



## Disabilities Groups Should Improve Coordination, But Duplication of Activities Appears to Be Low

### *at a glance*

Florida has many statewide entities that address the interests of persons with disabilities. These entities provide indirect services to persons with disabilities, such as reviewing, investigating, and monitoring the services that are provided by state programs; supporting legislation, programs, and policies; providing legal assistance to program clients; and promoting public awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities. Sixteen of these entities received \$5.9 million in state funding in Fiscal Year 2003-04.

Although the missions of some of the entities are similar, duplication of activities among the entities appears to be low. Some coordination among the entities is occurring, but efforts to improve coordination are impeded by the large number of entities providing indirect services and a lack of awareness of specific disabilities. To improve coordination, this report provides a directory of the groups.

### Scope

Chapter [2004-267](#), *Laws of Florida*, directs OPPAGA to identify and evaluate statewide entities receiving state funding for the purpose of addressing the interests of, but not directly providing services for, persons with disabilities. Our report addresses three questions.

- How much state funding is provided to these entities?
- What are the activities of these advocacy groups, and do they duplicate the efforts of other private or federally funded entities?
- To what extent are the activities of these entities coordinated?

### Background

The Legislature has created many programs that provide direct services to persons with various disabilities, such as blindness and visual impairments, deafness and hearing impairments, brain and spinal cord injuries, mental illnesses, and developmental disabilities. (See Exhibit 1.) Direct services can include rehabilitation, case management, job training, and medical services.

## Exhibit 1

### The State Has Several Major Programs That Serve Individuals with Disabilities

Program	Agency
Developmental Disabilities <sup>1</sup>	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Medicaid Health Care Services	Agency for Health Care Administration
Adult Services	Department of Children and Families
Blind Services	Department of Education
Vocational Rehabilitation	Department of Education
Children's Medical Services	Department of Health
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury	Department of Health

<sup>1</sup> The 2004 Legislature dissolved the Developmental Disabilities Program within the Department of Children and Families and created the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

Source: Florida Government Accountability Report.

In addition, many statewide entities have been created that provide indirect services to support persons with disabilities. These indirect services include reviewing, investigating, and monitoring the direct services provided by state programs; supporting legislation, programs, and policies; providing legal assistance to program clients; and promoting public awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities. We identified 25 such entities, as shown in Appendix A. <sup>1</sup> Twelve of these entities were created by state law or executive order, while 11 are non-profit organizations, and the remaining 2 are councils or committees within state agencies. Fourteen of these entities provide only indirect services, while the remaining 11 provide both direct and indirect services.

<sup>1</sup> We identified these entities by reviewing statutes and reports and obtaining information from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, and the Department of Health. We also obtained information by surveying these entities, receiving responses from 24 of the 25 entities.

## Questions and Answers —

### *Question 1: How much state funding is provided to these entities?*

Approximately two-thirds (16) of the 25 entities received state funding in Fiscal Year 2003-04. As shown in Exhibit 2, these entities received a total of \$5.9 million in state funding during the year to provide indirect services to persons with disabilities. <sup>2</sup> The remaining 9 statewide entities did not receive state funding.

## Exhibit 2

### Sixteen of the 25 Entities Received \$5.9 Million in State Funding for Indirect Services in Fiscal Year 2003-04

Entity	State Funding
Florida Endowment Foundation For Vocational Rehabilitation, Inc. (The Able Trust)	\$2,913,976
The Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group (ADAWG)	516,973
The Family Café	467,682
Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.	422,532
Florida Statewide Advocacy Council	327,668
Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	312,787
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation	250,000
Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH)	250,000
Florida Spinal Cord Injury Resource Center	120,000
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Florida, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	105,948
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)	103,889
Florida Rehabilitation Council	60,656
Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI)	28,679
Abilities of Florida, Inc.	25,500
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council	10,295
Family Care Council	7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,924,085</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures provided by the Brain Injury Association of Florida and NAMI are for calendar year 2004.

Source: OPPAGA analysis from data provided by the entities.

<sup>2</sup> These figures are based on estimates provided by the entities, with the exception of the Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc., which did not respond to our survey. We identified state funding for this entity from state financial records.

