6251  
hillary.jackson@apdcares.org

### **Working to End Human Trafficking: Equipping Individuals & Activating Community**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 2

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.

Meghan Torres  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 410-2876  
meghan.torres@apdcares.org

Janette Canas  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 414-8606  
janette.canas@apdcares.org

Katia Coonan  
Florida Department of Children & Families  
2415 N. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL. 32303  
(850) 274-1440  
Katia.Coonan@myflfamilies.com



### **To Visibility And Beyond**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 3

Get pumped to unleash the power of creativity in your advocacy adventures! In order to advocate, we need to educate. But how do we get people that aren't part of the disability community to understand? A key is content that captures the attention of the general public. Representation is essential. How do we show ourselves as multi-dimensional individuals, representing the good, the bad, the what needs to get done? How do we have fun and show our unique personalities when we do it? Come learn ways to move not just to visibility, but beyond! Follow @heartcharged to see our examples.

Hannah Keime  
HeartCharged  
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Hannah@getheartcharged.org

Bethany Keime  
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Stephanie Keime  
HeartCharged  
19800 Southwest 87th Avenue  
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thejolt@getheartcharged.org



### **FROM 2: How to Sustain Your Family-Run Organization**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 4

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  
Ferrone Associates  
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jferrone@ferroneassociates.com

Joe McCann  
The Family Café  
713 East Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 224-4670  
jmccann@familycafe.net

### **High School Student Progression and Transition**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 5

This presentation will include updates on Florida's high school graduation requirements and recent legislative changes. The recently adopted school counseling standards will also be reviewed.

Kim Brumage  
Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
325 West Gaines Street  
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kim.brumage@fldoe.org

Patricia Bodiford  
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Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
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patricia.bodiford@fldoe.org



## **Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 6

The “Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)” workshop addresses topics that parents need to consider in planning for emergencies with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. The session will talk about planning and preparation issues, assistive technology to consider, and different situations that may arise for a family or for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and may be alone at the time. Situations discussed include, but are not limited to, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, and traffic situations.

Scott Walsh  
Resource Materials and Technology Center  
for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
207 San Marco Avenue  
Saint Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-2731  
scott.walsh@rmtcdhh.org

Mark Keith  
Resource Materials and Technology Center  
for the Deaf / Hard of Hearing  
207 San Marco Avenue  
Saint Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-2731  
mark.keith@rmtcdhh.org



## **The Florida Family Leader Network (FFLN): Building Bridges and Making Connections Within the Community Serving Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 7

Are you interested in taking your lived experience to the next level? Are you interested in being a family or youth leader? Join us to learn how you can lend your voice and experience to help ensure all children and youth can live their best lives. The Florida Family Leader’s Network (FFLN) is a community of family and youth leaders, health care professionals, and public health champions dedicated to serving children and youth with special health care needs. FFLN breaks down barriers and provides opportunities to collaborate, learn, network, and share ideas. We aim to work together for better health care, awareness, and education.

Andrea Hickson  
Florida Family Leader’s Network (FFLN)  
Department of Health Children’s Medical Services  
8921 Southwest 52nd Street  
Miami, FL 33165  
(954) 608-4052  
andrea.hickson@flhealth.gov

Angela Miney  
University of Florida Pediatric Pulmonary Center  
PO Box 100296  
Gainesville, FL 32610  
(352) 273-8380  
aminey@peds.ufl.edu

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

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 8

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

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

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

## **Breaking Barriers, Building Safety: Raising Awareness on Child Maltreatment in Children with Disabilities**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 9

In this presentation, we will discuss the critical topic of child maltreatment within the context of children with disabilities. Our focus is on empowering families to recognize the signs, break the silence, and foster a protective environment. By raising awareness and providing practical insights, we aim to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge and tools needed to safeguard the well-being of their children with disabilities. Together, let's build a community committed to inclusivity, support, and resilience.

Erin Connelly Brown  
11875 Dunbar Court  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33412  
(850) 559-1184  
dr.erinconnelly@gmail.com



## **Navigating Transition: Support for Military Families with Special Needs Members in Florida (Bilingual (English/Spanish))**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 10

This presentation will offer an overview of the importance of transition support for military families with special needs members, touching on topics including the unique challenges faced during transition, key transition points for military families, issues specific to Florida, education transition, healthcare transition, community support, legal considerations, IEPs and transition planning, and resilience and coping strategies. There will be time for Q&A and additional resources will be shared.

Angela Tejada  
Early Intervention Program LLC  
3625 Northwest 82nd Avenue, Suite 101  
Dorai, FL 33166  
(786) 583-8663  
earlyinterventionclinic1@gmail.com



## **Yay! You are Going to College! Yikes! What about Funding and Accessibility?**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 11

You are not alone . . . one in five college students has a disability. Nearly all colleges offer an array of services, but you have to request them. Also, just because you had a service in high school, does not mean it is your right in college. Learn the difference among accommodations, modifications and accessibility. We will also cover aspects of supporting a student on the Autism spectrum. We will highlight some technology that that can be beneficial as well. Check out this session to learn about other services that aid in your success.

Emily Taylor-Snell  
34747 Prairie Ridge Way  
Zephyrhills, FL 33541  
(813) 817-1873  
etsnell74@gmail.com



### **Common Youth Mental Health Disorders, Signs and Symptoms**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 12

Learn the signs and symptoms of general mental health issues, then take a deeper look into common youth mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, and substance use. Learn how to de-escalate behaviors and support someone going through a crisis. Do you know the signs and symptoms, the risk factors, and protective factors of mental health? Did you know that suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth? Half of all chronic mental illness begins by age 14; three-quarters by age 24. Despite effective treatment, there are long delays—sometimes decades—between the first appearance of symptoms and when youth get help. Mental illness is a diagnosable illness that affects a person’s thinking, emotional state, and behavior, and disrupts the person’s ability to work or attend school, carry out daily activities, and engage in satisfying relationships. It is estimated that as many as 1 out of 5 children experience a mental disorder each year, and an estimated \$247 billion is spent each year on treatment and management of childhood mental disorders.

Jill Hill  
Partnership for Child Health  
910 North Jefferson Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32209  
(904) 376-5983  
JillH@pchjax.org



### **Move It! Movement and Exercise for Students with Visual Impairment**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 13

Everyone needs to move! Movement leads to increased energy and stamina, better sleep, improved academic performance, and a healthy lifestyle. Since students with visual impairments do not develop motor skills the same way as their sighted peers due to lack of learning from watching, they often miss out on the benefits of physical activity without explicit instruction. A simple task analysis to break down exercises focusing on various major muscle groups can bring a healthy lifestyle to students with visual impairments and those with additional disabilities. It can also improve orientation and mobility skills such as positional concepts, spatial awareness, body awareness, and following instructions. Add music and it’s a dance party!

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



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

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 14

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

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Project 10: Transition Education Network  
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Lfchavez@usf.edu

Tracy Dempsey  
Project 10: Transition Education Network  
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St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(850) 745-1373  
tracydempsey@usf.edu

## **Bullying Prevention**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 15

This workshop will present an overview of bullying prevention and a vision for ending bullying.

Michelle Surman  
FDLRS/SPRINGS  
820 Northeast 15th Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34470  
(352) 362-2443  
michelle.surman@marion.k12.fl.us



## **Vibe Check: A Discussion on Self-Esteem & Advocacy**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Celebration 16

Have you ever wanted to be on a talk show? This is your once-in-a-lifetime chance. Do you want to be encouraged? Is it your time to shine? Come join members of FYC in sharing affirmations and be reminded of just how special you are!

