



One Voice Brevard

1 July 2026



Preparedness for Every Ability

by: Nicole Grabner, Director

With hurricane season underway, now is the time for individuals with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, and their caregivers to prepare for potential emergencies. Brevard County offers a Special Needs Shelter Program designed to assist residents who may require additional support during an evacuation and cannot safely stay in a general population shelter. These shelters vary with each different emergency and require pre-registration with the Florida Department of Health on their Special Needs Registry. (<https://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/special-needs-shelters/>)

Special Needs Shelters provide assistance for individuals who rely on medical equipment requiring electricity, need help with daily living activities, or have health conditions that



require monitoring during an emergency. These shelters are staffed to provide additional support; however, they are not hospitals and should be considered a shelter of last resort. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany individuals whenever possible.

For many families in the disability community, emergency preparedness requires extra planning. Individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mobility challenges, epilepsy, or complex medical needs may require specialized accommodations, medications, communication supports, or medical equipment during a storm. Registering in advance helps emergency officials better plan for transportation, staffing, and resources needed to support residents during an evacuation.

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Preparedness for Every Ability

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Brevard County officials strongly encourage residents not to wait until a storm is approaching to register. Making sure you have the following ready and in advance will help during a disaster:

1. Emergency Plan (Evacuation Routes)
2. Emergency Contacts (Family, friends, doctors, insurance, and medical information)
3. Disaster Kit (3 days of food and water for each person, clothing, cash, extended medication - around 30-90 days, chargers/batteries, etc.)
4. Copies of Important Documentation (ID/Driver's License, Insurance information, Social Security Card, etc.)

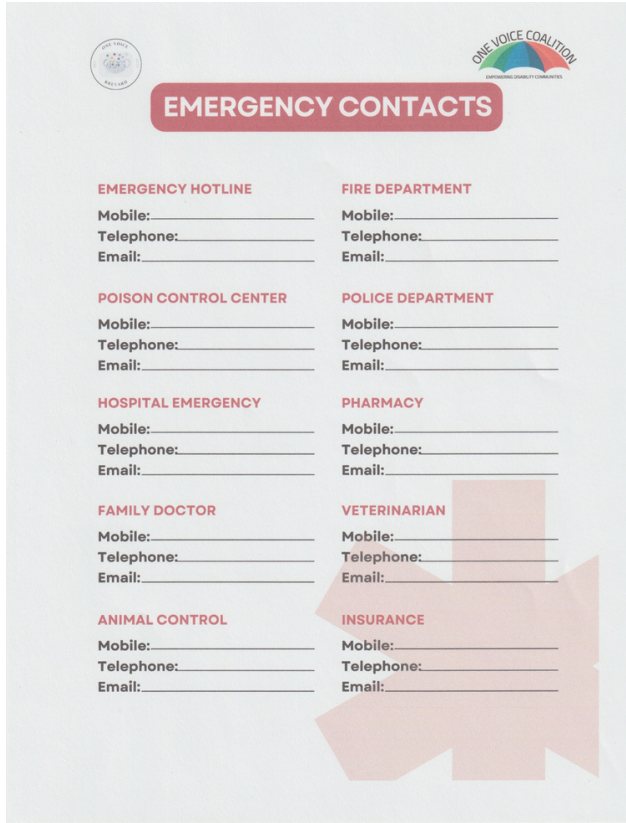
(Disability Rights Florida has a wonderful page and short video that explains further. This video can be found here: https://disabilityrightsflorida.org/disability-topics/disability_topic_info/disaster_emergency_planning).

To help with collecting contact information, take a look at our example contact sheet (attached on the next page).

Preparing before an emergency occurs can help reduce stress and ensure individuals with disabilities have access to the support they need during hurricane season.



Emergency Contact List Examples



This template includes a header with a circular logo on the left and a rainbow logo with the text 'ONE VOICE COALITION' on the right. Below the logos is a red rounded rectangle containing the title 'EMERGENCY CONTACTS'. The form is organized into two columns of contact information, each with three rows. A large, faint red medical cross is visible in the background.

EMERGENCY HOTLINE
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

POISON CONTROL CENTER
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

FAMILY DOCTOR
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

ANIMAL CONTROL
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

PHARMACY
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

VETERINARIAN
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

INSURANCE
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____



This template features a header with a circular logo on the left and a rainbow logo with the text 'ONE VOICE COALITION' on the right. Below the logos is a red rounded rectangle with the title 'EMERGENCY CONTACTS'. The form includes sections for medical professionals, a list of medications, insurance information, and personal details. A large, faint red medical cross is visible in the background.

