

**Association of Rehabilitation Facilities**



**Florida ARF**

**A Voice for Community Agencies**

**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; ARC Chapters; RESPECT  
Employment Centers; HCBS Waiver  
Programs; Community Rehabilitation  
Agencies (VR); Charter Schools;  
Faith Based Programs; ICF/IID Facilities;  
Community Employment Programs**

### Service Providers:

<b>Community Based Waiver</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Residential/Long-Term Care</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>RESPECT Employment Centers</b>	<b>31%</b>



# Why Join Florida ARF?

**Jon Fisher**  
**Florida ARF Board Chair**



**Vice President of Operations**  
**The MENTOR Network**

*“The networking Florida ARF has fostered with my colleagues (such as sharing ideas, best practices, client success stories, etc.) during the last 17 years has proven to be one of the most valuable usages of my time. The expertise and dedication within the Association’s membership is evident once you make a commitment to listen and become part of the process to enhance the lives of the people we are driven to serve. During the past decade, Florida ARF, in my opinion, has done more for the advancement of persons with intellectual disabilities than any other private group in the State.”*

*Jon Fisher, 17-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.



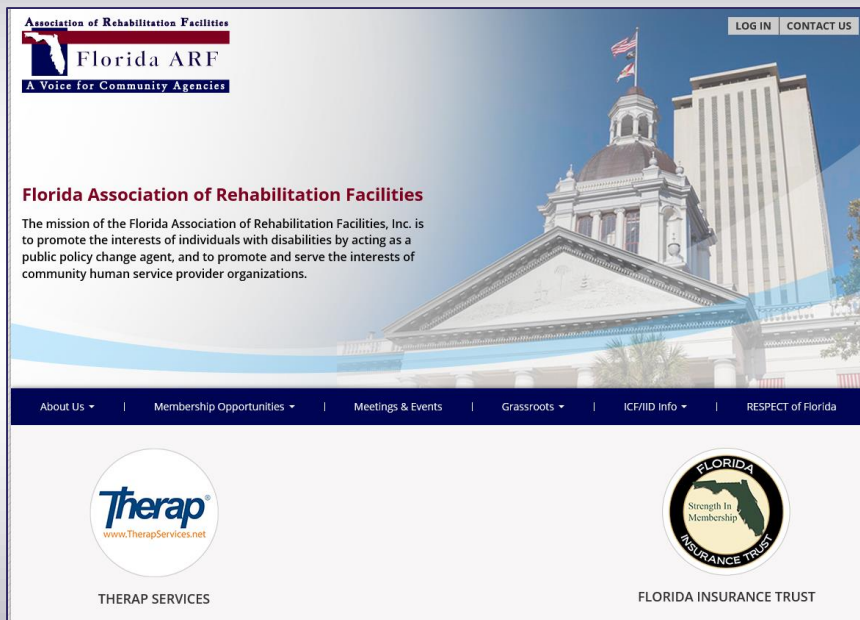
## Grassroots Advocacy

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 finger tips.**



**We have the capability to share information in seconds.**

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

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.

# 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>



Jon Fisher  
Board Chair  
Suzanne Sewell  
President & CEO

November 8, 2017

Kimberly Quinn  
Agency for Health Care Administration  
2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop #20  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

RE: Comments on Rule 59G-13.081

Dear Ms. Quinn:

On behalf of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (Florida ARF), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on proposed amendments to Rule 59G-13.081. Our comments are as follows:

- Amendments to lines 1 – 76 appear to codify rate increases that were approved by the Florida Legislature and effective as of July 1, 2017. We support these changes.
- Lines 77 and 78 provide reimbursement rates for the new Enhanced Intensive Behavioral Residential Habilitation service - day and monthly rates. Providers are concerned that the daily rate must be used if the individual is in the home for 24 days or more per month. The monthly rate is actually a reduced rate since most of the individuals who will receive the service will likely require 30-31 days service per month (except for February). Can providers have the flexibility of billing the daily rate for every day the service is provided?
- Members noted the Enhanced Intensive Behavioral (EIB) Residential Habilitation day rate is lower than the day rate for adults receiving Comprehensive Transitional Education Program (CTEP) services as shown in Lines 77 & 84, even though clients being served under the EIB model will be transitioning from the CTEP to community-based group homes that do not have the benefit of economies of scale the CTEP has. The rates should at least be equivalent in amounts paid.
- Members request that AHCA and APD develop an EIB medical model to meet the needs of those who have medical and behavioral needs. The proposed iBudget Handbook indicates a medical component will need to be provided; however, the rate structure does not support this need. We request the addition of an Enhanced Intensive Behavioral Medical service that is funded sufficiently to cover medical service needs.

Please feel free to contact me at (850) 942-3500 if you have further questions regarding our comments and requests.