Shevie Barnes  
The Florida Youth Council  
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(239) 823-8790  
shevie@floridayouthcouncil.org

Michelle Sandiford  
The Florida Youth Council

Josue Tapia  
The Florida Youth Council

Sky Tristan-Elliot  
The Florida Youth Council

Catalina Andonie  
The Florida Youth Council

Viv Banks  
The Florida Youth Council

Vanessa Muniz Pellicer  
The Florida Youth Council



## **Never Give Up! Becoming Your Best Self**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 17

I have Down syndrome, but it doesn't define me. In my early years, my parents advocated for inclusion in school and outside activities. We moved after middle school and I desired the same experience I had prior to high school. It wasn't going very well as planned and my parents wanted to give up and have me change schools. I wanted to show the school I had more than my disability, so through grit and determination, I told my parents that I was going to "BLOW UP!" my senior year. My parents passed the baton and let me go! Senior year was epic and I did exactly what I predicted and changed the perceptions of students and especially the adult learners (teachers/administrators). From a bullied Freshman to Homecoming King, it gave me a platform help others when I founded a nonprofit 321life+1Project. Now, I'm living my best life.

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Tim Gruber  
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Jacksonville, FL 32233  
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321dslife@gmail.com

Teresa Gruber  
1241 Beach Dune Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32233  
(925) 565-1305  
321dslife@gmail.com



## **Guardianship and the Alternatives**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 18

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  
Davey Law Group, P.A.  
PO Box 941251  
Maitland, FL 32794  
(407) 645-4833  
Catherine@DaveyLG.com

## **Increasing Literacy through Adapted Books**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 19

In this session, you will learn how to increase literacy experience and engagement for students with disabilities by adapting texts. The Literacy Bill of Rights states that ALL students should have opportunities to read and write with accessible and appropriate texts, interact with others while reading/writing, and live and learn in environments that maintain the expectations and attitudes that all individuals are literacy learners.

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Matthew Take  
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Jacksonville, FL 32206  
(904) 704-9582  
takem@duvalschools.org

## **Emotional Refreshment for Women**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 20

This women-only space is geared toward those who desire an emotional refresh or reset in order to go to the next level up. This session is a place to interact because oftentimes circumstances or situations can have us feeling bogged down. Well, you are cordially invited to attend this inspiring, motivating, and uplifting session designed to help alleviate the negative pressures, give you tools to better cope with challenges, and encourage your heart to infuse it with more JOY! Come and feel strengthened in a “no judgement zone” atmosphere where we all desire the same thing . . . to be the best version of ourselves for ourselves and our families. Take time for You! Hope to see you there!!!

Malverna Streater  
Team Streater Seminars  
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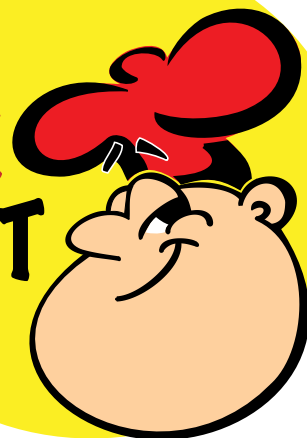
## **Beyond Childhood: Understanding The Economic Realities And Preparedness of Transitioning into Adulthood**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 21

Transitioning into adulthood for a special needs child involves economic challenges. Limited job opportunities and discrimination hinder employment prospects, leading to financial instability. Access to specialized healthcare and support diminishes, increasing healthcare costs. Housing and independent living options catering to their needs are limited, impacting financial independence. Navigating complex legal and financial matters poses difficulties, requiring ongoing support. These economic realities demand tailored financial planning, including trust funds, government benefits, and vocational training, to ensure stability and meet ongoing care needs as they navigate adulthood.

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EACH MOMENT  
TOGETHER**



**#FAMILYCAFE2024**



### **Planning for Special Needs and Retirement: It's Not Impossible**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 22

Navigating the financial challenges of planning for both special needs and retirement may seem daunting, but it is not an impossible feat. Craig Eppy specializes in this unique form of financial planning, understanding the concerns faced by families with loved ones requiring special care. Many families often feel overwhelmed by the day-to-day expenses associated with services for their children, leading them to believe that retirement is an unattainable goal. Contrary to this perception, it is indeed possible to achieve a secure retirement while catering to the needs of special family members. Success in this endeavor hinges on meticulous planning and a thorough examination of allocation and reallocation opportunities. Craig Eppy and his team offer valuable assistance in developing comprehensive financial strategies that address the challenges of special needs planning while ensuring a pathway to a well-deserved retirement. By carefully navigating these complexities, families can build a sustainable financial future that accommodates both their immediate needs and long-term retirement goals.

Craig Eppy  
Levanti Wealth  
501 East Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 300  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
(954) 271-7888  
levantimarketing@gmail.com

### **Familias Latinas construyendo apoyo y comunidad**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 24

In this presentation, we will share strategies for Spanish-speaking families to connect to one another and minimize language and cultural barriers. The presenter will share strategies that have worked for the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, which serves families from all the US, as well as other countries. Even though there might be limited resources available, we can always learn from other families' experiences. Participants will be able to share strategies that have been successful for them.

Lourdes Quintana  
CHARGE Syndrome Foundation  
318 Half Day Road, #305  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089  
(407) 222-4092  
lourdes@chargesyndrome.org

Marilu Santos  
Faith Assembly  
9307 Curry Ford Road  
Orlando, FL 32825  
(407) 758-4904  
santosm@faithassembly.org



### **Be Empowered, Be Employed**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 25

This presentation will feature a conversation about skills needed for employment, steps to take to obtain supported employment, and tips and tricks for picking a supported employment vendor.

Raschel Pratt  
Best Buddies International  
1001 North Orange Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32801  
(407) 721-6820  
RaschelPratt@bestbuddies.org



### **Unexpected Awe: My Journey as a Guardian Advocate**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 26

Embark on a journey through my transformative experience as a Guardian Advocate, unveiling how this role unexpectedly landed me in a world of awe. After volunteering at a pediatric/geriatric nursing home, I was asked by a family to be the Guardian Advocate for their child. This experience has profoundly reshaped my perspective of life. With insights from “The New Science of Awe” by Dacher Keltner, I will share anecdotes from the intersection of awe, advocacy, and art. Explore various awe-inspiring moments, from moral beauty to collective effervescence, that rejuvenate spirits and foster a deeper connection to the world.

Stuart Bogue  
2270 Howard Drive  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
(407) 927-1415  
stu@stuartbogue.me

### **Administrative Complaints: The “Squeaky Wheel”**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 27

Looking to “make noise” in a constructive way that will get your concerns not only heard, but addressed? Join us for a primer on administrative complaints. Learn what an administrative complaint is and how to file one. Learn the when, where, and how to file individual or systemic complaints in the appropriate administrative agency to confront disability discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, and the community. You will become aware of various federal and state agencies that investigate and resolve disability discrimination complaints, and you will gain a general understanding of their procedures from beginning to end.

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Disability Rights Florida  
1000 North Ashley Drive, #700  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(850) 617-9724  
courtneyd@disabilityrightsflorida.org

### **Parenting Neurodiverse Kids from a Brain-Based Approach Using The FASCETS and TBRI Models**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 28

Drug and alcohol exposure affects the developing brain and can cause challenging symptoms and behaviors. Learn the importance of approaching caregiving through a brain-based, trauma-informed lens. This can help reduce frustration and provide better outcomes for all involved.

Lindsey Munns  
The Florida Center for Early Childhood  
12002 Kirby Smith Road  
Orlando, FL 32832  
(801) 739-2855  
lkamunns@gmail.com

## **When Going to the Doctor Leaves You with More Questions than Answers**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 29

Have you ever walked into a medical appointment with your loved one and walked out with more questions than answers? In this presentation, complex care coordinator Dr. Keri Rodgers and parent Elizabeth Gibson team up to share how they collaborate to achieve positive outcomes in medical interactions. Participants will learn how to build a health and medical binder for their loved one, use tools to track changes in health, and create a one-page personal profile and communication passport.

Keri Rodgers  
3576 Inverary Drive  
Columbus, OH 43228  
(614) 648-0342  
kerilrodgers@gmail.com

Elizabeth Gibson  
2650 Regal Pine Trail  
Oviedo, FL 32766  
(765) 639-5988  
lizabgibson@gmail.com



## **The Inside Scoop on Florida's Early Steps: Understanding the Journey and Benefits of Early Intervention (Bilingual (English/Spanish))**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 30

Every child grows and develops at their own pace, but research shows that a child's first three years are the most important time for learning. Early Intervention can profoundly impact the trajectory of an individual's life, and we help families build on their child's individual strengths and provide support to meet each child's unique needs. This presentation aims to shed light on Early Steps, the significance of early intervention, Florida's Early Steps approach to intervention, and the supports that come with Early Steps, and will provide an overview of the journey through Early Steps.