PEDIATRICIAN
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

EYE DOCTOR
Mobile: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

MEDICATIONS LIST
[]

INSURANCE INFORMATION
[]

NOTES
[]

PERSONAL INFORMATION
Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____



Access is For Everyone: The Impact of the ADA

by Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice Brevard

Each July, we celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

The ADA remains one of the most significant civil rights achievements in our nation's history, opening doors to greater accessibility, inclusion, and opportunity for millions of Americans with disabilities. People with disabilities—including disabled veterans, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and those with physical, sensory, mental health, or chronic health conditions—rely on these protections and services to fully participate in their communities.

The ADA transformed communities by expanding access to employment, education, transportation, public accommodations, and civic participation. It affirmed a simple but powerful principle: people with disabilities deserve the same rights, opportunities, and dignity as everyone else.

This year's anniversary arrives at a time when many disability advocates are paying close attention to policy developments that could affect those protections and supports. Recent discussions surrounding the Department of Justice's interpretation of the Olmstead decision, the Texas v. Kennedy lawsuit challenging Section 504 protections, and proposed reductions to programs such as Medicaid, HCBS (Home and Community Based Services), SNAP, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have raised concerns throughout the disability community.



For many individuals with disabilities, these programs and protections are not merely government benefits—they are the foundation that makes community living, employment, healthcare access, and independence possible. The landmark Olmstead decision affirmed that people with disabilities have the right to live and receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Preserving that vision remains essential. As we commemorate the ADA's anniversary, we celebrate how far we have come while recognizing that the work is not finished. Accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunity require continued vigilance and advocacy. The disability rights movement has always been driven by individuals, families, self-advocates, and allies who believe that every person deserves to be valued and included.

This July, let us honor the legacy of the ADA by recommitting ourselves to protecting the rights, services, and opportunities that help people with disabilities live, work, and thrive in their communities.

*For more resources regarding the ADA anniversary, please see:

<https://adaanniversary.org/>



Vision Is More Than 20/20

What Every Parent Should Know About Early Childhood Vision Development

by Melissa Amarnath, Founder & President, Community Pathway for Kids
(Edited and Reprinted with Permission from the Author)

As a vision specialist, one of the most common things I hear from parents is: “My child passed their vision screening, so their vision must be fine.” It’s a completely understandable assumption. After all, when most of us think about vision, we think about reading an eye chart or whether a child needs glasses. But vision is so much more than 20/20 eyesight. This can be especially confusing for families because while a child’s eye exam may come back completely normal, healthy eyes are only one piece of the puzzle. Some children have difficulty making sense of or using the visual information around them, even when their eyes are functioning normally. As a result, parents may continue to feel like something is “off” despite passing vision screenings or receiving a normal eye exam.

Vision Is More Than What the Eyes See

Vision plays a role in almost everything a child does. It helps them connect with the people they love, explore their environment, learn new skills, move safely through the world, and make sense of what they see every day. Vision is actually a complex process that influences how children learn, move, communicate, play, and interact with the world around them. During the first five years of life, a child’s visual system develops rapidly. Because of this, identifying visual challenges early can have a significant impact on a child’s overall development.

Why Vision Matters for Development

More than 80% of what young children learn comes through visual experiences. From the moment they are born, babies use vision to recognize caregivers, explore their environment, reach for toys, and begin making sense of the world around them. As they grow, vision becomes deeply connected to nearly every area of development.

- **Social Development:** Children use vision to read facial expressions, observe social interactions, follow gestures, and engage with peers during play. These visual experiences help children build relationships, understand emotions, and learn important social skills.
 - **Communication and Language:** Vision helps children learn by watching faces, mouth movements, body language, and interactions with others. This can be especially important for children with speech delays or limited verbal communication. Through observation, children learn how conversations work, how emotions are expressed, and how to connect with the people around them.
 - **Vision and movement are interconnected,** with visual information crucial for spatial awareness, balance, and coordination. Strong visual skills support hand-eye coordination, enabling children to interact effectively with their environment and achieve motor milestones.
-



Vision Is More Than 20/20

(Continued)

- Vision is a powerful tool for learning. Children rely on visual information to explore their environment, make connections, recognize patterns, and solve problems. As they grow, vision supports attention, visual memory, cause-and-effect learning, matching and sorting skills, and the ability to understand and organize information. These visual-cognitive skills are crucial for school readiness. Recognizing shapes, letters, and numbers, following visual demonstrations, completing multi-step activities, and developing early literacy skills all depend on a strong visual foundation. Visual challenges can make learning difficult even when eyesight appears normal.

