
Membership Value Statement: 2009

Florida ARF is a statewide, professional association that provides advocacy, information, and networking for community agencies serving individuals with disabilities in the State of Florida. We are a leader in the initiation of public policy change to promote and protect the interests of individuals with disabilities. Within the last year, Florida ARF accomplished the following:

- Actively lobbied and prevailed against a 3% across the board rate cut for Developmental Disability (DD) Medicaid Waiver Services providers.
- Supported the Agency for Persons with Disabilities request that resulted in \$19,123,732 million to address a waiver deficit.
- Prevailed against the elimination of Behavior Assistance and Behavior Assessment services as a DD Medicaid Waiver service.
- Actively pursued and prevailed to maintain the South Florida geographic differential for Residential Habilitation Services at the July 1, 2008 rate.
- Advocated for and prevailed on buying back rate cuts to ICF/DDs by implementing a Quality Assessment Fee (QAF).
- Actively lobbied and prevailed to minimize funding reductions to the Adults with Disabilities Fund within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).
- Worked with DVR on development of uniform contracting procedures, use of federal stimulus dollars, and a VR data demonstration project.
- Advocated against implementation of a children's Medicaid Prepaid Therapy Program.
- Supported the Department of Health, Early Steps Program in receiving legislative authority to draw down funds which equates \$3 million in additional funding.
- Partnered with *Florida's People, Florida's Promise* coalition to advocate for minimizing funding reductions to human service programs by using stimulus funds and implementing a cigarette user fee.
- Coordinated a comprehensive grassroots advocacy campaign featuring local community agency involvement such as provider testimony at legislative committee meetings, legislative visits at community agency sites, and legislative visits at the Capitol.
- Disseminated timely information including: *Monthly President's Reports*, *monthly Issues Forum Breaking News*, and *Capitol Breaking News* updates on legislative actions. Work products, white papers, and forum information are available to members on-line.
- Represented Florida ARF member interests on multiple committees and groups such as various APD Work Groups, Florida Rehabilitation Council, and others.
- Assisted with legal advocacy assistance for a major litigation case involving a settlement for Developmental Disability (DD) Medicaid Waiver Handbook issues.
- Represented Florida ARF member interests at multiple hearings such as: ICF/DD licensure, rates, and rules; DD Medicaid Waiver Handbook and rates; Medicaid Prepaid Therapy Services; and Reactive Strategies.
- Provided technical assistance services to community agencies to assist them in the navigation of social services programs and funding sources.

Florida ARF proudly represents the interests of our members. We are certain you will find membership to be a great value! For more information, go to our website at www.floridaarf.org.