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

Claudia Lawler  
Treasure Coast Early Steps

Talli Mension

## **Understanding Executive Function and Learning Skills to Help Your Child**

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bayhill 31

Executive functioning is coordinated in the brain's frontal lobe and used to plan, organize, strategize, pay attention, and complete goals. Executive dysfunction creates challenges with impulse control, flexible thinking, task initiation, organization, and working memory. Executive dysfunction affects children's learning and can make it difficult for them to complete a project, organize their work, complete multistep tasks, and think independently. Executive functioning skills are learned in day-to-day activities, in real-life contexts, through observation of a competent adult model. This presentation will offer strategies adults can use to teach these skills.

Brett Walden  
UF Health Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics  
UF-Jax-CARD, FDLRS-MDC  
6271 St. Augustine Road, Suite 1  
Jacksonville, FL 32217  
(904) 633-0768  
brett.walden@jax.ufl.edu

## **Justice for All, Unless You have Autism: Navigating the Legal System on the Spectrum**

Saturday, June 15

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 32

Court? Lawyers? Hearings? Interviews? Navigating the justice system is difficult – even more so when you are on the autism spectrum. Access to critical services, accommodations, and autism-accepting legal staff can feel impossible to obtain. This presentation guides families and professionals through critical points of access, making the court more autism-friendly, and knowing what (and who) to ask when you need help. Additionally, we will discuss practical no-cost resources for law professionals, field staff, case workers, guardians, and professionals that can be implemented to support individuals and children and families through their legal transitions.

Megan Lietzau

University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)

4101 Northwest 89th Boulevard

Gainesville, FL 32606

(352) 265-2230

lietzau@ufl.edu



## **Maintaining Independence with AT through the Life Cycle**

Saturday, June 15

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bayhill 33

Join FFAST for a panel-style discussion featuring representatives from Vocational Rehab, Division of Blind Services, Dept of Ed, Centers for Independent Living, APD and more to learn how you can access assistive technology no matter where you are in your life journey.

Eric Reed

FFAST, Inc

2145 Delta Boulevard, Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32303

(850) 487-3278

ereed@faast.org



## **Zumba® for Little Dancers (Ages Birth to Five)**

Saturday, June 15

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Manatee Spring 2

Children of any age can benefit from music and dance. This workshop is developed for the young child (ages birth to five) to participate with their caregiver and learn while using music and dance. If you have a child that loves music and movement this is a perfect session for you. This session will use musical instruments and rhythms to help caregivers with emotional development, memory, and social skills as well as motor skills while bonding with the caregiver and having fun.

Paula Burns

Burns Dance & Fitness

300 Terrace Drive East

Clearwater, FL 33765

(727) 900-5162

burnsdancefitness@gmail.com



### Adaptive Cooking Interactive Session

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Barrel Spring 1 & 2

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.

Catrina Sanchez  
Easterseals Florida  
8793 Tamiami Trail East, Unit 111  
Naples, FL 34113  
(813) 391-1755  
csanchez@fl.easterseals.com

Shannon Hayes  
Easterseals Florida  
8793 Tamiami Trail East, Unit 111  
Naples, FL 34113  
(239) 403-0366  
shayes@fl.easterseals.com

Jenn Siffermann  
Easterseals Florida  
2010 Crosby Way  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
(813) 868-7191

### Autism Advocate

Saturday, June 15  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Coral Spring 1 & 2

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

**4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Performance by the Pyramid Players, Regency Rotunda  
Red Carpet Experience, Convention Level



## 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS



### **Transitioning During the Early Years**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 1

The presentation focuses on the process and procedures, as well as the rules and regulations, of the transition from Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C Early Steps to IDEA Part B Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Program. The presentation will also provide information on what to expect when moving through the eligibility process through the IDEA Part B Prekindergarten 3-5 program. Additionally, there are suggestions on how families can support their children through the transition process. This presentation also highlights information related to the changes in the Developmental Delay rule and the impact of those changes on the transition to kindergarten.

LeNita Winkler  
Florida Department of Education (FDOE)  
Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BEES)  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 614  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400  
850-245-1960  
lenita.winkler@fldoe.org

Debbi Nicolosi  
Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS)  
3280 Progress Drive Ste 250  
Orlando, FL 32816  
239-745-9332  
debbi.nicolosi@ucf.edu

### **Hope Florida: A Pathway to Possibilities - How the Hope Florida Program Serves and Empowers Individuals and Families to Thrive**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 2

In the Fall of 2023, First Lady Casey DeSantis announced her Hope Florida program expansion to serve individuals with unique abilities. This panel will discuss the success of the program directly from APD Hope Navigators that will share their firsthand accounts and testimonials of how Floridians all across the state are being supported and empowered to reach their God-given potential through community partnerships.

Zandra Odum  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
4030 Esplanade Way, Room 360R  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 922-0371  
zandra.odum@apdcares.org



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MOMENT TOGETHER**  
**#FAMILYCAFE2024**







### **Partners in Policymaking: Become the Advocate You Are Meant to Be!**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 3

Did you know that the chances of you getting what you need without advocating are slim? The Florida Developmental Disability Council's advocacy training program, Partners in Policymaking, teaches parents and adults with developmental disabilities the skills they need to influence systems and policymakers to make things happen! Whether you're enthusiastic about educational inclusion, furthering employment opportunities, improving housing and transportation options, or more, PIP can help you discover the advocate you are meant to be. Attend this session to gain knowledge of this national model, where participants learn from experts in the field of systems change.

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

### **Everything's Gonna Be Okay - Navigating Sibling Relationships**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 4

One of the most challenging relationships to navigate after a child is diagnosed with Autism is the sibling relationship. During this presentation, I will share, along with my 9-year-old daughter, what it is like to have a sibling with a disability and how to make the most of the journey. This presentation is set to be an honest and open dialogue about the conflicts and woes families face and how to rise from the difficulties to have thriving and loving sibling relationships.

Christina Smith  
University of South Florida Preschool  
For Creative Learning  
203 Penmark Stone Place  
Valrico, FL 33594  
(615) 439-0780  
christinasmith20@yahoo.com

Valentina Lopez-Smith  
203 Penmark Stone Place  
Valrico, FL 33594  
(615) 439-0780  
christinasmith20@yahoo.com

### **Data-Driven Decision-Making for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disability**

Friday, June 14  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 5

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) will provide information and new updates for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and eligibility for Florida Alternate Assessment and instruction in Access Points – Alternate Academic Achievement Standards.

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



## **Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 6

The “Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)” workshop addresses topics that parents need to consider in planning for emergencies with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. The session will talk about planning and preparation issues, assistive technology to consider, and different situations that may arise for a family or for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and may be alone at the time. Situations discussed include, but are not limited to, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, and traffic situations.

Scott Walsh  
Resource Materials and Technology  
Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
207 San Marco Avenue  
Saint Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-2731  
scott.walsh@rmtcdhh.org

Mark Keith  
Resource Materials and Technology  
Center for the Deaf / Hard of Hearing  
207 San Marco Avenue  
Saint Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-2731  
mark.keith@rmtcdhh.org

### **Maximizing Options and Potential: Accommodations and the College/University Process**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 7

Considering college or university for yourself or someone you know? Join us! Participants will learn the basics of college/university accommodations and opportunities. Who is the primary advocate for a university student with a disability? What documentation is required to receive accommodations? How does the accessibility office partner with students for the most successful outcome? Join us in this round table discussion with administrators and faculty from the University of South Florida. Each presenter has lived experience with disability and accommodations either as a person with a disability or the parent of a student with a disability.