Signs a Child May Need Additional Visual Support

Vision concerns are not always obvious. Many young children assume everyone sees the world the same way they do, so they may never tell adults something feels different.

Some signs I encourage families to watch for include:

- Difficulty tracking moving objects
- Frequently bumping into things
- Tilting or turning the head when looking at objects
- Light sensitivity
- Difficulty finding items in a busy environment
- Balance difficulties or frequent falls
- Delays in motor, learning, or developmental skills

Children with developmental delays, prematurity, autism spectrum disorder, hearing impairments, neurological diagnoses, or genetic conditions may be at an even greater risk for vision-related challenges.

Don't Wait for School Screenings

One of the biggest myths I encounter is that children don't need an eye exam until they start school. In reality, children can have their first comprehensive eye exam as early as six months of age. An infant eye exam allows eye care professionals to evaluate eye health, monitor visual development, assess tracking skills, and determine how well the eyes are working together—all without a child needing to identify letters or speak. Early identification allows families to address concerns before they begin affecting development, learning, and daily routines.

What Is Early Vision Intervention?

Every child experiences and interacts with the world differently. Some children may have difficulty using and understanding the visual information around them. Others may have low vision, cortical visual impairment (CVI), or blindness. Regardless of the diagnosis, the goal of early vision intervention is to help each child develop the skills they need to learn, communicate, move safely, and participate fully in everyday life.



Vision Is More Than 20/20

(Continued)

My approach is shaped by years of experience as a Head Vision Therapist, Certified Early Intervention Vision Specialist, Infant and Toddler Vision Screener, and Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Specialist. Because vision affects every area of development, I work closely with families and other professionals, including occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, educators, and medical providers, to create strategies that support the whole child.

For children with usable vision, intervention focuses on enhancing their vision's effectiveness during play, movement, communication, learning, and daily routines. For children with visual impairments or blindness, intervention emphasizes building foundational skills to navigate the world using all sensory information. Early vision intervention may involve assessing vision use during daily activities, adapting environments and routines, strengthening visual skills, supporting movement and learning, and teaching families practical strategies.

For children who are blind or have significant visual impairments, early intervention is about much more than teaching compensatory skills. It is about helping them build a foundation for learning. Through meaningful experiences, hands-on exploration, auditory cues, and consistent routines, children learn how to gather information from their environment, understand cause and effect, develop spatial concepts, communicate effectively, and become confident explorers of the world around them.

The goal is not simply better eyesight. The goal is helping every child access, understand, and interact with their environment in the most effective way possible. The early years are a period of incredible brain growth and development. When visual concerns are identified and addressed early, children have greater opportunities to build strong developmental foundations, gain independence, strengthen communication and learning skills, and successfully engage in everyday activities.

At Community Pathways for Kids, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. We also believe that families should never have to navigate concerns alone. Through education, guidance, resources, and support, we help families better understand their child's development and connect with the services that can make a difference.

Let's Connect!

Have you noticed your child tilting their head, struggling with balance, or avoiding eye contact? Have they had an eye exam yet? Let's talk about it! Reach out to us directly by filling out the referral form to see how we can support your family's visual journey!





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At Disability & Justice, I often write about accessibility, independence, caregiving, transportation, and disability rights. What many people do not realize is that all of these issues are deeply connected to politics. This article is not about supporting one political party over another. It is about understanding how political decisions directly affect the lives of millions of disabled Americans every day. For years, I told myself that disability and politics were separate issues.

I was wrong.

The older I get, the more I realize that almost every challenge I face as an adult person with a disability is connected to a political decision made somewhere by someone I will probably never meet. When people hear the word “politics,” they often think about elections, campaign ads, and arguments on social media. I think about something very different.

I think about whether my caregiver services will continue.

I think about whether paratransit will have enough funding to operate.

I think about whether Medicaid will cover the equipment I need.

I think about whether people with disabilities will have access to affordable housing, employment opportunities, and healthcare.

Those are political issues.

As someone with Cerebral Palsy, I rely on supports that allow me to live independently in my community. I use a power wheelchair. I depend on caregivers. I use specialized transportation services. I receive benefits that help cover essential needs. None of those programs appeared by accident. They exist because people fought for them.

Disability is Political

(Continued)

The disability rights movement gave us laws like the ADA. Advocates fought for accessible buses, curb cuts, wheelchair ramps, and equal access to public spaces. These changes happened because disabled people demanded to be heard.

Yet many of us still hesitate to become involved in political discussions.

Sometimes we are tired.

