



FLORIDA INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL, Inc.

Updates from FILC

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Please submit information you would like to contribute to this publication to Molly Gosline at mg@polaris.net

Activities initiated/hosted by the Florida Independent Living Council are open to the public. For information about these or any other FILC events please contact the FILC office @ (850)488-5624 or visit flailc.org.

FILC Invited to Washington

The Florida Independent Living Council was honored to be invited to meet with the Office of Domestic Policy in Washington D.C. on September 3, 2006. Representing FILC was Molly Gosline, Executive Director, Chip Wilson, President of the Florida Independent Living Council and Don Dawkins, Advocacy Coordinator.

FILC attended the meeting in the Executive Office Building with Ollegario Cantos, Associate Director of the Domestic Policy in the White House. This meeting was an unprecedented and historic opportunity for FILC officials to discuss issues that affect Floridian's that live with a disability.

Over the course of a five hour meeting, FILC representatives discussed a wide range of topics that directly affect persons with disabilities in Florida. Much attention was given to disaster preparation, specifically ADA shelter accommodations, transportation preceding evacuation and housing and health care following a hurricane or disaster. In addition, Mr. Cantos provided a briefing on President Bushes Freedom Initiative. Mr. Cantos also emphasized the tactic of persons with disabilities infiltrating positions of political and community authority in order to implement change. "It is essential that we as people with a disabilities be involved in the political process" Mr. Cantos said. The FILC representatives came away from this meeting with additional resources and a renewed commitment to providing increased choices and opportunity for all people with a disability in Florida

Money Follows the Person

FILC would like to thank the Agency for Health Care Administration and Governor Jeb Bush for their support and efforts in applying for the Money Follows the Person demonstration grant offered by CMS. The funding from this grant will have a dramatic impact on assisting in transitioning people out of nursing home facilities and back into a community setting in the next five years. Martin Luther King once said "it aint what it should be and it aint what it's going to be but thank God it ain't what it used to be", this quote has never been more relevant then at this time in history. FILC was invited by ACHA to participate in the application process that resulted in submitting this critically important grant that will affect hundreds of disabled Floridians in a very positive manner. FILC is one of several agencies representing persons with disabilities named in the proposal to partner with AHCA in the development and implementation of the Money Follows the Person should Florida be awarded the grant.

December Calendar

*Please Note
Call FILC @ 850-488-5624
prior to teleconference for
call in number.*

December 4-6, 2006

*Planning Meeting
FILC Office*

December 13, 2006

*GRF Points Committee
Teleconference*



Board Member, Darlene Maynard and FILC's Advocacy Coordinator, Don Dawkins meet with High School-High Tech Program in Pensacola, Florida

Darlene Maynard's Term Ends Farewell to Darlene

Ms. Maynard has served on the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. since December 2000. Her expertise, dedication and tireless efforts will be missed.

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"Independence Worth Preserving"

Centers for Independent Living

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FILC thanks CIL's

Much thanks are given to the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that are coordinating with FILC in the development of the 2007-2010 State Plan for Independent Living, (SPIL). The focus groups, which include consumers and staff of the CILs have provided feedback that is invaluable and essential in writing this document. Don Dawkins, FILC Advocacy Coordinator, recently attended a local meeting at the Independent Living Resource Center of North East Florida and was impressed by the commitment and energy of the focus group membership. Mr. Dawkins stated, "The group exemplified what the CIL movement stands for. Commitment and involvement in the fabric of America and never accepting the status quo."

Governor Appoints New Council Members

The office of Governor Jeb Bush recently announced the appointment of four new individuals to the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. Ashley Skellenger of Tallahassee, Holly Miles of Tampa, Nancy Peters of West Palm Beach and Rebecca Forsell of Tampa were selected by the Governor to fill vacant positions. The Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. welcomes the appointees and looks forward to working with them toward implementing FILC goals and objectives. Welcome to the independent living movement.

Advocacy Coordinator Travels

Don Dawkins, who recently assumed the position of Advocacy Coordinator for FILC has been traveling throughout the state to discuss disability related issues with CIL Executive Directors in order to better work cooperatively and understand the needs and issues that affect the Centers. Mr. Dawkins said, "It would be very presumptuous of me to think that I have a better understanding of consumers and centers local needs than a community CIL." Mr. Dawkins also met last week with AARP (American Association of Retired People) officials to discuss working together cooperatively on legislative issues that have common ground.

Advocating for our civil rights is a task for everyone with a disability. FILC encourages every disabled Floridian to become well educated on issues and policy relating to people with disabilities. We need to become better acquainted with legislators and staffers in their home districts, and write and call in concerns.

Remember, "nothing about us, without us."

- Suncoast Center for Independent Living** serving Sarasota and Manatee Counties, (941) 351-9545
- Coalition for Independent Living Options** serving Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties, (561) 966-4288
- Center for Independent Living of Broward** serving Broward County, (954) 722-6400
- Disability Resource Center** serving Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, and Franklin Counties, (850) 769-6890
- Center for Independent Living of the Florida Keys** serving the Florida Keys, (305) 453-3491
- Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida** serving Hamilton, Suwanee, Columbia, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Citrus, Sumter, and Hernando Counties, (352) 378-7474
- Self Reliance, Inc.** serving Hillsborough County, (813) 375-3965
- Center for Independent Living of South Florida** serving Dade County, (305) 751-8025
- Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida** serving Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties, (904) 399-8484
- Center for Independent Living of Southwest Florida** serving Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties, (239) 277-1447
- Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida** serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, (850) 595-5566
- Caring and Sharing Center for Independent Living** serving Pasco and Pinellas Counties, (727) 577-0065
- Ability 1st** serving Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties, (850) 575-9621
- Victory Lane Center for Independent Living** serving Flagler and Volusia Counties, (386) 671-1960
- Space Coast Center for Independent Living** serving Brevard and Indian River Counties, (321) 784-9008
- Center for Independent Living of Central Florida** serving Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Lake, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola Counties, (407) 623-1070

Please feel free to distribute this letter to any other persons/organizations that may be interested.

It is the mission of the Florida Independent Living Council to assist and advocate for people with disabilities in achieving equal opportunities. Our vision is to foster change via leadership, collaboration and visibility.