Sincerely,

*Suzanne Sewell*

President & CEO

Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities  
2475 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 205  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-877-4616

*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: Department of Management Services, VR, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Children & Families, Department of Economic Opportunity, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, Department of Elder Affairs, Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability Rights Florida*



# Networking Opportunities

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



2017 Annual Conference



40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## *Member Driven:*

Florida ARF is governed by a member based Board of Directors elected by the membership. Six 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.**

**E-mail 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 35+ 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 fifteen years of experience in association work in the DD field. Her responsibilities at the Association include serving as a staff liaison for the Florida ARF Issues Forums (Infants, Children & Youth; Community Supports; ICF/IID; Employment; Legal Advocacy; 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, and serves as the Florida Association for Direct Services Professionals liaison.

She may be contacted at (850) 942-3510.



# Florida ARF Staff

**Vicki McCrary**



**Member Services  
Specialist**

**Vicki McCrary is the Member Services Specialist at Florida ARF. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Mississippi College and more than 30 years of social services experience including over twenty years in Family Safety and eight years with the Agency for Person with Disabilities. Vicki's responsibilities will include providing technical assistance to members for APD and AHCA programs, analyzing AHCA and APD proposed administrative rules, and researching Medicaid and Developmental Disability issues that result in public policy recommendations.**

**She may be contacted at (850) 942-3520.**

# Florida ARF Staff

**Joseph Pierini, CPA**



**Chief Financial  
Officer**

Joseph Pierini is the Association's Chief Financial Officer, and within this capacity he administers the finances of the Association. His day-to-day responsibilities include budgeting, financial forecasting, accounting, financial reporting, business support services and financial compliance. He also oversees the Information Technology and Human Resources functions. Joe is a graduate of Brewton Parker College in Georgia, and is a CPA with over sixteen years of combined experience in private industry and public accounting.

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

# Florida ARF Staff

**Dayna Lenk**



**Human Resources  
and Compliance  
Director**

**Dayna Lenk is the Human Resources and Compliance Director for Florida ARF. She graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications, and from Colorado State University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Dayna has over 15 years' management experience in the areas human resources and social, regulatory, and environmental compliance.**

**Dayna's responsibilities at Florida ARF include human resources, monitoring and ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures of the RESPECT certification and recertification processes.**

**You may contact Dayna at (850) 942-3530.**

# Florida ARF Staff

**Michael Yon**



**Information Technology  
Administrator**

**Michael Yon is the Information Technology Administrator at Florida ARF. He brings 15 years' experience in Information Technology to the Association. Mike received his Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, CompTIA Network+, and CompTIA A+ certifications and is a certified HDI (Help Desk Institute) Desktop Support Technician. Mike has worked for state agencies and in the banking/credit union industry for the last 10 years. Michael is primarily responsible for our data center, hosted servers, websites, office equipment, and software programs. 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**  
**Legal Advocacy**  
**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 their daily living activities, particularly for individuals with developmental 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, 15-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, 14-year member*

# Government Relations



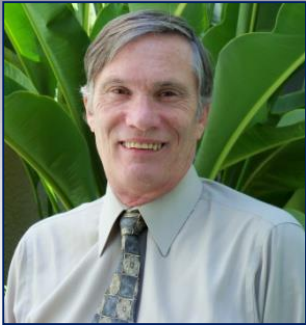
**Michele Barnes, Chair  
Chief Financial Officer  
Suncoast New Options**



**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.**

*"Florida ARF is a leader in providing advocacy, information, and networking for individuals with disabilities and the provider agencies that serve them. The information given and the actions taken by this association are of tremendous value. The Government Relations committee is a place where all members come together to advocate for those individuals that cannot advocate for themselves. One voice can make a difference, but I have seen first hand the powerful Impact all our collective voices make through Florida ARF." Michele Barnes, 12-year member*

# ICF/IID



**Dr. James Weeks, Co-Chair  
Consultant  
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, 36-year member*

# Legal Advocacy



**Joe Aniello, Ph.D., Chair  
President & CEO  
UCO of South Florida**



**To be in the forefront of educating and securing support to address issues that negatively influence service alternatives for individuals with disabilities that have proven to be unsolvable through negotiated efforts is the mission of the Legal Advocacy Forum. While viewed as a last alternative, litigation has played a critical role in the development of services for Florida's citizens with disabilities. When appropriate, the Forum uses legal advocacy to resolve disputes regarding the availability of services for individuals with disabilities.**

*"Membership in Florida ARF allows for pooling of resources of many organizations to achieve mutual goals in serving the developmentally disabled population in Florida. It also provides a forum to share information, promotes opportunities for comradeship, and offers a huge experience pool to learn and plan from." Dr. Joe Aniello, 38-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, 5-year member*



**More affordable  
than you think**

# 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.***