

**Association of Rehabilitation Facilities**



**Florida Association of  
Rehabilitation Facilities**

# Our Mission:

“The mission of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc. is to promote the interests of individuals with disabilities by acting as a public policy change agent, and to promote and serve the interests of community human service provider organizations.”

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Although numerous organizations advocate for consumers and their families, Florida ARF represents CEO's business, management, and administrative interests in the rehabilitation industry in addition to advocating for the interests of the individuals our members serve.

# Our Members:

## Community Organizations:

Private (Profit & Nonprofit) Providers,  
Goodwill Industries, United Cerebral Palsy  
Affiliates, RESPECT Employment Centers,  
HCBS Waiver Programs, Community  
Rehabilitation Agencies (VR), Charter Schools,  
ICF/IID Facilities, Community Employment  
Programs, In Home Services and Supports,  
Mental Health – Employment Supports

## Service Providers:

Community Based Waiver	86%
Residential/Long-Term Care	64%
Employment	63%
RESPECT Employment Centers	32%



# Why Join Florida ARF?

Kevin Johnson  
Florida ARF Board Chair



Executive Director  
Bishop Grady Villas

*“Florida ARF brings immense value to providers through its dedicated staff who advocate on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and those that support them, with lawmakers and policymakers in Tallahassee while also supporting providers to navigate the complex regulatory environment providers must navigate. Florida ARF meetings, webinars, and conference calls allow fellow providers to connect, express concerns, share best practices and models, and propose solutions to many of the complex problems that face Floridians with disabilities. I am grateful for the support, guidance, and camaraderie that the association provides its members.”*

*Kevin Johnson, 9-year member*

# Advocacy

## Professional Lobbying

Florida ARF communicates its member positions to the Florida Legislature by developing and promoting an annual Legislative platform to ensure Legislators are educated on issues affecting your agency. The Association has an effective and diverse lobbying team.



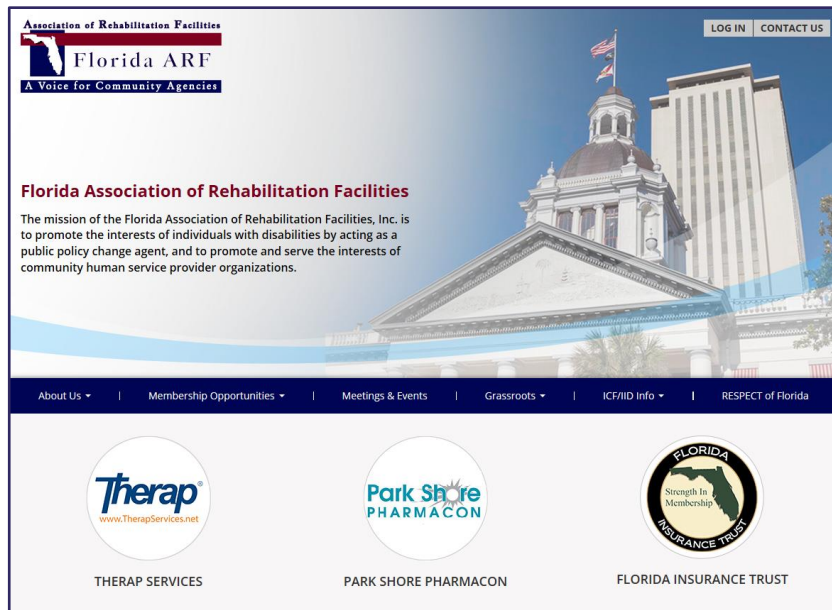
## Grassroots Advocacy

Every effective change movement in history has been supported by a strong grassroots organization. Florida ARF provides its members with a comprehensive grassroots advocacy toolkit to assist you in organizing your constituency. Throughout the year, you will receive regular and timely Action Alerts and Action Response Directions.



# Information Sharing

Florida ARF features a state-of-the-art website that places industry information at your fingertips.



We have the capability to share information in seconds.