Nine of the groups that received funding for indirect services also received funding to provide direct services. Of the 16 groups that received state funding for indirect services, 9 received additional funding from a combination of federal, local government, and private sources.

***Question 2: What are the activities of these advocacy groups, and do they duplicate the efforts of other private or federally funded entities?***

The entities conduct a range of advocacy activities. Although the missions of some of the groups appear similar, duplication of activities among the entities appears to be low.

As shown in Appendix A, the advocacy groups we examined engage in multiple activities. Thirteen monitor programs and services; 10 provide information, referral, and public education programs; 6 make recommendations to the Legislature, Governor, and state agencies; 4 support policies and legislation; and 4 provide grant funding.

In some cases, the entities serve similar target populations or provide similar services. For example, as shown in Appendix A, 12 entities serve all persons with disabilities, while 3 serve persons with developmental disabilities, and 10 serve persons with specific disabilities, such as blindness and brain injuries.

However, the entities generally provide different services or serve different subsets of these populations, and duplication appears to be limited. For example, the Florida Statewide Advocacy Council, which is funded by state dollars, and The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc., which is funded by federal dollars, both have a mission to ensure the human rights of individuals with disabilities in the State of Florida. However, the Statewide Advocacy Council is focused on addressing the needs of those persons already receiving health and human services within the state system, and it conducts investigations and monitors programs throughout the state

on behalf of state program participants. In contrast, the Advocacy Center supports the needs of all persons with disabilities throughout the state regardless of whether they receive state program services. Further, the Advocacy Center serves as a protection and advocacy unit within the state, and is designated by executive order as the entity with the authority to sue the State of Florida on behalf of persons with disabilities.

In addition, the missions and activities of several entities are highly specialized and are not performed by the other entities we reviewed. For example, the Special Needs Shelters Interagency Committee addresses the concerns of persons with disabilities and others who use emergency shelters.

***Question 3: To what extent are the activities of these entities coordinated?***

Some coordination is occurring among many of the entities. However, this coordination could be improved through better communication and information sharing among the various entities regarding their services and activities.

To assess the current level of coordination, we surveyed the entities and asked them to identify other entities with which they coordinated their efforts during the past 12 months. As shown in Appendix B, the level of coordination varied, but all entities reported working together to some degree. Reported coordination activities included meeting with other entities' staff, co-sponsoring workshops and other activities, working jointly on legislative issues, and providing or receiving financial or technical assistance.

The entities with the broadest charge of serving all persons with disabilities reported the highest frequency of coordination with other entities. For example, the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc., reported that it engaged in efforts to coordinate with all of the other 24 statewide entities. In contrast, the entities serving persons with specific disabilities were more likely to coordinate with other entities serving

the same general target populations and were not as likely to coordinate with entities serving other populations or all persons with disabilities.

Several entities asserted that coordination among the groups could be improved. These groups advocated holding more frequent meetings and establishing work groups to address various areas of common concern; in some cases, these groups cited limited resources and staff as impediments to coordination. Some entity representatives also asserted that coordination could be improved if a single organization had overall responsibility for coordinating the activities of the other entities that provide indirect services to support persons with disabilities. These persons believed that a single entity could provide a more unified message regarding programs and services to the Legislature and state agencies. However, other entity representatives opposed this approach and indicated that since they already coordinated with other entities, a single coordinating

organization was not needed. These representatives also expressed concern that some entities and populations of persons with disabilities could be overlooked and their needs could be given less consideration by policymakers if their groups were subsumed by a larger central advocacy group.

Finally, several entity representatives asserted that efforts to improve coordination were impeded by the large number of entities providing indirect services to support persons with disabilities and an overall lack of awareness among the groups about specific disabilities and the other groups' efforts. These representatives indicated coordination would be enhanced if a directory of the groups were available. To aid in developing such a directory, we have included a summary of activities performed by the 25 state entities in Appendix A and a listing of contact information for these entities in Appendix C of this report.

