

FLORIDA OFFICE ON DISABILITY & HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2012

MARCH 31ST, 2009

The mission of the Florida Office on Disability & Health is to maximize the health, well-being, participation, & quality of life, throughout the lifespan, of all Floridians & their families living with disability.



Web site <http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/>

BACKGROUND

On the 2000 US Census, more than 3.2 million Floridians, or 22.2% of the state's population, reported having a disability. As the population continues to age and older Americans move full-time or seasonally to our state, this number will likely rise. In order to serve the growing number of Floridians with disabilities, a well-organized, visible office – the Florida Office on Disability & Health, or FODH – was established at the University of Florida (UF) through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC website <http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/dh/default.htm>).

The mission of the Florida Office on Disability & Health is to maximize the health, well-being, participation, & quality of life, throughout the lifespan, of all Floridians & their families living with disability.

The FODH envisions a state in which people with disabilities have the same opportunities to participate in communities as do people without disabilities. This includes an increased awareness of preventing and improving secondary health conditions as an important component of quality of life for people with disabilities in Florida. In addition, FODH envisions full participation and integration of people with disabilities in all physical, social, and economic aspects of Florida. The FODH vision also includes an increased positive awareness of contributions of persons with disabilities leading healthy productive lives.

The FODH is guided in principle by the definitions, classifications, and recommendations of the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) within a public health framework. Specifically, FODH will aspire to the goals and adhere to the national measures of *Healthy People 2010* and future versions of *Healthy People*, which serves as a blueprint for health in America. The WHO's *International Classification of Functioning, Health, & Disability (ICF)* will serve as the basis for FODH's conceptualization of disability (website <http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>). The ICF promotes a vision of disability and health based on functioning rather than diagnosis, and places participation as the ultimate measure of (dis)ability. FODH embraces the broadest definition of disability across the age span and inclusive of people and their supports.

The FODH and Partners endorse the notion that inclusive thinking about disability, and collaboration and cooperation has the greatest potential to affect positive changes in Florida. FODH bases its goals for Florida on a social, versus medical, model of disability and health. Finally, the FODH will operate within a public health framework, taking a population-based approach to disability and health. Thus, the project will be mindful of the three core functions of public health: *assessment, policy development, and assurance*. Specifically, the FODH will assess disability and health issues in Florida, then use these data to drive policy development, and finally work toward assuring that all Floridians, particularly those with disabilities and their families, are served by programs and policies that are developed.

STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The FODH draws upon the strengths of its Advisory Board and Partnership in the creation of this strategic plan and in all activities of the Office. Advisory Board members and Partners come

from a variety of state, academic, and community-based organizations intended to represent a broad range of disability and health issues and interests (<http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/advisory-board/>). In addition, people with disabilities and their family members or caregivers also are included in the Advisory Board and Partnership composition. Partners include individuals and agencies/organizations throughout Florida, and building this network is a key activity of the FODH. A current list is available by contacting fodh@php.ufl.edu). The strategic plans and goals of partner agencies were reviewed and used in the formation of the FODH strategic plan to ensure disability and health activities in Florida are aligned.

This planning process began in 2006 when various potential partners and stakeholders were interviewed about what they felt the major disability priorities and action steps were in Florida. These responses formed the basis our CDC proposal and for discussions that shaped this document. FODH also heard about priorities and issues from over 1,300 Floridians in a FODH-sponsored web survey during December 2007 through August 2008 (report at <http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/publications/>). Responses were received from 59 of Florida's 67 counties. Almost all of the people who responded were full-time residents of Florida (98%), and over one quarter was from rural (10%) or small-sized Florida cities (17%). Most respondents were aged 35-64 (82%), and were female (81%). The largest group of respondents were family members of people with disability (56%), but almost 17% were themselves people with a long-standing disability. Issues that people rated as "most important" on a scale of 0-7 were funding for healthcare (73%), access to medical specialists (55%), mental healthcare (51%), and programs for families and caregivers (50%). The strategic plan that follows also was discussed during teleconferencing with the Advisory Board and Partnership and during an in-person meeting on February 8, 2008.

The priorities, goals, and action plans contained herein are not expected to be binding nor final. The FODH envisions this as a living document that will be responsive to change in the state. The FODH, along with its Advisory Board and Partners, will revisit the content of the strategic plan at least annually for the duration of the project.