Deb McCarthy  
University of South Florida  
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Tampa, FL 33620  
(813) 974-8135  
dmccarthy@usf.edu

Adam Davidson  
University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Ave, Honors College  
Tampa, FL 33620  
adamdavidson@honors.usf.edu

Lindy Davidson  
University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Ave, Honors College  
Tampa, FL 33620

### **Understanding the IEP Process at the High School Level and Knowing How to Advocate for your Child**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 8

As an ESE ELA teacher and ESE Support Facilitator for Biology, I write many IEPs for students with a strong focus on instruction in all core subjects as 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 at the high school level, 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  
Martin County School District  
1251 Southeast Mendavia Avenue  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952  
(772) 618-3027  
fletchml@martinschools.org

Meli Fletcher  
1251 Southeast Mendavia Avenue  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952  
(772) 333-9583  
ameliafletcher@aol.com



## **Networking with School Liaisons - How They Help the Community as a Whole**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 9

School Liaisons on military bases are known for helping military families as they transition from base to base with school-related issues, but do you know how they can also help the community as a whole? This seminar will not only inform and enlighten military and civilian families of what a School Liaison does for military families, but it will also detail the many ways they collaborate and support the community as a whole - including families from all walks of life with special needs. Learn how working with School Liaisons can provide resources that can be used by all students in the school, including peer-to-peer programming, non-clinical counseling services, and mentorship opportunities through the local installations. School Liaisons play a key part in Partnerships in Education (PIE) and can help families navigate local systems and agencies. Military families have the same concerns, issues, and roadblocks as many civilian families. School Liaisons are there to support not only the military families in the area, but the greater community as well.

Erin Pickard, M.Ed.  
Naval Support Activity Panama City  
101 Vernon Avenue, Bldg. 126  
Panama City Beach, FL 32407  
erin.h.pickard.naf@us.navy.mil

Mallory Gross  
Tyndall Air Force Base  
Panama City, FL 32403



## **Autism and the Military Family**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 10

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

Elizabeth Parent  
1009 Southeast 14th Avenue,  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441  
(410) 808-8142



## **Understanding Florida's Mental Health System**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 12

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 which 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.

Aaron Victoria  
Disability Rights Florida  
4723 Northwest 53rd Avenue, Suite B  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
(850) 488-9071  
aaronv@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Curtis Filaroski  
Disability Rights Florida  
1000 North Ashley Drive  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(850) 488-9071  
curtisf@disabilityrightsflorida.org



### **Super Bowl 58 Special Olympics Florida Unified Reporter**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 13

Hear from a self-advocate as he shares the experience of being part of the media on Media Row in Las Vegas for Super Bowl 58!

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

### **Beyond the Disability Cliff: How Can You Prepare and Thrive?**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 14

Leaving the school system and transition services is daunting for many. We will provide a breakdown on employment services, post-secondary education, accommodations, and state services.

Christine Nammour  
MacDonald Training Center  
5420 West Cypress Street  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 870-1300  
cnammour@macdonaldcenter.org

Sharon Foster  
MacDonald Training Center  
5420 West Cypress Street  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 870-1300  
SFoster@macdonaldcenter.org

### **Marriage and Family With A Disability**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 15

In this presentation we'll discuss marriage (relationships) and having a family while having a disability. I'll talk about pregnancy and marriage and how to navigate the system.

Tricia Riccardi  
313 North Crestwood Avenue  
Inverness, FL 34453  
Triccardi77@gmail.com

Marshall Riccardi  
313 North Crestwood Avenue  
Inverness, FL 34453  
Triccardi77@gmail.com



### **Past and Present Ms. Wheelchair FL (2010-Present)**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Celebration 16

Have you ever wanted to meet the women who represent Florida in one of the largest disability pageants in the world? Do you have a daughter, niece, aunt, or mother who you feel can inspire change? Come join us past and present titleholders for fun, laughs, answers to questions, even a photo opportunity! Come one come all! Find out what it's really like "becoming queen."

Shevie Barnes  
The Florida Youth Council  
713 East Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(239) 823-8790  
shevie@floridayouthcouncil.org

## How To Get The Most Out of Your Life

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 17

Life can be full of discouragement and setbacks, and is often more so for people with disabilities. This presentation will help you learn how to do what you want to do, achieve the most you can, and be all that you can when others put you down, hold you back, and say “you can’t,” “you aren’t,” and “you won’t.” This seminar will include optional audience participation, real stories, and practical tips on how to be self-assured, self-confident, and self-motivated.

Andrew Sagona, Esq.  
1627 River Reach Drive, Apt 33  
Orlando, FL 32828  
(407) 319-0615  
andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com

Joanne Sagona  
1627 River Reach Drive, Apt 33  
Orlando, FL 32828  
(407) 319-2085  
jsagona98@gmail.com



## Maximizing Freedom & Protection: Guardian Advocacy Through the Eyes of Both an Attorney and an Advocate

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 18

This presentation will feature both a guardianship attorney and an advocate who are prepared to address the unique legal and practical challenges of guardian advocacy. Those attending the presentation will come away with specific information about guardian advocacy and crucial questions to ask when considering a guardian advocacy for a loved one. The presentation will cover the purposes of guardian advocacy, when one is needed, who may qualify, how to formally establish a guardian advocacy, balancing freedom and protection within the court system, succession planning, and other practical solutions for families.

Heidi Isenhardt  
Shuffield Lowman & Wilson PA  
1000 Legion Place, Suite 1700  
Orlando, FL 32801  
(407) 581-9800  
hisenhardt@shuffieldlowman.com

Claudia Porpiglia  
Guardian Care Management and Benefit Services  
106 Commerce Street, Suite 107  
Lake Mary, FL 32746  
(407) 786-6033  
claudia@gcmbms.com



## Guardianship Alternatives

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 19

Talhia Rangel will discuss the various legal decision-making options for people 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 alternatives such as guardian advocacy, powers of attorney, and supported decision-making agreements. Our focus will be more on guardian advocacy, and 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.

Talhia Rangel  
Disability Inclusion and Advocacy Law (DIAL) Clinic at NSU Law  
3070 Shepard Broad Way  
Davie, FL 33314  
(954) 262-6138  
ts872@nova.edu

## When Marriage Meets Caregiving

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 20

Dreams of marriage rarely include wheelchairs, walkers, or medical equipment, let alone caregiving. But this is exactly the relationship some couples are privileged to embrace. The relentlessness of disability affects everything. Couples may be left wondering if they still have a marriage amidst the demands of caregiving. The dynamics caregiving puts on the marriage relationship will be discussed by sharing real-life stories laced with humor, and practical examples of couples living with disability. Attendees will find a framework to manage the challenges of caregiving and while rekindling hope in their marriage.

Joan Borton  
Luke 14 Exchange Inc  
2752 Canyon Crest Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
(215) 380-2485  
Joan@Luke14Exchange.org

Jerry Borton  
Luke 14 Exchange, inc  
2752 Canyon Crest Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
(215) 570-2679  
Jerry@Luke14Exchange.org

## Grief: Surviving the Aftermath

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 21

This presentation discusses grief and loss, as well as their effects on the mind, body, and soul, whether it's end of a life or loss of a function.

Mari Adams  
Chapters Health System Cornerstone Hospice  
5655 South Orange Avenue  
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(407) 912-1921  
Madams@chaptershealth.org

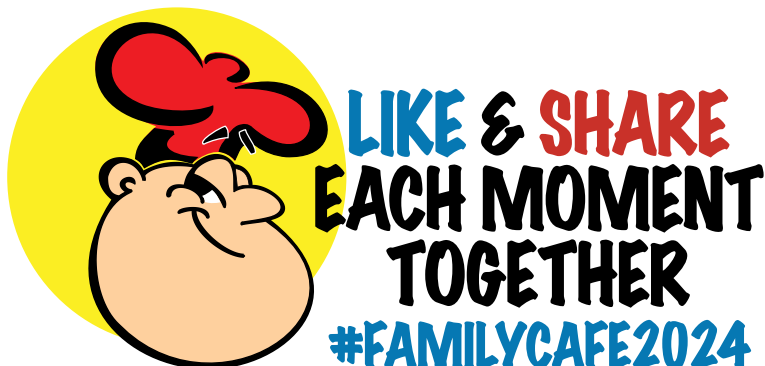


## Financial Strength IS for Everyone (Bilingual (English/Spanish))

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 22

This presentation is rooted in empowering individuals with the necessary tools to develop a solid financial plan in their immediate and future days. The presentation will cover daily financial routines, annual financial strategies, and long-term strategies to provide participants the financial tools to respond to the rising medical costs, costs of living, and fulfillment of financial and personal goals. When under control, financial strength is not only to cover expenses, it can also become a tool to improve one's mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical health. Regardless of perceived or actual limitations, when an individual has the correct tools and strategies, financial strength IS for everyone.