---

OPPAGA supports the Florida Legislature by providing evaluative research and objective analyses to promote government accountability and the efficient and effective use of public resources. This project was conducted in accordance with applicable evaluation standards. Copies of this report in print or alternate accessible format may be obtained by telephone (850/488-0021 or 800/531-2477), by FAX (850/487-3804), in person, or by mail (OPPAGA Report Production, Claude Pepper Building, Room 312, 111 W. Madison St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1475). Cover photo by Mark Foley.

**Florida Monitor:** [www.oppaga.state.fl.us](http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us)

Project supervised by Tom Roth (850/488-1024)

Project conducted by Darwin Gamble (850/487-9247) and Jennifer Whipple (850/922-6606)

Gary R. VanLandingham, OPPAGA Director



## Appendix A

# Entities That Address the Interests of Persons with Disabilities

To identify statewide entities that address the interests of but do not directly provide services to persons with disabilities, we obtained information from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, and Department of Health, and reviewed entity documents and reports. Based on this information, we identified 25 statewide entities listed below that address the interests of persons with disabilities.

Entity	Established/ Administered	Mission	Activities
<b>All Persons with Disabilities</b>			
Abilities of Florida, Inc.	Nonprofit organization	Provide vocational evaluation, skills training, accessible housing, and job placement services to persons with disabilities.	Activities include providing job placement and skills training to persons with disabilities and financial assistance to low-income persons with disabilities who need housing.
The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.	Nonprofit organization	Advance the dignity, equality, self-determination, and expressed choices of individuals with disabilities, and ensure and expand the human and legal rights of people through the use of information and advocacy. Designated by executive order as the Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Florida.	Activities include implementing federally mandated programs that provide protection and advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities, mental illnesses, and traumatic brain injuries; also provides protection and advocacy for individual rights and voting access.
The Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group (ADAWG)	Executive Orders 97-56 (created); 99-80, 01-161, 03-137 (expanded)	Provide information, referrals, education, and recommendations for compliance and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to increase the independence and quality of life for citizens of Florida of all ages with disabilities.	Activities include maintaining a statewide information and referral system for all disability related services, programs, assistance, and resources; identifying and recommending methods to remove barriers to the delivery of and access to services for people with disabilities; and acting as the entity to coordinate the implementation of the ADA.
The Family Café	Nonprofit organization	Ensure that individuals with special needs or disabilities and their families have an opportunity for collaboration, advocacy, friendship, and empowerment by providing information, resources, and support in a family-centered environment.	Primary activity is holding an annual conference with participation by and support from state agencies and disabilities groups across the state, providing free registration and assistance with lodging and mileage, to educate families regarding available services. Presents a series of several small versions of the annual conference with region-specific information regarding programs and services.
Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.	Nonprofit organization	Ensure through collaboration that Floridians have full access to family-driven support, education, information, resources, and advocacy.	Activities include sponsoring support and self-help groups, providing parental training, and maintaining a family resource center.
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)	Nonprofit organization	Enhance the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities by promoting the awareness of, access to, and advocacy for assistive services and technology.	Activities include providing information and referral services, evaluation, and testing of assistive technologies, and financial assistance.

