



# WELCOME!

Financially Assisted Agencies (FAA)

Public Forum

On

Special Needs /

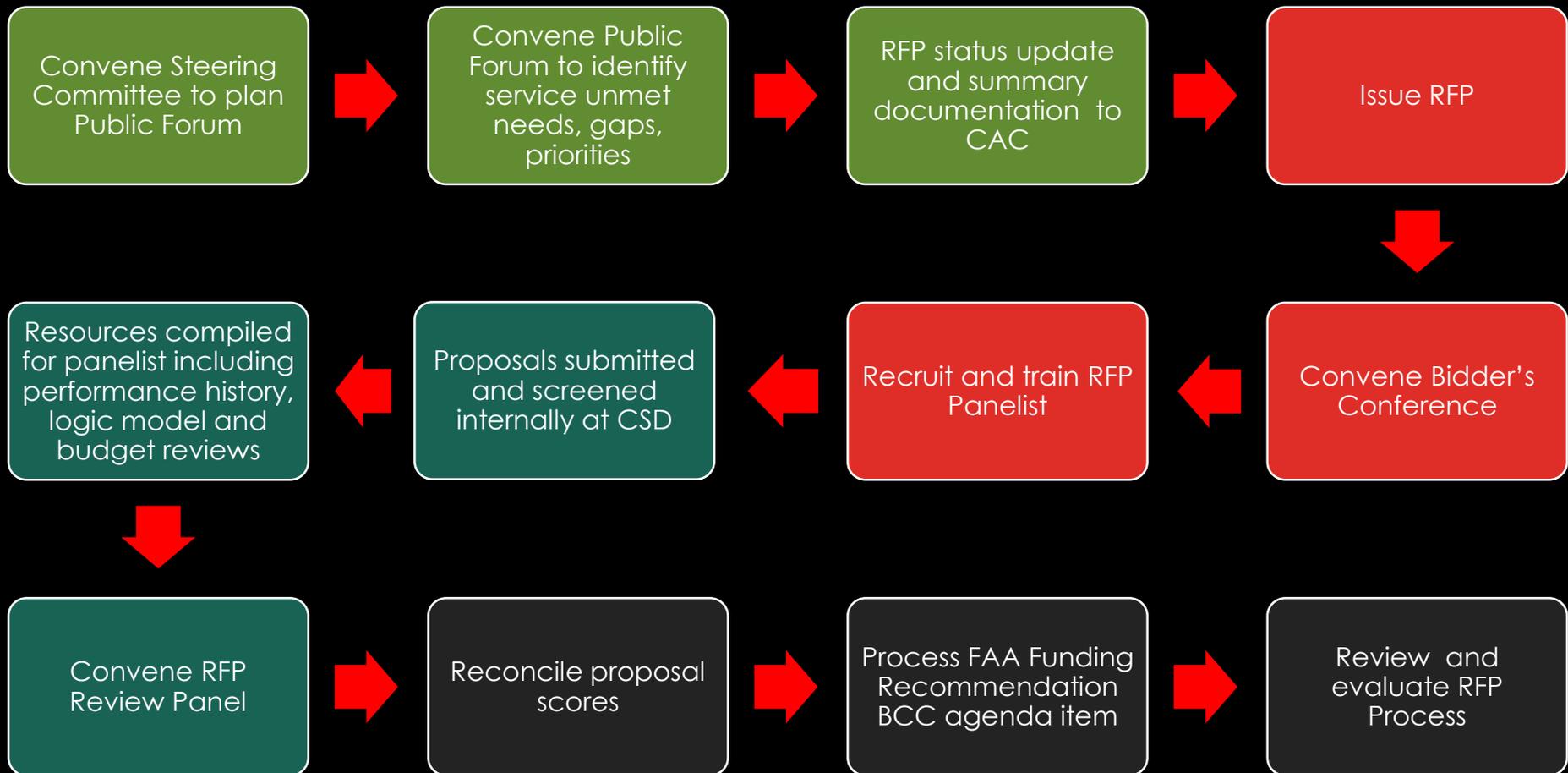
Developmental Disabilities

January 19th, 2018

**Financially Assisted  
Agencies (FAA)  
Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Process**



# FAA RFP PROCESS



# OBJECTIVE OF PUBLIC FORUM AND COMMUNITY SURVEY

- The main objective of the public forum and community survey is to provide space for the community's voice to be heard in terms of highlighting the existing service needs, gaps and funding priorities.
- This data will serve as one of several resources used to inform the RFP process.
- This effort better ensures the funding priorities are relevant and will work to meet service needs in the community.



