




Florida
Developmental
Disabilities
Council, Inc.

Project 10 Regional Institutes Update
February 2017


Overview

- What is the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC)?
- Acronyms and terms
- FDDC initiatives
- Current and soon-to-be available resources
- FDDC five-year state plan Elementary through Postsecondary Transition goal, objectives and key activities



What is the FDDC?

- State Developmental Disability Councils
 - Authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1970, AKA DD Act
- The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
 - Established in 1971
- Purpose of Act
 - People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (INDs and DDs) and their families have the community services, individualized supports and other assistance they need that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life
- Council Charges
 - Individual and Family Advocacy
 - Systems change
 - Capacity building



Current FDDC Program Areas of Emphasis

- Elementary through Postsecondary Transition
 - Employment
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Workforce
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- Primary contact for Elementary through Postsecondary Transition, Rick Lockenbach
 - Primary contact for Employment, Tracy Coomer



Acronyms and Terms

- CTE (career and technical education), AKA vocational education
- DD (Developmental Disability)
- FDDC (Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.)
- IND (Intellectual Disability)
- Technical colleges/career and technical centers v. state colleges/ community colleges
 - What used to be called **school district** career and technical centers may be called technical colleges
 - What used to be called community colleges or junior colleges governed by a **board of directors** may be called state colleges



Key Transition and Employment Initiatives



CTE Initiatives Supporting Comprehensive Postsecondary Programs for Students with INDs and DDs

- FDDC has funded two projects in Florida’s dual CTE system that transition secondary students to postsecondary education
- The first project was at Florida State College at Jacksonville, a **state college**
 - **Project Achieve/Vertical** has completed its fifth and final year of FDDC funding
- The second project is a **school district** initiative at Robert Morgan Education Center and Technical College
 - **Project TOPS** has been funded by FDDC for a second year



Why Did the Council Fund CTE Programs?

- Students enrolled in postsecondary adult vocational programs (PSAV) programs can earn **meaningful credentials** that lead to employment:
 - Reach occupational completion points (OCPs)
 - Earn certificates for completion of an entire CTE program
 - Earn industry certification
 - With additional support, students with INDs and DDs master the same competencies as other students
 - Earn a Workforce Certificate in Career Education that teaches job skills and soft skills that lead to getting and keeping a job (Project Achieve/Vertical)
- For the years 2011-16, students enrolled in Project Achieve/Vertical CTE Programs other than Career Education for Students with Disabilities completed at a 72% rate (49 of 68 students)



Transition Services Delivery Models

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) **mandates certain pre-employment services** for students that can be funded through Vocational Rehabilitation:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Counseling on postsecondary opportunities
 - Workplace readiness training
 - Instruction in self-advocacy
- This Florida State College at Jacksonville project funds urban and rural models for the delivery of these services
- Intent is to develop models that lead to employment of students with INDs and DDs at wages at or above minimum wage



Employment First Florida

Employment First Act requires certain state agencies and organizations to develop an interagency cooperative agreement to ensure a long-term commitment to improving employment outcomes for individuals who have a disability-413.80, Florida Statutes

- **The Employment First Initiative Interagency Cooperative Agreement** signed in May 2014 represented unprecedented interagency collaboration among nine state agencies and organizations including the FDDC
- **The Florida Grassroots Group** is composed of self-advocates and local stakeholders representing a cross section of persons with various disabilities
 - **The Grassroots Group** is facilitated through an FDDC contract with the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) which hosts quarterly employment-related topical webinars
- **More information** about Employment First and the Grassroots group at <http://www.employmentfirstfl.org>



10

FDDC Employment Projects

- **Employment Options Informed Choice Training:** The purpose is to develop and implement a training package that will provide persons with INDs and DDs the information and experiences needed to make an informed choice regarding accepting subminimum wage employment versus competitive employment at or above minimum wage
- **Employment First Collaborative Training:** The purpose is to provide collaborative training, technical assistance, and resources for agency and organization staff engaged in securing and supporting employment for all individuals with disabilities, including persons with INDs and DDs, so that they will realize and sustain quality integrated competitive employment at or above minimum wage



11

Accessing FDDC Publications and other Resources Online

- FDDC Resource Page at <http://www.fddc.org/publications>, click on the appropriate program area:
 - CHILD DEVELOPMENT ([click](#))
 - COMMUNITY LIVING ([click](#))
 - EDUCATION ([click](#))
 - EMPLOYMENT ([click](#))
 - HEALTH CARE ([click](#))
 - LEGAL & REFERENCE ([click](#))
 - SELF ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP ([click](#))
 - SPECIAL INTEREST PUBLICATIONS ([click](#))
 - Archived Resources ([click](#))



12

More on FDDC Resources

- These resources can be downloaded, and some may be ordered online
- A number of these resources are available in both English and Spanish and many were updated or new in late 2016 (identified as NEW in the slides)
- To stay up-to-date on FDDC resources, receive newsletters and for other updates, sign up on the FDDC Resource page



Education Resources

Project Achieve Replication Guide released in 2015, includes links to a webinar that complements the replication guide



Expanding CTE Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Webinar

- Available at <http://www.fddc.org/sites/default/files/New%20Web-Education.3.12.pdf>, topics include:
 - CTE overview
 - Entry requirements
 - Exit requirements
 - Accommodations
 - Dual enrollment
 - Federal and state law