Sometimes we are overwhelmed.

Sometimes we feel our voices do not matter.

But history tells a different story.

Every major disability right that exists today came from people speaking up.

The right to enter a public building.

The right to attend school.

The right to work.

The right to live in the community instead of an institution.

None of these victories happened because politicians suddenly decided to do the right thing.

They happened because disabled people and their allies demanded change.

That lesson is still important today.

When lawmakers discuss Medicaid funding, disability services, transportation budgets, or healthcare programs, they are not debating abstract numbers on a spreadsheet.

They are debating real lives.

They are debating whether someone can hire a caregiver.

They are debating whether someone can afford medication.

They are debating whether someone can travel to work or a doctor's appointment.

For many disabled Americans, politics is not a hobby.

It is survival.

That does not mean every disabled person must belong to the same political party. We come from different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and beliefs.

But regardless of our political differences, we share one common reality.

The decisions made in government offices have consequences in our homes.

If we remain silent, others will make those decisions for us.

If we speak up, organize, vote, write, and advocate, we have a chance to shape the future.

The disability community has never gained rights by sitting quietly on the sidelines.

And we will not protect those rights by remaining silent today.

Disability is political, whether we like it or not.

The question is whether we are willing to be part of the conversation.

— Daniel E. Carvajal Publisher, Disability & Justice



Summer Fun

Camp2Can Update

by Reyleigh Morrow, Co-Leader

Summer is off to an exciting start at Camp2Can, where children and young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities are enjoying a season filled with creativity, friendship, and unforgettable experiences. Each week brings a new theme, giving campers opportunities to explore their imaginations while building confidence and connecting with peers in a fun, supportive, and inclusive environment.

Our adventure began with "Dragons and Kingdoms" week, where campers unleashed their creativity by designing dragon-themed crafts, creating colorful shields and castles, and working together to build their own unique kingdoms. Through cooperative games and imaginative storytelling, campers practiced teamwork, communication, and problem-solving while having plenty of fun.

The excitement continued during "Music Mania" week, where campers discovered the joy of rhythm, movement, and self-expression. From creating musical crafts and participating in interactive games to singing, dancing, and exploring different instruments, the week celebrated the many ways music can bring people together and encourage creativity.

While the weekly themes provide endless entertainment, Camp2Can is about so much more than crafts and activities. Every day offers opportunities for campers to develop social skills, build meaningful friendships, increase independence, and celebrate personal accomplishments. Whether trying a new activity, making a new friend, or simply gaining the confidence to step outside their comfort zone, each success is a reminder of the incredible potential within every camper.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are inspired each day by the enthusiasm, resilience, and joy our campers bring to camp. We are grateful to the families who entrust us with their loved ones and look forward to many more weeks of laughter, learning, and lasting memories as another incredible Camp2Can summer continues.





28th Annual Family Café

by Nicole Grabner



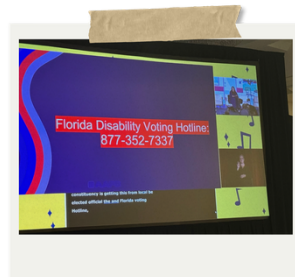
Each year, thousands of Floridians with disabilities, family members, caregivers, self-advocates, professionals, and community partners come together for one of the state's most impactful disability events, the Annual Family Café. Held June 12–14, 2026, in Orlando, the 28th Annual Family Café once again provided a welcoming space for education, collaboration, and empowerment through hundreds of breakout sessions, an expansive resource exhibit hall, and opportunities to connect with disability leaders from across Florida.

The Family Café continues to be the largest statewide cross-disability conference in the nation, offering valuable information on topics including healthcare, education, employment, assistive technology, self-advocacy, emergency preparedness, Medicaid, and community living. Beyond the educational sessions, the conference creates a unique opportunity for families to build lasting relationships, share experiences, and discover resources that can make a meaningful difference in their daily lives.

This year's event also came at an important time as Florida's disability community continues to navigate changes in healthcare policy, Medicaid services, education, and disability rights. Many attendees participated in discussions about current legislative issues, innovative community programs, and strategies for strengthening advocacy efforts throughout the state.

Whether attending for the first time or returning year after year, participants left inspired by the resilience, leadership, and passion of Florida's disability community. The Family Café reminds us that when families, self-advocates, professionals, and policymakers come together, we create stronger communities and a more inclusive Florida for everyone.

Mark your calendars now for the 29th Annual Family Café, which will be held June 18–20, 2027, at the Hyatt Regency Orlando. We hope to see you there!