Angel Ortiz  
Primerica Financial Services  
1409 Southeast 24th Terrace  
Homestead, FL 33035  
(786) 362-0910  
angel.ortizblanco98@gmail.com



## Parents Paws & Progress

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 24

Navigating developmental milestones while raising 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. Join us for a session that blends the personal narratives of our parent speakers and their expertise as training professionals with Topaz Assistance Dogs, shedding light on the remarkable ways dogs enhance the lives of children facing unique challenges. Witness firsthand the extraordinary impact when the unconditional love and unique attributes of dogs unlock hidden potentials, creating a path of resilience for children facing developmental challenges.

Robbie Tanner  
Topaz Assistance Dogs  
3530 12th Avenue Southeast  
Naples, FL 34117  
(239) 207-9030  
robbie@topazassistancedogs.org

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



## Vocational Rehabilitation: The World of Work for Everyone

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 25

This session will provide an overview of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and programs designed to assist individuals with disabilities to become successfully employed. Topics to be discussed include an introduction to VR, how to become a VR customer, how VR supports individuals with disabilities in the world of work, an overview of Adult Services and success stories. Notably, VR Program Administrator Peter Shepis will share his own story as a recent VR customer alongside his counselor, Bonnie Burgess. There will be time to meet staff and ask questions. Come uncover the strategies designed to help you reach your career goals!

Peter Shepis  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
2050 Art Museum Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
Peter.Shepis@vr.fldoe.org

Maria Forestier  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
1450 West 1st Street  
Stanford, FL 32771  
(407) 262-7441  
maria.forestier@vr.fldoe.org



## Setting the Stage For Unleashing Potential

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 26

When my son was born, I accepted his disability immediately. I knew he was an open book ready to be written and I never looked at what he couldn't do. Through networking, his athletic coach, dream maker, community and IEP partner, I helped shape the life my son deserves, and he's just getting started. Everyone has unique abilities, but many just need to be encouraged to help unleash their child/adult child's potential.

Tim Gruber  
1241 Beach Dune Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32233  
(831) 539-1880  
timteresa0@gmail.com

Brandon Gruber

## **Child Support for the Special Needs Child**

Saturday, June 15

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 27

Attorney Veronica Robinson delivers a compelling presentation on “Child Support for the Special Needs Child,” offering invaluable insights into the intricate legal landscape surrounding support obligations in these unique cases. Drawing on her extensive expertise in family and disability law, she navigates the complexities with clarity, addressing financial considerations, and legal nuances. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the intricate legal aspects surrounding support obligations. Robinson will delve into key topics, including the calculation of support, navigating government assistance programs, and addressing the specific financial needs of special needs children. Attendees will leave with actionable insights and equipped to make informed decisions.

Veronica Robinson

Law Offices of E.F. Robinson, P.A.

4754 West Commercial Boulevard

Tamarac, FL 33319

(754) 434-1176

vrobinson@efrobinson.law

## **Health Care Partnerships: Families and Providers Planning Together for Your Child's Best Health Outcomes**

Saturday, June 15

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Bayhill 28

Family partnership with health care providers is important for patient- and family-centered care. You know your child best. You can join in shared decision-making, care planning, and health care transition preparation with providers. Partnership with physicians and therapists will ensure the best care for your child. The work of our Florida Department of Health's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program supports families and providers working together in a patient-centered medical home. Join two of our program's Family Leaders to learn current information, strategies, and resources to strengthen your partnership with your child's providers.

Linda Starnes

Title V Children and Youth with

Special Health Care Needs Program

Children's Medical Services

Florida Department of Health

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(407) 858-5550

Linda.Starnes@flhealth.gov

Carmen Melendez

Title V Children and Youth with

Special Health Care Needs Program

Children's Medical Services

Florida Department of Health

Park Trammel Building

1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 809

Tampa, FL 33602

(941) 536-3039

Carmen.Melendez@flhealth.gov





## **Florida's Medical Marijuana Program**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 29

The Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) works diligently as the regulating entity of Florida's medical marijuana use program. The OMMU highly prioritizes the medical use of medical marijuana by all qualified patients. This presentation provides an in-depth overview of Florida's Medical Marijuana Program, a look at the programs 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 Certified Marijuana Testing Labs. Attendees should leave with a better understanding of Florida's Medical Marijuana Use Program.

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

Todd Schimpf  
Florida Department of Health  
Office of Medical Marijuana Use  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin M-01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 245-4720  
Todd.Schimpf@FLHealth.gov



## **Unlocking Brighter Futures: The PLAY Project® Transformative Play-Based Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 30

Discover the transformative power of play-based interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) during our presentation on the PLAY Project ©. This engaging session will introduce you to the innovative approach pioneered by Dr. Richard Solomon and how services can be delivered in the home or educational settings. We will also showcase the expansion of the PLAY Project services across the Sunshine State, addressing the critical need for early intervention and the support for children with ASD and their families. Don't miss this opportunity to PLAY a part in creating brighter futures.

Debbie Fox  
Easterseals Northeast Central Florida  
1219 Dunn Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
(386) 316-0982  
dfox@esnecfl.org

## **Oh the Possibilities: The Magic of Music and Early Intervention**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 31

"Can she do it?" my mom was asked of a five year old non-verbal me, when I was introduced to my first piano lesson. My Mom's reply to most of those questions regarding my ability has always been "Let's give her a fair chance and let's try." I can do anything! When I try, try, try! Hi, my name is Victoria, you can also call me Tori. I enjoy reading sheet music, playing the piano, the violin, and playing tennis in my spare time. I am also a very good singer—and oh yeah, I am 15 years old and I have Autism! OR Greatism as my Nana sometimes says. Join me as I walk you through my life as a young girl who is conquering personal dreams and aspirations, with so much more to come in my future.

Bridgette Lawrence  
7568 Northwest Archerfield Drive  
Port St Lucie, FL 34987  
(954) 708-6361  
myktok@me.com

Victoria Lawrence  
7568 Northwest Archerfield Drive  
Port St Lucie, FL 34987

## Understanding Sensory Difficulties

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 32

Do you know the difference between a sensory response and a behavior response? This presentation will help you understand how our seven sensory systems impact our ability to attend, focus, and maintain a balanced system. The training focuses on the child as a whole person as we explore sensory issues, sensory modulation, emotional regulation, and the relationship between the sensory and emotional systems.

Melissa Call  
FDLRS Crown  
1531 Winthrop Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32206  
(904) 704-9582  
callm@duvalschools.org

Matthew Take  
FDLRS Crown  
1531 Winthrop Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32206  
(904) 704-9582  
takem@duvalschools.org



## Independence through Assistive Technology Funding

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Bayhill 33

Discover how different funding sources can create the independence you want through acquiring the tools and devices you need for an independent life, as well as using funding sources as a means to create a stronger and more independent financial livelihood.

Eric Reed  
FAAST, INC  
2145 Delta Boulevard, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 487-3278  
ereed@faast.org

Megan Atkinson  
FAAST, Inc  
2145 Delta Boulevard, Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 487-3278  
matkinson@faast.org



## Role-Playing Adventures

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Orlando N

Dungeon Master John Ferrone returns to host a Role-Playing Room where players and other DM's can come and explore their favorite realms. Whether it's D+D, Middle-Earth Role-Playing, or some other game system, show up and join in the fun. No experience necessary, although youth under 10 may need assistance. Feel free to come in costume if you'd like. Bring your dice, too—and receive a set of dungeon dice. If you're a Dungeon Master or Game Master, you can pull together a group and take them through an adventure. And if you're a Player Character, bring your favorite Character and jump into an adventure. John Ferrone will conduct a dungeon crawl, too. Come and have a blast!