# Presentations



# A Report on Health and Human Services in Palm Beach County

## Special Needs / Developmental Disabilities



# A REPORT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY- Based on Key Community Indicators 2010



# Indicator Summary

## Summary Page Synopsis

The Indicator Summary page is intended to provide the reader with a "quick" reference concerning the status of 16 Service Category topics based on an Overall Goal & Key Indicator contained within this document. Please use the Legend and Notes Section listed below for further analysis.

*Click on the indicator signal to navigate to the desired page. Clicking on the footer on any page will return you to the Table of Contents.*

## Legend & Notes

**Green is good.** The Goal is being met and the Trend is upward.

**Yellow is caution.** It is used either if the Goal is being met but the Trend is downward or if the Goal is not being met but the Trend is upward.

**Red is alarming.** Red is used if the Goal is not being met and the Trend is downward.

**Trend is defined as six (6) to eight (8) data points.**

	(+) Trend	(-) Trend
> Goal	Green	Yellow
< Goal	Yellow	Red



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# Special Needs/Developmental Disabilities

## KEY INDICATOR

Percentage of Palm Beach County residents with Developmental Disabilities identified as being at risk of institutionalization currently waiting for essential services

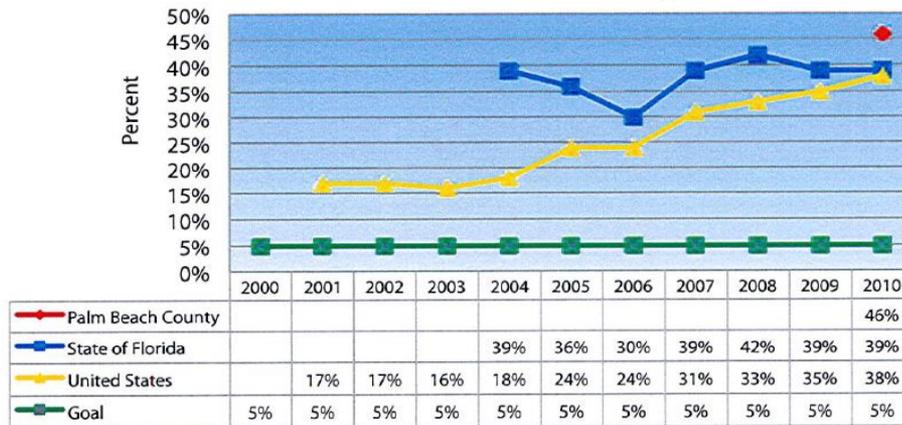
## GOAL

Reduce the percentage of Palm Beach County residents with developmental disabilities identified as being at risk of institutionalization currently waiting for services to less than 5%



Table #25

**Individuals with Developmental Disabilities At Risk of Institutionalization Waiting for Services**

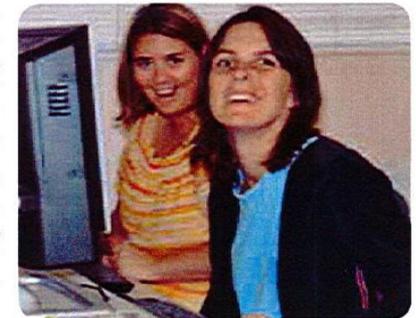


## Current Status

There is no “cure” for developmental disabilities. Individuals with developmental disabilities need services throughout their lives to support maximum independence, productivity and participation in the community. Home and community based services are more effective and three times more cost efficient than institutional settings in providing the essential supports for persons with developmental disabilities. (Table #28).

Without these supports, people with developmental disabilities are among the most vulnerable citizens in terms of risk for hunger, homelessness and unemployment. Thirty two percent (32%) live at or below the poverty level in Palm Beach County. Their unemployment rate in Florida is 75% as compared to 12% for individuals without disabilities. They are also 60% at greater risk for abuse and neglect and 150% more likely to be victims of crime.

By national prevalence, approximately two percent (2%) of Palm Beach County’s 1,279,950 residents live with a developmental disability. Extrapolating, this means that approximately 25,600 residents fall into this service category. Those who have the greatest need for support are at greatest risk of institutionalization and are the residents who qualify for MedWaiver services. The 45% of those who qualify for MedWaiver services in Palm Beach County are on a waiting list. In the last two years, that wait list has extended from an average of 8-10 years to an indefinite period of time. (Table #25)



# Special Needs/Developmental Disabilities

## General Information

- Home and community-based service is the preferred alternative to long-term institutional care.
- It benefits the individual who becomes a contributing and productive member of their community.
- It benefits the state because home and community based service costs less than institutional care.
- Current funding provided by the Medicaid Waiver does not cover all service provision costs.
- Individuals on the Med-Waiver waiting list must be served while maintaining the level and quality of services to current recipients.