- To see recordings from this year's conference, please click here:
<https://familycafe.net/videos/>

Thank You!

Disability and Voting

by Nicole Grabner



This week, families from our disability community had the opportunity to participate in an exceptional voter education event hosted by the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections. More than just a presentation, the event provided a hands-on experience that empowered individuals with disabilities to learn about the voting process in an accessible, welcoming, and engaging environment.

Participants toured the elections warehouse and had the opportunity to see both standard voting equipment and accessible voting machines designed to ensure every eligible voter can cast their ballot independently and privately. Elections staff demonstrated the available accommodations, answered questions about voter registration and voting requirements, and explained the many resources available to assist voters with disabilities before and on Election Day.

One of the most memorable moments came when the Supervisor of Elections shared a local story about an election that was decided by just one vote; a powerful reminder that every voice truly matters. For many families, it reinforced that participating in our democracy is not only a right but also an opportunity to help shape the future of our communities.

We commend the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections and the dedicated staff for their commitment to accessibility and inclusion. By opening their doors and engaging directly with the disability community, they demonstrated that voter education can be proactive, interactive, and meaningful.

We hope this event serves as a model for Supervisor of Elections offices across Florida. Building partnerships with disability organizations, offering demonstrations of accessible voting equipment, and creating opportunities for open dialogue can help ensure that every voter, regardless of ability, feels informed, confident, and welcomed at the polls. Together, we can strengthen civic participation and ensure that every voice has the opportunity to be heard.



- For more information about voting in Brevard County, please see:
<https://www.votebrevard.gov/>

Family Care Council Updates

by Nicole Grabner



Recent data from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) shows the pre-enrollment numbers in Brevard County rose from ~~514~~ to **520** as of 26 June 2026. The Legislature reported that the current waitlist number is 15,450, ~~down 835~~ from the last reporting at the end of May. The Legislature has allocated \$10 million to help move more families off the waitlist.

During the last statewide meeting, the recent DOJ opinion letter that was published about HCBS (home and community-based services), concerns were raised regarding Florida state's interpretation of the memo. The Director indicated that APD's General Counsel would be at the next statewide meeting (in July) to answer questions. It was also suggested that representatives from AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) and DCF (Department of Children and Families) attend the next statewide meeting as well.

To register for the next Area 7 meeting, please click here:

<https://meet.goto.com/FCCFlorida/area-7-family-care-council-meeting>

To apply for services, please click the following link (the application is online):

<https://applynow.apd.myflorida.com/>

To see the newly launched "Roadmap to Family Resources," click here:

<https://apd.myflorida.com/resources.htm>

To see APD's newly launched Crisis Review Guide, click here:

<https://apd.myflorida.com/services/crisisguide.htm>

Current pre-enrollment numbers:

Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Pre-Enrollment Numbers by Priority Category and County
As of 06/26/2026

County	Category 1: Crisis	Category 2: Transitions from Child Welfare	Category 3: Intensive Needs	Category 4: Caregiver Over Age 60	Category 5: Transition from School	Category 6: Age 21 and Older	Category 7: Under Age 21	Total
ALACHUA	0	0	2	0	0	47	78	127
BAKER	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	14
BAY	0	0	0	3	1	71	46	121
BRADFORD	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	21
BREVARD	0	0	2	12	0	300	206	520
BROWARD	0	0	0	5	0	616	250	871

To see the full report published on 26 June:

<https://apd.myflorida.com/publications/reports/docs/Preenrollment%20Website%20Reporting%2020260626.pdf>



Family Corner

Celebrating Disability Awareness



As we approach the 250th Anniversary of our nation and the 36th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we asked families with children and adults with disabilities what “disability history awareness” meant to them, and these were their answers:



*Image from ABC News.

Response from my 11-year-old grandson when asked this question: “Making people aware of disabilities some people have (or have had) by informing others in different ways like telling and showing them that they may look or do things differently, but they’re still good people and they have abilities, too; they’re not defined by their disability”.

-Miriam

That our children and all people with disabilities are heard and should be treated with respect and humanity, like any human we know, it is truly civil rights and should be learned about in every government class how families and individuals fought so hard to get where we are even today...even if we are not where we should be.

- Alexis

Every culture and community has a history. So for me, history is essential to being part of the community and understanding the culture. Events like the Capitol Crawl are also a source of identity and pride.

-Mary

For our family, disability history awareness is about recognizing that many disabilities are invisible. People often notice a wheelchair, white cane, or physical difference, but they may not see the child struggling with dyslexia, autism, ADHD, sensory challenges, low vision, anxiety, or the long-term effects of childhood cancer treatment. Because those disabilities aren't always obvious, families are often left fighting to prove that support is needed.