Entity	Established/ Administered	Mission	Activities
Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL)	Nonprofit organization	Through advocacy and coordination, lead, strengthen, and support the member Centers for Independent Living, which serve persons with disabilities.	Serves as the statewide association for numerous Centers for Independent Living throughout the state. The centers provide four core services: information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and individual and systems advocacy.
Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, Inc. (The Able Trust)	s. 413.615, <i>F.S.</i> Nonprofit public-private partnership	Provide Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through fundraising, grant programs, public awareness, and education. Designated by executive order to serve as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities.	Activities include supporting projects that provide on-the-job coaching, supported employment, job skills training, job development, employer outreach, ADA facility compliance, and skills evaluation. Only projects for which funding cannot otherwise be provided through a state agency are considered for funding. Also promotes awareness of abilities of persons with disabilities, serves as liaison to the Office of Disability Employment Policy, and recommends policies to the Governor.
Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. (FILC)	s. 413.395, <i>F.S.</i> Department of Education Nonprofit organization	Promote, in response to the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII and as mandated by the ADA, independent living opportunities for persons with disabilities of all ages throughout the state of Florida. This includes the promotion of a direct service philosophy that is consumer controlled and directed.	Activities include developing a state plan for independent living; providing oversight to centers throughout the state; monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating implementation of the state plan; and coordinating activities with state councils that address the needs of specific disability populations.
Florida Rehabilitation Council	s. 413.405, <i>F.S.</i> Department of Education	Increase employment, enhance independence, and improve the quality of life for Floridians with disabilities, ages 16 through 64 years, through evaluation, planning, and coordination of services.	Activities include serving as the federal oversight body responsible for reviewing vocational rehabilitation services in Florida and reporting to the Governor and Legislature.
Florida Statewide Advocacy Council	s. 402.165, <i>F.S.</i> Executive Office of the Governor	Safeguard the health, safety, welfare, and rights of the clients of programs and services provided by the State of Florida health and human services delivery system from conditions or individuals that constitute a threat to clients' civil and human rights.	Activities include processing complaints, conducting investigations, and monitoring programs. This statewide network of services is performed by the Florida Local Advocacy Councils that are composed of approximately 370 Governor-appointed volunteers.
Special Needs Shelters Interagency Committee	s. 381.0303(5), <i>F.S.</i> Department of Health	Resolve problems related to special needs shelters not addressed in the state comprehensive emergency medical plan and serve as an oversight committee to monitor the planning and operation of special needs shelters.	Activities include developing and negotiating any interagency agreements and submitting recommendations to the Legislature.
<b>Persons with Developmental Disabilities</b>			
Family Care Council	s. 393.502, <i>F.S.</i>	Advocate, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.	Activities include providing outreach and information to families about accessing supports and services, developing written recommendations for enhancing community and family supports and services, and monitoring the effectiveness of supports and services to ensure that the full range of family needs are addressed.



Entity	Established/ Administered	Mission	Activities
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC)	s. 393.002, <i>F.S.</i> Nonprofit organization	Encourage and advocate opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities (as defined in federal law, P.L. 106-402, section 102) and their families to enhance their quality of life within their communities. Designated by executive order as the agency to receive federal funds to implement on behalf of the State of Florida, Part B of the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 106-402).	Activities include coordinating efforts of federal, state, and local agencies to provide health care, vocational training, community living opportunities, and case management for persons with developmental disabilities and their families, enhancing independence, productivity, integration, inclusion, and self-determination in all facets of community life. Funds programs for prevention, identification, and alleviation of developmental disabilities in children.
Southern Movement for Independence	Nonprofit organization	Promote the self-determination of individuals with developmental disabilities.	Activities include supporting legislation, programs, and policies; promoting public awareness; and providing mini-grants to local chapters.
<b>Persons with Brain and/or Spinal Cord Injuries</b>			
The Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council	s. 381.78, <i>F.S.</i> Department of Health	Provide all eligible Florida residents who sustain a moderate to severe brain or spinal cord injury the opportunity to obtain the necessary services enabling them to return to their community.	Activities include providing advice and expertise to the Department of Health for the preparation, implementation, and periodic review of the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, including on-site visits to transitional living facilities identified by the Agency for Health Care Administration as being in possible violation of the statutes and rules regulating such facilities.
Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc.	Nonprofit organization	Improve the quality of life for persons with traumatic brain injuries and their families by creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, support services, and advocacy.	Activities include providing case management services to persons with traumatic brain injuries, providing support for their families, and implementing public education programs.
Florida Spinal Cord Injury Resource Center	Nonprofit organization	Serve as the statewide clearinghouse of spinal cord injury (SCI) resource information for persons who have survived an SCI, their families and friends, healthcare professionals, support groups, the media, and the general public.	Activities include providing new survivors with information to expand their awareness about SCI, offering peer mentors and information and referral services for all survivors of SCI and their families and friends, making public awareness presentations, and sponsoring support groups.
<b>Persons with Hearing Impairments</b>			
The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH)	s. 413.271, <i>F.S.</i> Department of Health	Recommend policies and direct program development to address the needs of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deaf-blind, as well as methods that improve the coordination of services among public and private entities, and to provide technical assistance, advocacy, and education.	Activities include providing information and referral services; advice regarding coordination of interpreter services, captioning services, and assistive listening devices; and information and assistance to the Legislature. Conducts public hearings and reviews federal and state statutes, rules, and regulations that establish requirements with which agencies must comply.
<b>Persons with Visual Impairments</b>			
Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind	s. 413.011, <i>F.S.</i> Department of Education	Assist the Florida Division of Blind Services in the planning and development of statewide rehabilitation programs and services and recommend improvements to such programs and services on behalf of Floridians with visual impairments.	Activities include recommending policies to the Department of Education and conducting an annual client satisfaction survey that evaluates the Division of Blind Services.