Other Resources at FDDC Education Site

- *Sexuality Across the Lifespan for Children and Adolescents with Developmental Disabilities*
 - Guide for Parents/Caregivers in English and Spanish
- *Disability Awareness Through English and Language Arts: Resources for Middle and High School*, lessons are tied to state education standards; supplementary resources available through FDLRS Live Binders
- *Disability Awareness Through English and Language Arts: Resources for Prekindergarten and Elementary School* updated to meet elementary school standards **(NEW)**



Other Resources at FDDC Education Site

- *Postsecondary Options Guide (NEW)*
 - A listing of Florida postsecondary programs that serve students with INDs and DDs at universities, state colleges, technical colleges, and private programs with information that includes:
 - Contact information, entrance requirements, costs, housing and meal opportunities, financial aid, course offerings, work and volunteer opportunities, and application details
 - Promotional flyer available
 - Also to be available on the Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education site at <http://fltpsidd.info>



Coming Soon...*First Steps Guide: A Guide to Your Child's Development*

- An easy-to-read guide that helps parents of children with INDs and DDs understand these disabilities from pre-conception through the life of their child and gives critical information and resources to help their child reach his or her fullest potential
- Publication covers education from early childhood through postsecondary education, inclusion, rights and responsibilities, government assistance, life after school, resources, definitions, etc.
- Coming soon to the FDDC site in English and Spanish



Other FDDC Resources

- Employment
 - FYI Transition at <http://www.fvitransition.org> provides information to students with disabilities and their families related to transition, career and postsecondary education planning, and employment
 - Let's Get Everyone to Work
 - DVDs for families: downloadable stories of persons with INDs and DDs who are successfully employed or participating in postsecondary education
 - Teaching Toolkit for Pre-Service Professionals: video on role of educators and other professionals and more success stories of persons with INDs and DDs who are successfully employed or participating in postsecondary education
 - Marketing Toolkit for Employers: videos that encourages employers to hire persons with INDs and DDs



Other FDDC Resources

- Employment continued
 - *Changing Face of Benefits*: Workbook with information about Social Security disability programs and Medicaid/Medicare benefits; includes an online tutorial in English and Spanish at <http://www.floridabenefits.org>
 - *Connections Guide: Tools and Resources for Adult Life* (NEW): tools and resources to assist persons with INDs and DDs and their families with the transition to adult life
- Community Living
 - *Planning Ahead* handbook for parents, family members and guardians of adults with INDs and DDs to help them identify and plan the direction and future regarding the quality of life family members desire; includes a comprehensive Personal Information Summary



Still More FDDC Resources

- Health
 - *Stress and What You Can Do About It* for persons with INDs and DDs
 - *Easing Your Stress: Information for Caregivers of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities*
 - Florida Health and Transition Services (FloridaHATS) website at <http://www.floridahats.org> addresses successful transition from pediatric to adult health care, including persons with disabilities
 - Includes My Health Care classroom curriculum to improve health literacy, communication, and self-advocacy skills for persons with INDs and DDs (also in CPALMS)
 - Provides an array of other resources for educators and others
- Legal and Reference
 - *Lighting the Way to Guardianship and other Decision-making Alternatives*: guardianships, alternatives to guardianship, and legal rights and responsibilities for individuals with INDs and DDs and their families
 - Transition module coming soon...



Florida's 2017-21 State Plan Transition Goal

- Elementary to Postsecondary Transition Goal, Goal 3
 - By the end of the five-year state plan, the Council will have contributed to the implementation of at least four new **improvements to transition services** and two or more **policies or practices** that assist students with INDs and DDs from **elementary through post-school transition into meaningful post-school outcomes with adequate services and supports.**



Transition Goal Objective 1

- Throughout the five-year State Plan, collaborate with agencies, school districts, and programs to **create or expand two or more practices designed to improve transition outcomes** for students with INDs and DDs from elementary through postsecondary education/training.



Objective 1, Key Activity 1

- Develop a **system to provide transition services** to students with INDs and DDs, with an emphasis on **students with the most significant disabilities**, including youth previously thought unemployable.
- In year 1, use a framework of Florida and national best practices to develop a strategic plan and summary report that prioritizes strategies and practices for each age range (elementary through postsecondary education)



Objective 1, Key Activity 2

- Provide technical assistance and support to **increase expansion of and access to at least three models of postsecondary education and training opportunities** (e.g., CTE within technical centers, CTE within Florida Colleges, TPSID in various settings, including State University System), **ensuring improved and equitable access for students with the most significant disabilities.**



Objective 1, Key Activity 3

- Develop and implement **advocacy and communication efforts** in conjunction with Florida's self-advocates, family members and other key stakeholders to address needed changes to statutes, rules, policies, procedures and/or funding/staffing issues to improve transition services and outcomes for individuals with INDs and DDs.



Transition Goal Objective 2

- **Improve access to and completion of postsecondary education and training programs** by a minimum of a 10% increase over baseline data **for students who identify as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Hispanic/Latino** to address targeted disparity found in completing postsecondary education and training programs, particularly programs within the Division of Florida Colleges, through outreach efforts to identify key barriers and proposed solutions and marketing and implementing programs, supports and/or strategies based on findings to improve outcomes.



Objective 2, Key Activity 1 Year 1

- Conduct research to **establish baseline data and set targets** for annual improvement.
- Conduct **outreach to students** who identify as ASD and Hispanic/Latino **and their families to identify key barriers and proposed solutions** to accessing and completing postsecondary education and training programs.
- **Collaborate with all stakeholders to create, market and implement programs, supports and/or strategies to improve access to and completion** of postsecondary education and training programs, particularly Florida College System programs, to ensure outcomes are achieved and efforts are sustainable long-term.



For more information and questions,
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