-Amanda



Monthly Art Submission



This month's submission is from Remington. He used oil on canvas.

Bill Buzz

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard



Budget Concerns:

Florida's state budget is now law following the Governor's approval, bringing an end to months of legislative negotiations. While the final budget provides funding for many critical disability programs, several notable vetoes affecting healthcare, community services, and disability initiatives serve as a reminder that advocacy remains essential to ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities continue to be prioritized.

Among the vetoes were appropriations for certain local healthcare and behavioral health projects, specialized transportation and community access initiatives, and several regional programs that serve individuals with disabilities and their families. As advocates review the final budget, it is clear that while important investments were made, there is still work to be done to ensure every Floridian with a disability has access to the services and supports they need to thrive.

✗ Approximately ~~\$150M~~ previously appropriated APD funds was reverted back to the states General Revenue fund.

✗ Approximately ~~\$8.5M~~ in vetoes for disability services and supports

✗ Approximately ~~\$40M~~ previously appropriated AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) funds was reverted back to states General Revenue fund.

You can check for updated information on either the Florida House or Florida Senate websites.

You can also check back on our website, <https://onevoicecoalitionflorida.org/advocacy>, for updated information.

Summer Fun

K	C	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	F	E	W
E	A	F	C	Z	C	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E
K	M	A	N	E	O	Z	M	S	N	A	Y	M	O
A	P	M	J	R	L	T	U	B	E	A	C	H	B
H	I	I	X	J	V	X	F	V	H	I	R	B	O
X	N	L	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	C	O	W
G	G	Y	L	D	B	L	V	Y	P	L	K	H	L
S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	D	D	H	V	O	I
K	M	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	J	I	N
B	O	N	N	T	G	A	R	D	E	N	I	N	G
N	V	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	Q	G	F	J	W
S	I	D	Z	Q	O	P	T	Y	N	V	C	Z	O
J	E	W	M	L	T	O	B	S	U	X	W	A	K
N	S	H	Y	P	A	T	R	I	O	T	I	C	G

BEACH
SWIMMING
READING
CAMPING
GARDENING
FRIENDS
MOVIES
BOWLING
PATRIOTIC
BARBECUE
FIREWORKS
FAMILY
COMMUNITY

*To find who your State Legislators are, please see the Florida House and Florida Senate websites.

Bill Buzz, Part 2

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard

We still need help making phone calls, sending emails and sending letters to ask that the State of Florida, withdraw from it's lawsuit, Texas vs. Kennedy.

Governor Ron DeSantis Office of the Governor The Capitol 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001	Attorney General James Uthmeier Office of the Attorney General PL-01, The Capitol Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050	
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I am writing to you today as a disability advocate to respectfully urge you to withdraw the State of Florida from participation in **Florida vs. Kennedy, Case No. 5:24-CV-00225**, particularly with regard to the claim seeking to set aside the Final Rule that protects the rights of people with disabilities to live and receive services in the least restrictive environment.

As Floridians, many of us rely on policies and protections that support the health, safety, and well-being of our communities, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. Continued involvement in this litigation raises significant concerns about potential impacts on critical services, supports, and protections that families across Florida depend on. Withdrawing from this lawsuit would reflect a commitment to protecting access to essential supports and ensuring that Floridians can continue to receive the care and services they need to live, work, and participate fully in their communities.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Florida, and I urge you to stand with Florida families by withdrawing from this lawsuit.

Respectfully,

[Full Name]
[City, Zip]
[Phone Number]



*To sign our Change.org petition, please click here:

<https://www.change.org/p/ask-the-state-of-florida-to-withdraw-from-504-lawsuit>

Bill Buzz, Part 3

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard

We could use some help sending calls and emails to your Congressional Representative as well as our two State Senators, Rick Scott and Ashley Moody, in opposition to H.R. 8736.

Dear **Congressman/woman/Senator [Name]**,

I am writing as a constituent and family member of an individual with a disability to express my opposition to the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act (H.R. 8736).

While the bill is presented as expanding employment choice, I am concerned that it would weaken important protections designed to help young adults with disabilities pursue competitive, integrated employment. Specifically, the legislation would lower the age at which individuals can enter subminimum wage employment from 24 to 18, reducing opportunities for transition services, vocational rehabilitation, career counseling, and other supports intended to help individuals achieve meaningful employment in their communities.