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

## **SibShop**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Barrel Spring 1 & 2

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. 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 special needs with others who “get it”; play some great games; explore how other brother 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! Ages: 7-13. Most Sibshops are for sibs of kids with special developmental concerns, including intellectual and developmental disabilities. Increasingly, SibShops are being offered for brothers and sisters of kids with health concerns (often at children’s hospitals), and we’re beginning to see SibShops emerge for sibs of kids with mental health concerns. Please note this is not childcare and is intended for the sibling. Typically, parents do not stay during the session. We find this allows children to speak freely without fear or judgment.

Cheryl Albright  
All Ages Therapy Services  
7365 Merchant Court, Unit 3  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
(941) 702-2035  
cheryl@soultosoulyogasrq.com

## **Mesa Redonda del Autismo**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Coral Spring 1 & 2

Una de las mejores formas de vincular con 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 participantes 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 en 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



## **Active Kids Love to Zumba® (Ages 11 and younger)**

Saturday, June 15  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Manatee Spring 2

Music can be a great way to motivate children to move, listen, and follow directions. Help your young child develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate music and dancing 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  
300 Terrace Drive East  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
(727) 900-5162  
burnsdancefitness@gmail.com

**5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Performance by St. John & Friends, Regency Rotunda

**7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Saturday Night Dance Party, Plaza International Ballroom

# Entertainment #FamilyCAFÉ 2024

## Highlights

### Pyramid Players

Get ready to GROOVE! It's Pyramid's 30th Anniversary and we're so excited to be celebrating with you! You won't want to miss a single set by these talented performers and musicians, which include song and dance performances by The Players and a rockin' good time with the Electric People. They're going leave you with your toes tappin' and a song in your heart! The performers study their craft at Pyramid, Inc., an arts-focused not-for-profit day training program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Regency Rotunda**

**Friday, 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

**Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

**Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

**Saturday, 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

**Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Regency Rotunda**



### Milosz Gasior

Milosz, a 21-year-old with autism, has defied expectations and made remarkable strides in his life journey. Milosz graduated as the first Piano Major from the Pinellas County Center for the Arts in May 2023, receiving the prestigious Dr. Cody Clark Thelo Award. He was recently named an Arts4All Florida 2024 Young Performer winner, and has performed at prestigious events, including galas at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club and James Museum of Western Art and Culture. A YouTube channel, "Milosz Gasior Defying Autism with Music," features his playing, inviting listeners to experience his talent. In December 2022, Milosz's encounter with Broadway producer Mark Schoenfeld led to the publication of a book chronicling Milosz's life story, titled "I Heard the Light: A Mother's Story of Her Son's Journey Through Autism to Self-Expression," available in various formats on Amazon.

**Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

### Rebecca Oslacky

Rebecca Oslacky is a proud disabled woman, entrepreneur, and performer. As a professional event singer Rebecca has performed at countless venues throughout Florida including the NHL and Disney for Special Olympics. She is the founder and creator of Artists Unified Network, a disability advocacy organization working to end discrimination of disabled performers in the arts, and works with many organizations throughout central Florida towards these efforts.

**Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

### Meditation

There is not one way to meditate. During this hour with me, we will explore different aspects of meditation, trying different ways that could work with your mind and body. We will have lo-fi background music. I am a Registered Nurse, Board Certified Holistic Nurse Coach, Registered Yoga Teacher, and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Purple Belt. I have practiced yoga and been a nurse over 20 years. Meditation is my secret ingredient to feel fully present in life.

**Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Barrel Spring**

**Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Barrel Spring**

# Entertainment #FamilyCAFÉ Highlights 2024



## Yoga

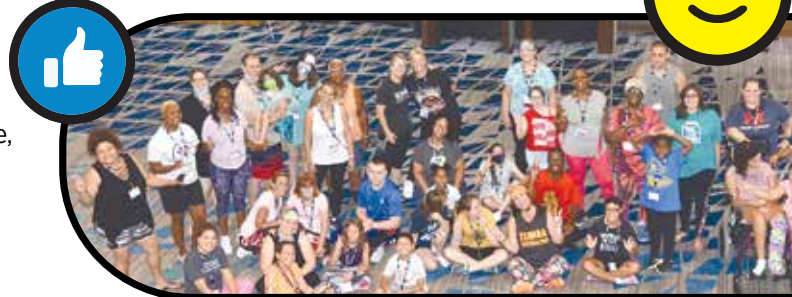
The yoga classes are designed for all abilities and ages. Chairs will be available if you choose not to practice on the floor. There are 5 parts to the yoga class: singing, eye exercises, postures that are all modifiable, breathing practice, and a guided relaxation. The ultimate goal is hopefully the brain and body are more connected than when you came into class.

**Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Manatee Spring 2**  
**Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Manatee Spring 2**

## Zumba

Join us for all ages and all abilities. Wheelchairs are welcome too! "No wrong moves just unexpected solos." Bring a towel, water bottle, and party attitude.

**Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Regency Rotunda**  
**Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Regency Rotunda**



## Radiant Voices

Radiant Voices is a choir of adults and young adults with disabilities. Each singer performs to their personal best. This choir includes all ability levels. We are located in Martin County and we practice every Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church from 3-5 pm. This group loves to perform! We hope that you will enjoy our performance at the Family Café.

**Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Regency Rotunda**

## Trey Keesling

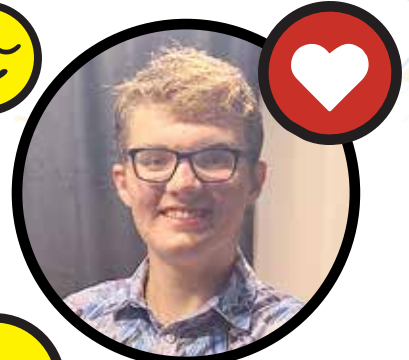
Trey Keesling is percussionist on the spectrum from Alachua County. He has played vibraphone as a soloist in multiple settings, including Autism in the Arts sponsored by CARD-UF. He has performed 5 pieces at FBA MPA state earning 4 superiors and 1 excellent. Currently he is a member of the Annasemble Community Orchestra of Gainesville. He is looking forward to playing vibraphone as one of the many talented artists at The Family Café.

**Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Regency Rotunda**

## St. John & Friends

St. John & Friends was formed in 2017, a musical group passionate about live music and the power of performance. We believe music can inspire and enlighten. St. John, player of cello and piano, is a young man with intellectual differences who shares his voice through music. In March 2024, St. John, and St. John & Friends were recognized by NPR's From the Top's "Musicians with Disabilities Initiative" featured on their Daily Joy program. The program highlighted St. John and a St. John & Friends musical performance. Along with our two other group members (Christina Erhayel and David Steadman), we perform jazz, contemporary, and classical pieces in the community and outside of Jacksonville, Florida. [stjohnandfriends.com](http://stjohnandfriends.com) It is an honor to be performing for the attendees of The 26th Annual Family Café.

**Saturday, 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Regency Rotunda**



7-10PM • SATURDAY NIGHT

# DANCE PARTY

PLAZA INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM

AMPLIFY  
*your event*

# SUNDAY

## June 16, 2024



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



CAM CALKOEN



# Live for Awesome



Cam Calkoen dreams of a world where everyone is inspired to embrace their opportunities and physical being is no barrier to succeeding in our dreams and aspirations. It is dreams that have brought the world to what we see today and our aspirations that will propel it into the future.

No one can walk and talk at birth. Some people, like Cam, are presented with this likelihood for the rest of their lives. He chose to defy the odds and now showcases what can be achieved when we identify a challenge, leverage our opportunities and uniqueness, and indeed “live for awesome!”