Table #26

Average Medicaid Waiver Expenditure per Person Per Year



## Goals of Home and Community Based Services

- To sustain individuals in their home communities;
- To ensure that quality services are delivered in the most effective and cost efficient manner through a coordinated system; and
- To efficiently utilize services to prevent people with Developmental Disabilities from entering institutional and restrictive programs.

## Why the MedWaiver Isn't Enough

Provision of current essential services depends upon a partnership among federal, state, county and other local funders. Positively impacting the target objective will depend upon similar partnerships.

MedWaiver services alone for people in Palm Beach County who have developmental disabilities have limited impact.

- Current Medicaid Waiver funding levels for persons receiving services do not cover the full costs of providing those services.
- Approximately 1,400 residents of Palm Beach County are receiving services through MedWaiver (summer, 2010 estimate).
- There is a large waiting list of persons who have been qualified to receive MedWaiver services, but for whom there simply is no available funding – more than 16,000 statewide, and 1,032 in Palm Beach County (summer, 2010 estimates).
- This waiting list is comprised of persons who have self-identified and taken the time to apply; there is a large segment of the population with developmental disabilities who either are unaware of the program or who have been discouraged from applying by the frustrating reality of an indefinite wait to receive services.

# Special Needs/Developmental Disabilities

## Considerations for Palm Beach County

Reducing the wait list by reappropriating funds (reducing allocations per recipient) is not a viable option. Lowering the funding level of services to those currently assisted would negatively impact effectiveness and quality, significantly increasing hunger, homelessness and unemployment in this most vulnerable population. Such a reduction in funding would burden an already tenuous community safety net for essential services and lead to institutionalization of persons previously able to be productive citizens. Palm Beach County is significantly below the rest of the State of Florida and the Nation in spending per person on MedWaiver Services. (Table #26)

Services for persons with developmental disabilities are an integral component of this community's infrastructure, creating a supportive environment for economic growth and development. Failure to adequately support this infrastructure element deters corporate migration into the county. Provider agencies receive frequent inquiries from companies or families considering moving to the county, asking about services available for personnel having a child with a disability. Palm

Beach County (and Florida as a whole) does not compare well to other parts of the country, standing 45th among the 50 states in per capita spending in support of persons with developmental disabilities (Table #27).

Developmental disabilities span the entire lifespan of an individual. County funding at this time is targeted to the most needy of the adult population over 22 years of age with developmental disabilities, those on the Medicaid Waiver. People with developmental disabilities tend to show the declines usually seen in old age in their middle years, so the level of services needed for this population usually increases over time. Again, reductions in funding exacerbate the extreme risk this population faces as they age.

Infants and children with developmental disabilities in Palm Beach County receive limited support through the Children's Services Council/United Way and the School District. Increasing numbers of youth with developmental disabilities are aging out of the school system without the availability of funds to support their transition to productive and independent adulthood.

Table #27

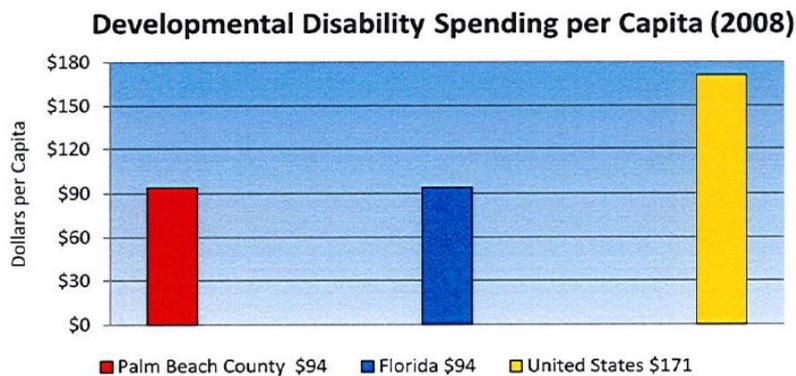
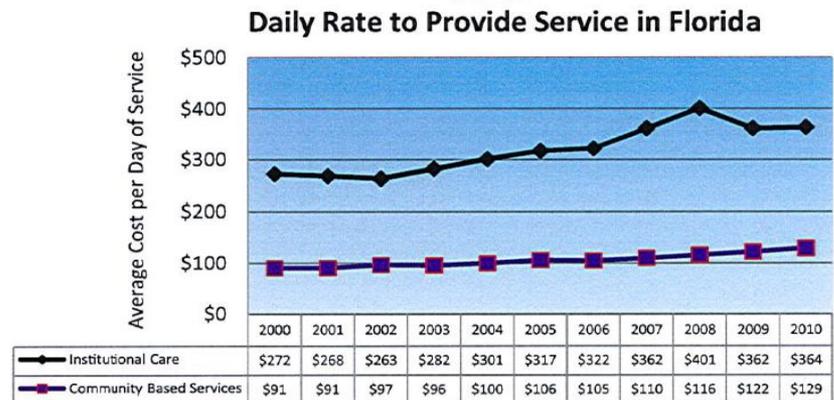