For decades, disability advocates, self-advocates, families, employers, and policymakers have worked to increase access to competitive integrated employment and move away from outdated systems that segregate individuals with disabilities and pay wages below the federal minimum wage. Young adults with disabilities deserve the same opportunities to explore careers, develop skills, and earn fair wages as their peers.

As a family member, I want my loved one and all individuals with disabilities to be valued for their abilities and provided opportunities to reach their full potential.

We should invest in employment supports, job coaching, transportation, and workforce development programs that help individuals succeed in integrated settings, rather than expanding pathways to subminimum-wage employment. Florida has made significant investments in employment initiatives through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation, and I believe federal policy should reinforce these efforts rather than undermine them.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose H.R. 8736** and support policies that promote fair wages, community inclusion, and competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[City, State]

Bill Buzz, Part 4

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard

In response to the recent opinion letter published by the Department of Justice regarding home and community-based services, we could use your help making calls (and emails) to your Congressman/woman.

The Honorable [Representative's Name]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman [Last Name],

I am writing as the parent, family member, caregiver, or self-advocate of a person with a disability to express my concern regarding the recent U.S. Department of Justice opinion addressing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Olmstead decision, and home- and community-based services (HCBS).

Like many families, our goal is simple: we want our loved one to have the opportunity to live safely, with dignity, and as independently as possible in their community. Home- and community-based services make that possible by providing supports such as personal care, employment services, transportation, respite, therapies, and other assistance that help individuals remain in their homes rather than unnecessary institutional settings. For more than 25 years, the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision has affirmed that people with disabilities should receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. While the recent DOJ opinion does not change the law, it raises concerns about how these important civil rights protections may be interpreted and enforced in the future.

Community living should never be viewed as an optional benefit that states may choose to provide when convenient. It is the means by which millions of Americans with disabilities exercise the same freedoms that others often take for granted—the freedom to choose where they live, pursue employment, build relationships, and participate fully in community life.

For families like mine, these supports are not a luxury. They help prevent unnecessary institutionalization, reduce caregiver burnout, and allow people with disabilities to contribute to their communities. When families receive the right supports, individuals are more likely to work, volunteer, attend school, and live fulfilling lives. Unfortunately, many states, including Florida, continue to have long waiting lists for home- and community-based services. Families often wait years for assistance while doing everything they can to keep their loved ones safe at home. Weakening the commitment to community integration sends the wrong message at a time when many families are already struggling to access the services they need.

I respectfully ask you to continue supporting the principles established by the ADA and Olmstead by protecting federal funding for home- and community-based services, strengthening community supports, and ensuring that people with disabilities have the opportunity to live, work, and thrive in their communities. Please continue to support policies that recognize community living as a fundamental civil right and protect the dignity, independence, and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your service and for considering the concerns of families like mine. I appreciate your leadership and respectfully ask for your continued support of policies that strengthen, not weaken, the rights of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[City, State]

*For more information, please check: <https://dredf.org/we-belong-in-the-community-not-in-institutions/>

OVCFL 2026 Legislative Platform



ONE VOICE COALITION 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



- Protecting and Expanding Medicaid - Ensuring Floridians have access to quality, affordable health care.
- Standardize and update the legal definition of autism in the Florida Statutes.
- KidCare Rollout - ensure effective implementation of this benefit

Protect children with disabilities by ensuring the protection of OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs), OCR (Office of Civil Rights), and protecting IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



Bring collaboration and transparency to every aspect of policy affecting those with disabilities. It is imperative to ensure that our voices are heard when decisions are being made - Nothing about us without us!



info@onevoicebrevard.com



www.onevoicecoalitionflorida.org

Resources and Contact Information

- Brevard Autism Coalition; <https://brevardautismcoalition.com/>
- Angels Bridging Gaps; <https://angelsbridginggaps.org/>
- The Parker Foundation; <https://www.theparkerfoundation.com/>
- S.O.A.K.; <https://www.soakautism.com/>
- Down Syndrome Association of Brevard; <https://www.dsabrevard.org/>
- UCF CARD; <https://ucf-card.org/>
- Florida Developmental Disabilities Council; <https://www.fddc.org/>
- Project 10; <https://project10.info/>
- Vocational Rehabilitation; <https://www.rehabworks.org/contact/area3.html>
- FLAPSE; <https://apse.org/chapter/florida/>
- The Arc of Space Coast; <https://www.arcofsc.org/>
- Promise in Brevard; <https://promiseinbrevard.com/>
- Brevard Resource Center for Disability Solutions; <https://rcdsfl.org/>
- The Family Cafe; <https://familycafe.net>
- Family Liason Project; <https://familyliasonproject.com>
- Early Steps Space Coast; <https://spacecoastes.org>
- Family Care Council Area 7; <https://fccflorida.org/area-7-fcc.html>
- Bright Feats magazine
- Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Mobil Response Team 24/hour line (321) 213-0315
- Feeding Florida (food bank information) <https://www.feedingflorida.org/>
- Everything Brevard (resource website)
<https://www.everythingbrevard.com/blog/guide-space-coast-food-pantries>



For more information or questions, please see our Facebook page.