Born with Cerebral Palsy, Cam was told that his biggest challenges would be the way he walks and talks. He dreamed big, becoming an athletic gold medalist, highly effective charitable fundraiser, social entrepreneur, and now a globally renowned inspirational speaker who ignites a connection and clarity between inspiration, dreams and people.

Through strength of human attitude and potential Cam chose to embrace the challenges he was born with and harnesses his gifts to live in the pursuit of excellence and make life as awesome as it can be.



Get a **FREE** download of Cam's book **DREAM BIG ACHIEVE MORE** by scanning this QR code!



He is a living example that life is what we make it, and that the values needed to achieve awesomeness are simple – we need to believe! In doing so, we leave no stone unturned. Through charisma, stories, and artistic flair, Cam's presence sees people identify the unturned stones on their own path. He ignites, inspires, enlightens, and delights others by modelling what it looks like to dream big and achieve more!

# SUNDAY

## June 16

# #FamilyCAFÉ

# 2024



**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

Unleashing Resilience: Conquering Challenges Beyond Limits with Rev. Robert E. "Bobby" Streater, III, MA, Blue Spring 2

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

Meditation, Barrel Spring

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

Yoga, Manatee Spring 2

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

Zumba, Regency Rotunda

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

Exhibit Hall Open, 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

**9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

Interactive Technology Expo presented by PS/RtI Technology and Learning Connections and Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, Manatee Spring I

**9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

Friends of Bill, Coral 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

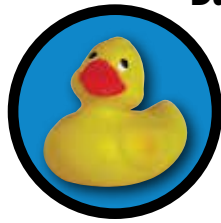
### Unleashing Resilience: Conquering Challenges Beyond Limits



The Sunday morning session, titled "Unleashing Resilience: Conquering Challenges Beyond Limits," is a faith-based gathering for the entire family. Led by Rev. Robert E. "Bobby" Streater, III, MA, this champion-led session aims to inspire attendees to overcome obstacles with unwavering resilience. Through faith-based teachings and motivational insights, participants are encouraged to embrace challenges and push beyond their limits, fostering strength and perseverance within the community. Be Encouraged!

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Blue Spring II**

### Duck Race



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!

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





# CLUB CAFE

**FOR YOUTH AGED 15-30 YEARS ONLY**

**FRIDAY 10 AM - 6 PM**

**SATURDAY 8 AM - 6 PM**

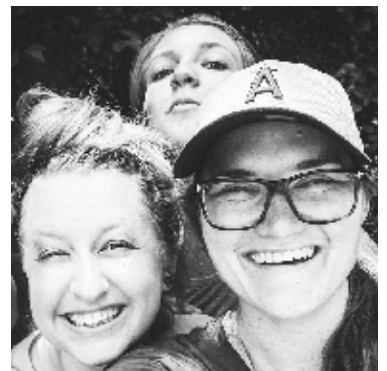
**ROOM ORLANDO L**

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!*



# 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 14** and  
from **9:30 AM to 5:00 PM**  
on **Saturday, June 15.**

**COMFY FLOOR CUSHIONS  
WILL BE PROVIDED!**



**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Celebration of Life**  
**Coral Spring**

Celebration of

*Life*

Love never dies.

Join us for our annual Celebration of Life ceremony, where we gather to share, find support, and honor the lives of our departed loved ones. In this sacred space, we weave together stories and memories, poetry, and guidance from our skilled facilitator, as we let go of the heaviness on our hearts. For those with a physical or mental disability, the loss of a loved one can be exceptionally challenging. It is our hope that this Celebration of Life supports their journey.



**Paula Petry, PhD**

Each year participants leave feeling lighter, more heart-connected with their loved ones, and with additional resources and supports to experience loss with greater ease.

May this ceremony affirm the enduring influence our loved ones have had on our lives and on the lives of those around us.

Our facilitator is Paula Petry, PhD who will share her thoughts about how love never dies and how grieving frees us from later pain and suffering. She imparts Ten Healing Guidelines, assisting participants in finding the courage to love life after experiencing profound loss.

We began our Celebration of Life Ceremony in 2012, in remembrance of Ms. Lizzy Barrows, a valued member of The Family Café's Florida Youth Council. Lizzy's enduring presence in our hearts is a tribute to the profound impact she made on her family, friends, and community, and we pay homage to the lasting legacy she leaves behind.



**The Brazilian Voices will bring their melodic voices to soothe our souls.**

You'll be presented with a compilation of poems, a copy of Paula's book, *A Mother's Courage to Awaken*, 2020 and a keepsake to cherish.



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



# Interactive Technology Expo

The PS/Rtl Technology and Learning Connections Project and Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired are excited to offer an engaging accessible Tech Expo. Come play with a variety of technology involving kid-friendly activities and hands-on experiences that are sure to deliver fun!

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH**

**1:00pm – 5:00pm**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH**

**9:00am – 1:00pm and  
2:30pm - 4:00pm**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH**

**9:00am – 10:30am**

**MANATEE SPRING I**

# SPORTSABILITY SAMPLER

PRESENTED BY SPORTSABILITY ALLIANCE

## Activities and Providers:

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14 at 1:30pm**

Adaptive Exercise Class with SPIRIT Club  
(spirit-club.com)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14 at 4:00pm and**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15 at 10:30am**

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15**

9:30-10:30am: New Technologies and the Opportunities  
Provided for Recreation for People of All Abilities

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

*Space is limited and registration is required. You **must** register in advance at SCUBA booth in the 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](http://www.sportsability.org)

in partnership with:

**GATORLAND**  
ALLIGATOR CAPITAL OF THE WORLD  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



**SUNDAY, JUNE 16 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 16. 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!



As Summer Comes To An End,  
Join **The Florida Youth Council** For One Big Last Hurrah At  
**The 17th Annual Youth Summit** On **August 2-3** 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 17th 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 17th Annual Youth Summit** will be held at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando **August 2-3, 2024**. 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!**

# Early Wishes

A fun and engaging playgroup at the  
Family Café Conference



## Calling all children and families!

Florida's Early Steps Program is proud to host an interactive playgroup for infants and toddlers. Join us for family photos, face-painting, puppet shows, adaptive books and toys, story time and free play.

Friday, June 14, 2024  
1:30 pm–4:00 pm  
Hyatt Regency Orlando  
Orlando N Ballroom

Children must be accompanied by an adult to participate.

During this event, you'll have the opportunity to meet with other families and interact with Early Steps staff and Family Resource Specialists.

To learn more about Early Steps, visit [FloridaEarlySteps.com](https://FloridaEarlySteps.com)



Early Wishes is sponsored by the Florida Department of Health Children's Medical Services.



**Caring for Florida's kids  
*together.***



***Proud partner of the Family Café.***

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

Let's get social     Follow us @SunHealthFL



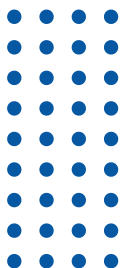


**The Able Trust is proud to sponsor the Family Café Expo and support their commitment to providing resources and opportunities to persons with disabilities and their families.**

The Able Trust was established to support the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. We have a long history of supporting students with disabilities as they learn about and prepare for the workforce.

Through partnerships in communities around Florida, our youth programs are working to increase state high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates to ensure more workforce options for students with disabilities.

For information on High School High Tech and other youth programs, visit [www.AbleTrust.org](http://www.AbleTrust.org).



# 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](http://www.DisabilityRightsFlorida.org)**



**Disability Rights**  
**FLORIDA**



**SERVING FLORIDA'S  
FAMILIES *TOGETHER.***



**sunshine  
health™**

***Proud partner of the Family Café.***

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.

**Let's get social**     Follow us @SunHealthFL

# 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](http://www.familycafe.net) or call 850-224-4670

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





“

*"I was so pleased with the networking and interaction between the attendees. I learned so much from families and other professionals."*

“

*"The diversity, rich content, and expertise of breakout session presenters was phenomenal."*

## FOR THE LAST 35 YEARS,

the National Federation of Families has brought together families, parents, community leaders, providers, partners, and legislators at our Annual Conference. We work to leverage our lived experience and learned solutions for the support and advancement of families whose children of any age experience mental health and/or substance use challenges during their lifetime.