Table #28



# Special Needs/Developmental Disabilities

## Current and Future Planning Efforts

Estimates are that the incidence of developmental disability will at best remain constant, will likely increase steadily, and possibly grow exponentially if the rapid increase in autism seen in the last several years continues. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners in partnership with provider agencies has incorporated into its own planning and has invested significant tax dollars into this vulnerable population. The increasing challenge is that available resources for these services have been undergoing a consistent reduction at state and federal levels since the mid 1990s. The local resources dedicated to these services are essential to the stability of the community at this time.

The Interagency Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) in Palm Beach County has been meeting for the past 25 years to discuss mutual concerns and collaborative opportunities, to initiate planning efforts on behalf of the developmentally disabled population, and to share resources. This collaboration allows for consistency in approach and maximizes the impact of those limited resources in the county. Palm Beach County is unusual in the level of inter-agency cooperation seen in the developmental disabilities community relative to other regions in Florida.

In an environment of diminishing resources and increasing need, FAA provider agencies in collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners and others in the community seek:

- To sustain on an ongoing basis the level and quality of services for those currently enrolled in FAA funded programs;
- To reduce the percentage of Palm Beach County Residents with developmental disabilities identified as being at risk of institutionalization currently waiting for essential services to less than five percent (5%).

## Major Disparities

Developmental disabilities do not discriminate. All races, economic sectors, ethnic groups are impacted. Males are disproportionately represented – developmental disabilities are twice as common in males as in females, with an even greater disparity in cases of autism. Autism now affects one in 70 males, one in 99 births.

Developmental disabilities do create disparities in terms of economic opportunity, affordable housing, risk of abuse or neglect and likelihood of hunger. There is no long-term, accurate census of the developmentally disabled population in Palm Beach County. There is no well-researched study focusing on the aging of persons with developmental disabilities, on the incidence of in-migration, on the changing face of disabilities (i.e., mental retardation vs. autism), although there is ample anecdotal evidence in all these areas. Palm Beach County is particularly impacted by the longevity of all its residence, including those with developmental disabilities, and this creates issues in terms of long-term care. Influx of non-English speaking populations also makes the provision of services more complex in terms of both language and culture.

## Report Highlights

- 80% of families with children who have disabilities end in divorce.
- 90% of individuals with disabilities have been physically or sexually abused.
- 80% of individuals with developmental disabilities over 50 have only one living family member who is able to provide support.
- 75% of individuals with developmental disabilities want to work.
- The largest minority group in the United States is people with disabilities. (49 million)

## Special Needs/Developmental Disabilities

**Special Needs**-requirements made necessary by challenges: the requirements, especially in education, that some people have because of physical and mental challenges.

**Source:** Encarta; Dictionary; <http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/dictionary/DictionaryResults.aspx?lextype=3&search=special%20needs>

**Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)**-those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Health Resources and Services Administration; Prevalence of CSHCN; <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/cshcn05/NF/1prevalence/intromhtm>

**Essential Services**-essential services are the primary core services which are provided that allow an individual to remain safe and successfully live in a community-based setting rather than a more restrictive institutional setting.

**Source:** State of Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case Number 08-5906APD (Core Service)  
<http://www.apd.myflorida.com/publications/legal/agency-final-orders/docs/08-5906-RO.pdf>

**People with Special Health Care Needs**-people typically characterized along three (3) distinct dimensions:

- **Service Need:** People who require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by people in general;
- **Functional Impact:** People who experience current impairment of functioning and/or quality of life (e.g., mobility, sensory, intellectual limitations; and

- **Presence and Duration of Condition:** People who report an ongoing physical, mental or developmental condition lasting or expected to last at least 3-12 months.