Publications and work products available online for members:

- ❖ Capitol Breaking News: Updates on the latest breaking Capitol developments.
- ❖ Issues Forum Breaking News: Provides monthly updates on industry news, publications, trends, and grant opportunities.
- ❖ Email Informationals: Informal, frequent news/information.
- ❖ Alerts: Call-to-action notices for grassroots advocacy.
- ❖ Media Announcements: Links to pertinent media stories.

Visit our website at: [www.floridaarf.org](http://www.floridaarf.org)

# Public Policy Input

Florida ARF communicates your input on public policy decisions to the Executive and Legislative branches. In addition to our ongoing Legislative involvement, Florida ARF staff members continuously monitor state agency Administrative Rule development activity. We analyze proposed policy decisions to determine industry impact, seek your input, and provide oral and written testimony before policy makers on your behalf.



<https://www.flrules.org/default.asp>



Kevin Johnson  
Board Chair  
Suzanne Sewell  
President & CEO

September 2, 2020

Bureau of Medicaid Policy  
Agency for Health Care Administration  
2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop #20  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

RE: Public Hearing Comments on Rule 59G-13.070

Dear Agency Representatives,

On behalf of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities and its member agencies, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on proposed amendments to Rule 59G-13.070.

The Association and other stakeholders have provided comments on several occasions regarding proposed amendments to Rule 59G-13.070, particularly on the impact of incorporating iConnect as a requirement within the Rule. To some extent subsequent amendments, meetings, and training sessions have addressed earlier questions. As of today, there are still concerns we have summarized into four groupings:

- **Robust interface with the iConnect System.** Many provider agencies have invested heavily in internal data management systems that are meeting their needs. Therefore, a robust interface between the iConnect System and other data management systems is needed. Member agencies who have participated in iConnect / EVV training report the system is not intuitive; emails cannot be closed; data cannot be amended once it is entered as completed; and, obtaining changes to service authorizations requires inordinate amounts of time and effort. Providers request that the Agencies focus on interface development and other concessions such as the ability to upload pdf documents into iConnect.
- **Uniformity in reporting formats and requirements.** Providers need to see more uniformity regarding reporting formats and expectations. At this point, it is unclear what the Agencies' expectations are regarding required information and acceptability. Can the Agencies provide approved formats for iConnect data entry requirements?
- **Gatekeeper billing.** Providers understand the System will serve as a gatekeeper billing process for budget services; and, before billings can be approved vast amounts of documentation will have to be entered into the system, including case notes and reports. Members continue to request that payment of claims be based on documentation that verifies the service was provided, such as attendance logs. Requiring entry of quality assurance information into the system before billings can be approved is not a reasonable expectation. At a minimum, the Agencies should continue with the 10-day allowance for completion of all

Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities  
1113 East Tennessee Street, Suite 100  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 877-4816

*Last year, Florida ARF actively participated in the development of numerous administrative rules.*

# Training and Education

Florida ARF provides education and training opportunities for members.

In addition to quarterly meetings, workshops, and forums, special trainings are provided on pertinent topics throughout the year.

Ad hoc groups are formed on an as needed basis to ensure sufficient attention to topical issues.

State and national training opportunities are shared with members on a regular basis.



EOP Training



EOP Training

# Agency Liaison

Florida ARF is the liaison between community human service agencies and government offices that are responsible for the funding, administration and regulation of human service programs. Our effort and resources are dedicated to representing your interests with state governmental officials.



*Entities: Agency for Economic Opportunity, Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, CareerSource, Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, Department of Children & Families, Department of Education – VR, Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Management Services, Disability Rights Florida, Florida Senate/House of Representatives, Governor's Office*



# Networking Opportunities

Florida ARF creates networking opportunities for member agencies via issues forum meetings: Community Supports, Employment, ICF/IID, Government Relations, and RESPECT Oversight. Members communicate their concerns via meetings teleconferences, and agency to agency interaction.



Annual Conference



DD Day at the Capitol

## *Member Driven:*

Florida ARF is governed by a member-based Board of Directors elected by the membership. Up to six non-voting Board seats are reserved for members of families of individuals with disabilities.

# Technical Assistance and Trouble Shooting



Florida ARF has professional staff and consultants who are available to answer your questions, share information, represent your interests, and trouble shoot with State government agencies.