## NOVEMBER 7-9 • HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO

[WWW.FFCMH.ORG/2024-CONFERENCE](http://WWW.FFCMH.ORG/2024-CONFERENCE)

**EXHIBITORS WELCOME!**

2023

Conference Recap

629

Attendees

90

Break-out Sessions

33

Attendees from 33 States & Canada

149

Presenters from 84 organizations

### KEYNOTES



**DAVID AMBROZ PAOLO DEL VECCHIO STEPHEN LOYD**

### #AcceptAdvocateAct

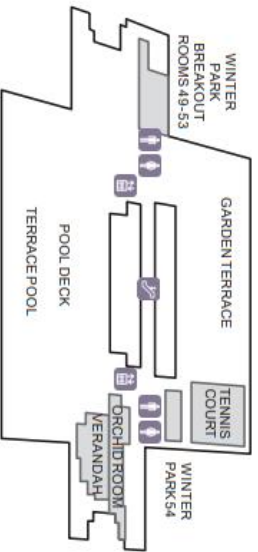
### FOCUS

- Acceptance of families and their children of all ages who experience mental health and/or substance use challenges.
- Advocate for equity, inclusion, and parity in all family-serving systems.
- Move into action and accountability for child, adult, and family system transformation.

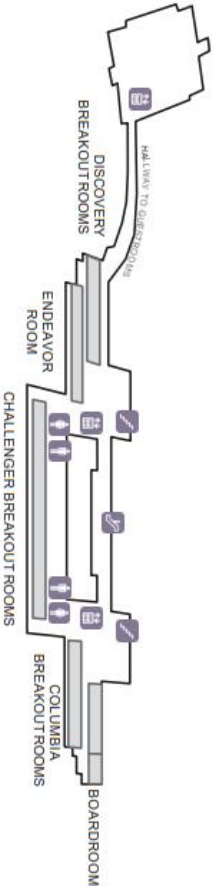
### TRACKS

- Justice / Equity / Diversity / Inclusion - JEDI
- Supporting Families and Their Children Through the Lifespan
- Supporting Families With Co-Occurring Challenges
- Lessons From the Field
- Emerging Youth & Young Adult Leaders / Youth Workforce Development
- Workforce Development

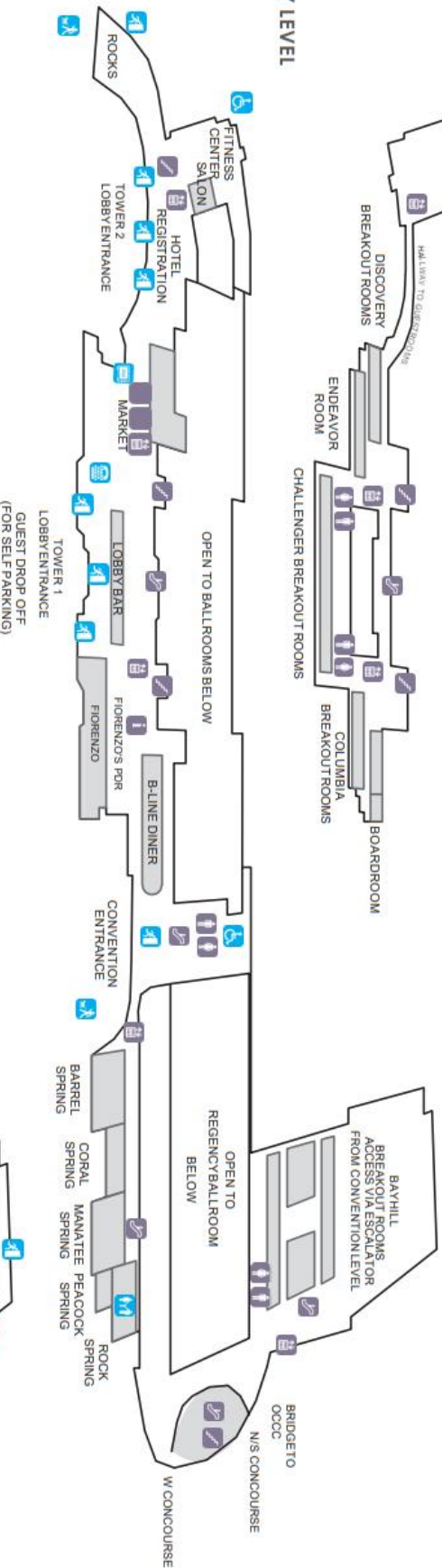
### FOURTH LEVEL



### THIRD LEVEL



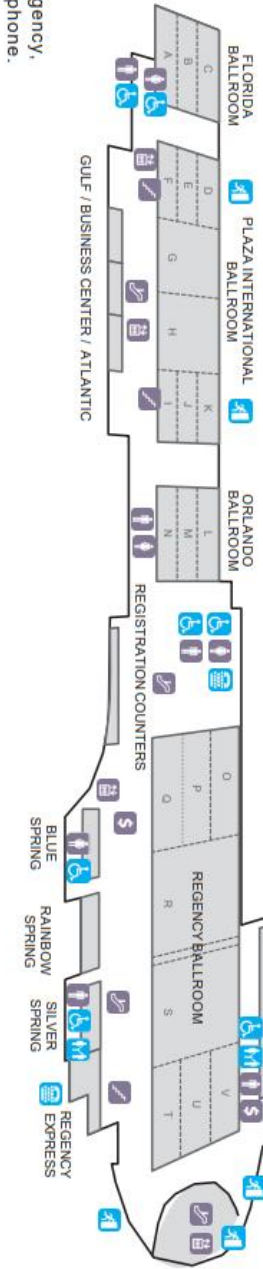
### LOBBY LEVEL



### LEVEL ONE



### CONVENTION LEVEL



KEY	
	Restrooms
	Microwave
	Family bathroom
	Escalator
	Stairway
	TTY phone
	Elevator
	Dog walk area
	Information
	Exit
	Wheelchair Accessible
	ATM

Microwaves available in the Market

In case of medical emergency, please dial 77 from a hotel phone.



# Additional Pathway Providing Support for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**Florida Community Care (FCC) has been selected as the managed care plan for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Managed Care Pilot Program.**

The Pilot Program is an additional pathway providing supports and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in specified counties, through a managed care model that provides comprehensive coverage, including medical care, long-term care services and supports, and specialized services for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, that is administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration in partnership with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

## Ready to find out more?

Visit the **FCC Discovery Hub at The 26th Annual Family Café** for games, giveaways, and to learn more about us.

## The Pilot Program Goals:

- **Maximize Flexibilities:** Offering you a comprehensive list of services that fit your needs.
- **Access to Providers:** Connecting you with a network of doctors and specialists to serve you.
- **Maintain High Quality Care Coordination:** Helping you receive the services that are meaningful to you.
- **Enhance Community Integration:** Focusing on how your local community can support your personal goals.

## Who is Eligible?

- Individuals who are **18 years or older** in a pre-enrollment category at APD.
- Individuals who live in **Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Polk counties.**
- Individuals who are **eligible for Medicaid.**

Non-Discrimination Notice: Florida Community Care does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in covered health care programs and services.

This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact our customer service number at 1-833-FCC-PLAN or TTY 711, Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm.

Florida Community Care is a Managed Care Plan with a Florida Medicaid Contract.

A health plan representative will be present with information. For accommodation of persons with special needs at marketing events call 1-833-FCC-PLAN or TTY 711.

Free prizes without obligation.

The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact Florida Community Care Plan.

# SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

AT THE 27TH ANNUAL

# FAMILY CAFE

JUNE 13-15, 2025

HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO  
9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL



# WE'VE MOVED!

The Family Café headquarters  
has moved to a new location!



713 East Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301



Follow The Family Café on Facebook!



Follow us on X @TheFamilyCafe



Follow us on Instagram @TheFamilyCafeFL



The  
Family  
Café

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