Entity	Established/ Administered	Mission	Activities
<b>Persons with Mental Illnesses</b>			
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Florida, Inc.	Nonprofit organization	Eradicate severe brain disorders and improve the quality of life of persons of all ages who are affected by these disorders.	Activities include sponsoring support groups and education programs for persons with mental illnesses and their families; service referral; assessing, reviewing, and monitoring services; and supporting legislation, programs, and policies.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation	s. 394.655, <i>F.S.</i> Nonprofit organization, Department of Children and Families	Oversee the state's publicly funded substance abuse and mental health systems and make policy and resource recommendations to improve the coordination, quality, and efficiency of the system.	Activities include making recommendations to the state's substance abuse and mental health programs, Governor, and Legislature to improve services for individuals with mental illnesses and chronic substance abuse.
<b>Persons with Special Needs (Birth through Age 21)</b>			
Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI)	Nonprofit organization	Enhance, facilitate, and support family and consumer involvement in the development of responsive, family-centered, and community-based systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs, based on the federal definition, and their families.	Activities include providing information and leadership training to families of children and youth with disabilities; supporting legislation, programs, and policies; and providing grant funding.
Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)	Required by federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, [IDEA], Part C, P.L. 105-17), Department of Health	Assist public and private agencies in implementing a statewide system of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programs providing appropriate early intervention services to infants and toddlers, birth to five years, with disabilities and risk conditions and their families.	Activities include recommending procedures for distribution of funds and priorities for program support under IDEA, Part C, and obtaining public comment on the Florida State Plan as required by IDEA, Part B; assisting and advising the lead agency in developing and reporting information and evaluations of programs; and seeking information from service providers, coordinators, and parents about any federal, state, or local policies that impede timely service delivery.
State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students	Department of Education	Advocate for students with disabilities (ages 3 through 21).	Activities include advising the department of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities, and commenting publicly on any proposed rules or regulations regarding the education of children with disabilities. Other activities include advising the department in developing evaluations and reporting on data, and advising on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults or incarcerated in adult prisons.

Source: State and federal laws, Governor's executive orders, entities' websites, responses to Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability surveys, and communications from the Department of Education and the Department of Health.

## Appendix B

# Coordination Among Entities That Address the Interests of

We asked a representative of each entity we surveyed to identify other entities with which they had coordinated their efforts on behalf of persons with disabilities during the past 12 months. In the table below, a box marked with an “X” indicates that the entity listed in the column on the left reported that it coordinated with an entity listed in the top row.

	All Persons with Disabilities	Abilities of Florida, Inc.	The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.	The Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group (ADAWG)	The Family Café	Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.	Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)	Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL)	Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, Inc. (The Able Trust)	Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. (FILC)	Florida Rehabilitation Council	Florida Statewide Advocacy Council	Special Needs Shelters Interagency Committee
<b>All Persons with Disabilities</b>													
Abilities of Florida, Inc.			X				X	X	X		X		
The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group (ADAWG)	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Family Café		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	
Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL)		X	X	X	X	X			X	X			
Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, Inc. (The Able Trust)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. (FILC)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		
Florida Rehabilitation Council			X	X	X				X	X			
Florida Statewide Advocacy Council		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Special Needs Shelters Interagency Committee		X	X				X		X				
<b>Persons with Developmental Disabilities</b>													
Family Care Council Florida		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Southern Movement for Independence													
<b>Persons with Brain and/or Spinal Cord Injuries</b>													
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc.	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Florida Spinal Cord Injury Resource Center		X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	
<b>Persons with Hearing Impairments</b>													
Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDDH)			X							X			
<b>Persons with Visual Impairments</b>													
Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind		X								X			
<b>Persons with Mental Illnesses</b>													
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Florida, Inc.		X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation		X	X									X	
<b>Persons with Special Needs (Birth through Age 21)</b>													
Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)				X									
State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students		X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X