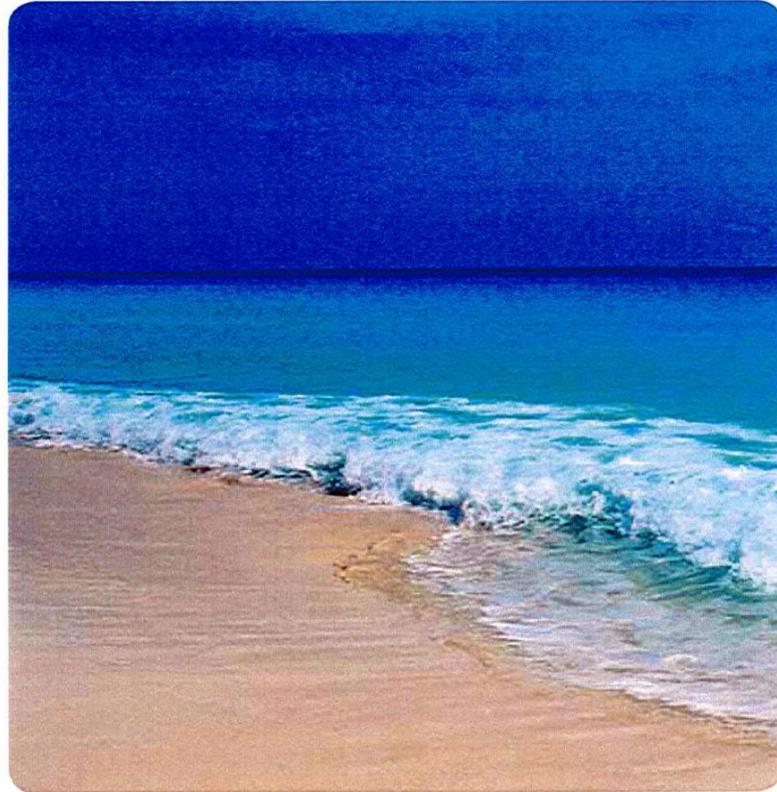
These conditions may or may not be currently active or have a formal diagnosis. To qualify as a special health care need, most definitions require that the condition have an ongoing functioning or service-use impact.

**Source:** USA.gov; Quality Interagency Coordination (QuiK); Task Force; Quality Information for People with Special Health Care Needs; Who Are People With Special Health Care Needs?; <http://www/quic.gov/consumer/conference/bethell1.htm>

**Medicaid Waiver**-under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act, Medicaid law authorizes the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to waive certain Medicaid statutory requirements. Home and community-based waivers 1915(c) – referred to colloquially as MedWaiver -- are tools used to provide long-term care to individuals with developmental disabilities as an alternative to institutional care. MedWaiver services include such supports as adult day training, transportation, supported employment coaching, supported independent living, and group homes, as well as behavioral, occupational, physical and speech/language therapies

**Developmental Disabilities**-severe, life-long disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairments which manifest themselves before the age of 22 years and are likely to continue indefinitely. They result in substantial limitations in three or more of the following areas: Self care; comprehension and language; skills (receptive and expressive language); learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity for independent living; economic self-sufficiency; ability to function independently without coordinated services (continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services).

# For Further Information



**Electronic copies of this document can be accessed at:**

<http://www.pbcgov.com/communityservices/pdf/Health-Human-Services-Report.pdf>

**Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan – Health and Human Services Element**

[http://www.pbcgov.com/pzb/planning/comprehensiveplan/health\\_05\\_2.pdf](http://www.pbcgov.com/pzb/planning/comprehensiveplan/health_05_2.pdf)

**Resolution No. R-2001-0913**

[http://www.pbcgov.com/communityservices/pdf/RESOLUTION\\_NO\\_R2001-0913.pdf](http://www.pbcgov.com/communityservices/pdf/RESOLUTION_NO_R2001-0913.pdf)

**Community Characteristic Information**

Additional information about Palm Beach County will be posted on the following website: <http://pbcgov.com/communityservices/citizenadvisory.htm>. This information will include Palm Beach County characteristics pertaining to topics such as: demographics, economic features, poverty, housing and income.

**For further information contact**

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# Community Needs Assessment on Special Needs and Disabilities



# Special Needs



# Advisory Coalition

PALM BEACH COUNTY

SUPPORT. NAVIGATE. ADVOCATE. CONNECT.