*Our staff are available to assist you on  
an as needed basis.*

# Job Line

Florida ARF's Job Line lists & advertises employment opportunities within the industry.

Email job descriptions to Florida ARF.



*Florida ARF is committed to increasing opportunities for all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of all positions advertised.*

# Florida ARF Staff

Suzanne Sewell



President & CEO

Suzanne is the Association's Chief spokesperson and represents the interests of approximately 100 community human services agencies and the individuals they serve. She has 40+ years professional experience working for and with Florida social services agencies. As President & CEO, Suzanne coordinates the Association's overall strategic plan and achievement of its goals and objectives. She represents the Association's position on human service issues to multiple governmental agencies including: the Department of Children & Families, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Education, and the Agency for Health Care Administration. Additionally, she manages the Association's government relations campaign to influence public policy in a meaningful way. Suzanne is totally committed to ensuring that Florida ARF promotes the interests of individuals with disabilities, particularly in the employment arena, and that the Association serves as a voice for community agencies working together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

She may be contacted at (850) 942-3500.

# Florida ARF Staff

**Courtney Swilley**



**Member Services  
Director**

Courtney has more than twenty years of experience in association work in the ID field. Her responsibilities at the Association include serving as a staff liaison for the Florida ARF Issues Forums (Community Supports, ICF/IID, Employment, and Government Relations). She manages and coordinates Florida ARF meetings, trainings, and conferences. Courtney also manages production of our monthly newsletter and legislative communications, assists with member support functions including member recruitment, leads the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Apprenticeship, and serves as the Florida Alliance for Direct Support Professionals liaison.

She may be contacted at (850) 942-3510

# Florida ARF Staff

Danielle Owens



Director of Finance &  
Accounting

Danielle Owens is the Association's Director of Finance and Accounting and oversees administration of the finances of the Association. Her day-to-day responsibilities include financial forecasting, accounting, financial reporting, business support services, and financial compliance. Danielle is a graduate of Florida State University with a major in Social Sciences, a minor in Public Administration and a secondary in Environmental Studies. She has over 20 years of accounting experience, serving both private and nonprofit entities.

She may be contacted at (850) 942-3535.

# Florida ARF Staff

Michael Yon



Operations Director

Michael Yon is the Operations Director at Florida ARF. He brings over 25 years of experience in Information Technology and Facility management to the Association including certifications for Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+, and CompTIA A+. He is a certified HDI (Help Desk Institute) Desktop Support Technician and won the First Coast region, Southeast United States region, and the National Analyst of the Year awards in 2010 at the Help Desk Institute's national conference. In addition, Michael has coordinated multiple datacenter and facility relocations. He began his career in the IT field in 1997 and prior to his work at Florida ARF worked for state agencies. Michael has over 15 years' worth of experience in the banking/credit union industry.

Michael is primarily responsible for Information Technology, Facilities Management, and Project Management at the Association. He also provides technical assistance to staff as well as Florida ARF members when needed.

He may be contacted at (850) 942-3525.

# Structure

## ISSUES FORUMS

Community Supports  
Employment  
Government Relations  
ICF/IID  
RESPECT Oversight

*Florida ARF is member driven.*



# Community Supports



Clint Bower, Chair  
President & CEO  
MACtown, Inc.



The mission of the Community Supports Forum is to advance the goals and issues of community agencies that serve people who need support with daily living activities, particularly for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This Forum deals with service issues providers face on a daily basis such as Medicaid Waiver policy and other changes in service delivery systems.

*The role of the Community Supports Forum is to provide the membership of Florida ARF the latest information and guidance as we [the members] collectively strive to serve people in an ever-changing environment. Participation in this forum is vital to all agencies ability to survive these challenging times and to learn from the expertise of all the members and from the external resources that contribute to the process of information sharing." Clint Bower, 18-year member*

# Employment



Karenne Levy, Chair  
President/CEO  
MacDonald Training Center



The mission of the Employment Issues Forum is to “provide a venue for the exchange and discussion of ideas and issues relating to the operation of programs by community agencies for the job training, placement, retention, and advancement of people with significant barriers to employment.” The forum addresses policies, best practices, industry innovations and advocacy issues through issue statements, training, action agendas, and impact analysis.