GOALS & PRIORITIES

When establishing goals and priorities, the following issues were considered:

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| (1) Need for change | (5) Plan for evaluation |
| (2) Impact on quality of life / participation | (6) Timeline |
| (3) Ability to track progress using data | (7) Sustainability |
| (4) Consideration of specific subgroups | (8) Partners necessary to meet goals |

For some priority areas, data may not be available at present. In those cases, developmental or process objectives may be established that include the collection of such data by FODH or a partner agency or organization. Other goals are strategic by promoting broad objectives to develop capacity and raising the visibility of disability in Florida. In these cases, process measures will be used and FODH's progress based on external evaluators rather than epidemiologic data.

Population level data allow FODH to make inferences about persons with disabilities in Florida, including their needs, the accessibility of programs and services, and potential points of intervention. The FODH will analyze new and existing data pertaining to disability and health, based upon the priorities expressed by FODH Advisory Board members and Partners in this strategic plan. Expected data sources include, but are not limited to, the Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Census and American Community Survey, and other organizational or program specific surveys. The information gleaned from these data sources helps to quantify the number of persons living with disabilities and type of disabilities – by functional limitations or diagnosis – most common in the state. These data also have the capacity to identify issues in access to care, disparities in health outcomes and healthy behaviors, and issues faced by community caregivers. This information is critical in the development of effective policies and appropriate funding decisions at the state and federal levels.

Based on strategic goals, below, the following data collection efforts are FODH priorities:

- Measure the prevalence and impact of family and community caregiving in Florida.
- Assess public disability awareness.
- Describe and identify possible interventions in the environments of people with disability: built, social, attitudinal, and institutional environments.
- Assess transportation needs of people with disability.
- Assess access to care for people with disabilities, disparities, and unmet needs.

The following overarching goals each contain more specific objectives. Importantly, FODH Partners note links among these objectives and goals. Themes appear in more than one goal, for example in education and disability awareness, or in promoting independence and participation for people with disabilities.

GOAL 1: BUILD DISABILITY & HEALTH PROGRAM CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☒ Increase surveillance of disability and health in Florida across current and emerging FODH goals and priorities.
- ☒ Initiate and maintain strategic partnerships.
- ☒ Learn from and disseminate national and global best disability practices and programs.
- ☒ Develop self-determination among people with disabilities and their families on personal health care issues.
- ☒ Seek sustainability of disability and health objectives by raising public awareness.

GOAL 2: PROMOTE NEEDED DIRECT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ☒ Seek equality for funding for physical activity and healthy lifestyle programs for people with disabilities.
- ☒ Assess and promote adequate public and private financing for health care for people with disabilities.
- ☒ Assess and promote health education and health promotion for people with disabilities.

- ⌘ Improve transportation programs and services for PWD.
- ⌘ Assess and promote programs which facilitate access to improved health care, including access to appropriate medical equipment and facilities, such as for mammography, dental care, and mental health.
- ⌘ Assess and promote coordination of, and a single entry point for, a comprehensive array of services and programs for people with disabilities and their supports.
- ⌘ Assess and promote adequate benefit design across the lifespan, including age, health, and education transitions (e.g., youth to adult healthcare).
- ⌘ Assess and promote comprehensive health sustaining services, for example Personal Care Assistants, rural health care delivery, and assistive technologies.
- ⌘ Identify and promote the elimination of barriers to access, accommodations, and equality in health care.

GOAL 3: IMPROVE PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS

- ⌘ Educate health care professionals throughout Florida for a greater understanding of the health care needs of persons with disabilities.
- ⌘ Providing disabilities awareness education to health care professionals.
- ⌘ Develop positive disability role models.
- ⌘ Develop awareness campaigns to promote community engagement in awareness of disability and societal participation.
- ⌘ Assist in developing and increasing public access to information and programs.

GOAL 4: PROMOTE INDEPENDENT LIVING OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE & MOST ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE

- ⌘ Promote universal design and universal access across disabilities and age groups.
- ⌘ Promote incentive programs for universal design and accessibility changes to public and private built environments.
- ⌘ Seek opportunities to encourage private and public sector access to and use of universal design technology, including assistive technology, transportation, the home, work, and social environments.
- ⌘ Promote policies, programs, and funding to provide for broader state-wide availability of transportation for people with disabilities for access to work, services, and social participation.
- ⌘ Promote policies, programs, and funding to provide safe transportation for persons with disabilities for greater inclusion in civic, social, and community life.

**Visit the FODH website for updates at <http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/>
Contact the FODH with your comments on this Strategic Plan at fodh@php.ufl.edu**