## Town Hall on Special Needs and Disability





# Collective Impact

- A framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It is an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across government, business, philanthropy, non-profit organizations and citizens to achieve significant and lasting social change.
- 260 participants representing over 100 organizations



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Special Needs Advisory Coalition



# MISSION

Provide a comprehensive, integrated system of care which supports and connects individuals with special needs and disabilities and their families to community- based services and opportunities.



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# VISION

A community that comes together to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and disabilities and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement throughout Palm Beach County



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Special Needs Advisory Coalition



# SNAC Objectives

- Create new connections
- Strengthen leadership and alliances
- Share resources
- Maximize effective use of community resources
- Identify strategies for improving quality of life
- Engage in collaborative action planning to solve problems



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# It all started with...

- Community Needs Assessment
  - Provide a comprehensive analysis of the current service delivery systems for individuals with disabilities in Palm Beach County
  - Develop a business plan that includes costs of identified additional services and strategies to create a seamless system of care



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# Contributing Sponsors



**The Taft  
Foundation**



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# CAN Methods

Interviews

Focus Groups

Community Conversations

Surveys



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# Findings

- 12% of residents in Palm Beach County have one or more disability (over 167,725 residents)
- \$124,177,370 in funding for disability services/supports (equal to \$740 per capita)
- Issues impact:
  - Across the Lifespan
  - Across Disability Groupings



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# Identified Unmet Needs/Barriers



Information & Referral



Assessment & Early Diagnosis



Service Shortages



Funding Streams



Transition Practices



Employment



Transportation Availability



Advocacy & Futures Planning



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# Findings: Information & Referral

- No Single Agency
- I & R is Driven By Age
- Who's Who Becomes a Parlor Game
- Some Information is Specialized & Unreliable
- Pre-adulthood Panic
- Word of Mouth Referral



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# Findings: Assessment & Early Diagnosis

- Streamlined Child Find is Working
- Early Diagnosis is Weak for Certain Disability Groups
- Comprehensive Assessments for Low Incidence Disabilities
- Post-school Evaluations are Scarce & Expensive





# Findings: Service Shortages

- Great Many Unmet Needs
- Individual Islands of Excellence \*
- Broad Gaps in Housing, Respite and Job Coaches
- Geographic Gaps; Specialized Services Gaps
- The Ever-Present Waiting List (over 20,000 people)
  - Paperwork
  - Inconsistent policies regarding pay for services



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# Findings: Funding Streams

- Funding is Unstable & Unpredictable
  - PBC Self Assessment, 2010
- Uneven Access Across Disabilities
- Waiting Lists: 10+ Years Long
- Complexity of Funding Criteria
- Insurance is Inconsistent
- Behavioral & Mental Health Needs
- Priorities Shift with Elections
- Funds Seeking Funds: Grants Games

*Florida is 45<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in per capita spending in support of persons with developmental disabilities.*



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# Findings: Transition Practices

- Early Intervention Transition is a Strength in PBC \*
- Transition to Kindergarten & Elementary: Not as Smooth \*
- Middle & Secondary Losing Ground for Post-school Transition
- Loss of Opportunities for Post-school Preparation \*
- College Supports for Degree Oriented Individuals
- Few Options for Others



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# Findings: Employment

- More Islands of Excellence
- Job Coaches Well Received
- Dire Need for Competitive and Supported Employment Options
- Limited Work Options (custodial, food service)
- No Central Effort to Support Job Coach Development or employer support\*



***31% unemployed***

***47% work less than 10 hours per week***



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# Findings: Transportation Availability

- Erratic Patterns of Transportation Use
  - Public
  - Palm Tran Connections
  - Ride Sharing
- High Need; High Use
- Single Trip Relies on Multiple Uses



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# FINDINGS: Advocacy & Futures Planning

- Lowest Ratio of Needs to Needs Met (29%)
- Guardianship (Need a Variety of Supports)
- Financial Planning (Immediate and Long Term)
- Availability of Financial Planners & “Special Needs” Legal Services
- Few Advocates for Mental & Behavioral Health Challenges
- Minimal Supports for Elder Disability
- Need for Support for Non-English Speakers
- Self Advocacy Role in a System of Care



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# Priority Taskforces

- Respite
- Transitions and Education
- Housing
- Employment
- Advocacy & Future Planning
- Family Navigating
  - Virtual Hub



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# Priority SNAC Outcomes

- Maximize access to information and referral
- Expand availability of quality respite providers
- Increase housing options
- Improve transition practices
- Increase employment opportunities for individuals with special needs and disabilities



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# Survey Overview



# Discussion



# Conclusions