*“Florida ARF provides organizations that serve people with disabilities the opportunity to network, collaborate, and discuss best operational procedures and practices. Florida ARF ensures there is a collective voice in sponsoring public policy change, change meant to promote and advocate for choice, independence, and inclusion for people with disabilities.” Karenne Levy, 17-year member*

# Government Relations



Steven DeVane, Chair  
Chief Executive Officer  
Duvall Homes



The Government Relations Forum is responsible for the packaging and delivering of Florida ARF's annual legislative and executive branch platform. Additionally, the Government Relations Forum provides a grassroots advocacy program to help members educate their legislators.

*"In a world of increased regulation and decreased funding; advocacy, education, and support are needed now more than ever. Florida ARF provides all this and more to individuals with disabilities and to the support agencies that serve them. The Government Relations Forum works to align the energy of the membership into an effective legislative platform, seeking all the while to educate members and those they serve in becoming effective advocates to our elected officials both State and National." Steven DeVane, 9-year member*

# ICF/IID



Dr. James Weeks, Co-Chair  
Vice President  
Sunrise Community



Zach Wray, Co-Chair  
President & CEO  
Sunrise Community



The mission of the Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) Forum is to promote quality of care available for individuals with severe disabilities who cannot live independently. The ICF/IID forum addresses issues that affect residential facilities licensed and certified in accordance with state law and certified by the Federal Government as providers of Medicaid services to persons who are intellectually disabled.

*"The individuals we serve have benefited in countless ways due to the advocacy and leadership of Florida ARF. As members, we are proud of this legacy as well as respectful of the ongoing responsibility to maintain Florida ARF's role as the premiere organization in our field." Jim Weeks, 39-year member*

# RESPECT Oversight



Stephen Bailey, Chair  
Executive Director  
CARC



The RESPECT Oversight Committee provides direction and guidance to the RESPECT program to ensure that governmental agencies within the State of Florida obtain quality products and services produced by persons with disabilities. Under the trade name "RESPECT of Florida," thousands of job opportunities have been created over three decades by community agencies.

*"The RESPECT of Florida program provides a wide variety of employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities. RESPECT provides high quality services and commodities throughout the state of Florida at competitive prices. As an employment center participating in the RESPECT program, we have expanded the skills learned, the employment opportunities available, and increased wages to individuals in the program." Stephen Bailey, 8-year member*



# Membership

## ONE TIME INTRODUCTORY RATES FOR NEW MEMBERS

*(Introductory offer purchases a first-year non-voting membership.)*

<u>Annual Expenditures</u> (Range)	<u>Regular</u> <u>Membership (Range)</u>		<u>Promotional Offer</u>			
			<u>(Year 1 Range)</u>		<u>(Year 2 Range)</u>	
\$ 1 - \$ 110,000	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
\$ 110,001 - \$ 200,000	\$ 256	\$ 464	\$ 250	\$ 309	\$ 310	\$ 463
\$ 200,001 - \$ 600,000	\$ 465	\$ 1,395	\$ 155	\$ 465	\$ 310	\$ 930
\$ 600,001 - \$1,000,000	\$1,395	\$ 2,325	\$ 465	\$ 775	\$ 930	\$ 1,550
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	\$2,325	\$ 4,650	\$ 775	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$ 3,100
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	\$4,650	\$ 6,975	\$1,550	\$2,325	\$3,100	\$ 4,650
\$3,000,001 - \$4,000,000	\$6,975	\$ 9,300	\$2,325	\$3,100	\$4,650	\$ 6,200
\$4,000,001 - \$5,000,000	\$9,300	\$11,625	\$3,100	\$3,875	\$6,200	\$ 7,750
\$5,000,001 - \$6,000,000	\$11,625	\$13,950	\$3,875	\$4,650	\$7,750	\$ 9,300
\$6,000,001 - \$7,000,000	\$13,950	\$15,000	\$4,650	\$5,000	\$9,300	\$10,000

*Annual dues are based on members' audited total Florida operating expenditures and are calculated by multiplying expenditures by .002325 - starting at \$250 & capped at \$15,000.*