<sup>1</sup> The Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc., did not respond to our survey, but is included in the table since other entities reported coordination  
Source: Responses to Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability surveys.

## Persons with Disabilities

[illegible]

with that organization.

## Appendix C

# Contact Information for Entities That Address the Interests of Persons with Disabilities

Entity	Phone	Website
Abilities of Florida, Inc.	(727) 538-7370	<a href="http://www.ourpeoplework.org">www.ourpeoplework.org</a>
The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.	(850) 488-9071	<a href="http://www.advocacycenter.org">www.advocacycenter.org</a>
The Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group (ADAWG)	(850) 487-3423	<a href="http://www.abilityforum.com/adawg.shtml">www.abilityforum.com/adawg.shtml</a>
Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc.	(954) 786-2400	<a href="http://www.biaf.org">www.biaf.org</a>
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council	(850) 245-4045	<a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/BrainSC/AdvCouncil/ACindex.html">www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/BrainSC/AdvCouncil/ACindex.html</a>
The Family Café	(888) 309-2233	<a href="http://www.familycafe.net">www.familycafe.net</a>
Family Care Council	(850) 414-6558	<a href="http://www.fccflorida.org">www.fccflorida.org</a>
Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.	(800) 825-5736	<a href="http://www.fndfl.org">www.fndfl.org</a>
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)	(888) 788-9216	<a href="http://www.faaast.org">www.faaast.org</a>
Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL)	(850) 575-6004	
Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH)	(850) 245-4913	
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC)	(850) 488-4180	<a href="http://www.fddc.org">www.fddc.org</a>
Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, Inc. (The Able Trust)	(850) 224-4493	<a href="http://www.abletrust.org">www.abletrust.org</a>
Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. (FILC)	(877) 822-1993	<a href="http://www.flailc.org">www.flailc.org</a>
Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI)	(877) 926-3514	<a href="http://www.fifionline.org">www.fifionline.org</a>
Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)	(850) 245-4444, ext. 2264	<a href="http://www.cms-kids.com/esproviders/training/module1/lesson1/ESTmodule1-1_20f.htm">www.cms-kids.com/esproviders/training/module1/lesson1/ESTmodule1-1_20f.htm</a>
Florida Rehabilitation Council	(850) 245-3317	<a href="http://www.rehabworks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=SubMain.FRC">www.rehabworks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=SubMain.FRC</a>
Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind	(850) 245-0331	<a href="http://myflorida.com/dbs/about_us/councils.shtml#Rehab">myflorida.com/dbs/about_us/councils.shtml#Rehab</a>
Florida Spinal Cord Injury Resource Center	(800) 995-8544	<a href="http://www.flspinalcord.us">www.flspinalcord.us</a>
Florida Statewide Advocacy Council	(850) 488-6173	<a href="http://www.floridasac.org">www.floridasac.org</a>
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Florida, Inc.	(850) 671-4445	<a href="http://www.namifl.org">www.namifl.org</a>
Special Needs Shelters Interagency Committee	(850) 245-4740	<a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/PHNursing/SpNS/SpecialNeedsShelter/overview.html">www.doh.state.fl.us/PHNursing/SpNS/SpecialNeedsShelter/overview.html</a>
Southern Movement for Independence	(407) 830-4055	<a href="http://www.southernmovement.org">www.southernmovement.org</a>
State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students	(850) 245-0475	<a href="http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/home0014.htm">www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/home0014.htm</a>
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation	(850) 410-1576	<a href="http://www.samhcorp.org/home.htm">www.samhcorp.org/home.htm</a>

Source: Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.