Brevard County Delegation

CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation



Senator Debbie Mayfield
District 19

☎ District Office (321) 409 - 2025
Capital Office (850) 487 - 5019
✉ debbie.mayfield@flsenate.gov
🌐 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S19>
📍 900 East Strawbridge Avenue
Room 408
Melbourne, FL 32901



Senator Tom Wright
District 8

☎ District Office (386) 304 - 7630
Capital Office (850) 487 - 5008
✉ tom.wright@flsenate.gov
🌐 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S8>
📍 4606 South Clyde Morris Boulevard
Suite 2-J
Port Orange, FL 32129

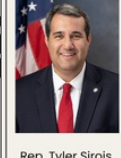


CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation



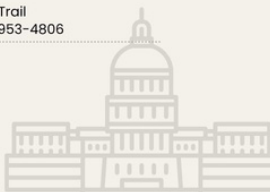
Rep. Chase Tramont
District 30

☎ District Office (386) 278 - 1640
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5030
✉ chase.tramont@flhouse.gov
🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.aspx?MemberId=4867&LegislativeTermId=91>
📍 Suite 201D
5889 South Williamson Boulevard
Port Orange, FL 32128-6110



Rep. Tyler Sirois
District 31

☎ District Office (386) 304 - 7630
Capital Office (850) 487 - 5008
✉ tyler.sirois@flhouse.gov
🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.aspx?MemberId=4748&LegislativeTermId=91>
📍 Suite 206
260 North Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL 32953-4806



CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation



Rep. Brian Hodgers
District 32

☎ District Office (321) 497 - 8200
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5032
✉ brian.hodgers@flhouse.gov
🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.aspx?MemberId=5064&LegislativeTermId=91>
📍 Building B #202
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940-6605



Rep. Monique Miller
District 33

☎ District Office (321) 497 - 8170
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5033
✉ monique.miller@flhouse.gov
🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/custom/details.aspx?MemberId=4913&LegislativeTermId=91>
📍 Suite 5
2539 Palm Bay Road Northeast
Palm Bay, FL 32905-3534



CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation



Rep. Robert Brackett
District 34

☎ District Office (772) 365 - 9230
Capital Office (850) 717 - 5034
✉ robert.brackett@flhouse.gov
🌐 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.aspx?MemberId=4870&LegislativeTermId=91>
📍 Suite B2-203
1800 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-0310



Sign up for my
E-Newsletter!
@RepHaridopolos

**NEED HELP WITH A
FEDERAL AGENCY?**

For assistance with:

- Social Security
- The IRS
- Veterans Affairs
- Medicare
- Immigration/Passports

Call (321)-632-1776
or scan the QR code



MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FLORIDA'S 11TH DISTRICT





July Events

American's With Disabilities Act Anniversary

2026							JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31								

- Community Playdate for children 5 and under, sponsored by Early Steps. Held every 4th Thursday of the month. July's event is **Thursday, 23 July**, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the Children's Center, 5650 Washington Avenue, Titusville. RSVP required. See flyer for additional details.
- Early Steps Breakfast Support Group, the first and third Fridays of the month. On **3 July** from 10:00 - 11:30 at Cracker Barrel, 1117 Palm Bay Road, Palm Bay and on **17 July** from 9:30 - 11:00 at My Island Smokehouse, 4885 US 1, Cocoa. See flyer.
- Down Syndrome Association of Brevard presents two Music Therapy classes. Class 1 is open to ages 11 and over on **Wednesdays, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** (closed group). Class 2 is open to ages 0-10 (open to siblings) on **Thursdays, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.** For more information, go to <https://dsabrevard.org/events/>
- One Voice Brevard presents: "Disability and Voting in 2026" Zoom on **Thursday, 2 July** at 6:30 p.m. Learn about voting in the Florida midterm elections. See flyer for registration information.
- UCF CARD presents "Breathe and Be: A Mindfulness Skill Lab" on the 1st Monday of every month from 6:30 - 7:30 via Zoom. July's event will be on **Monday, July 6th**. Registration required via Eventbrite. See Flyer.
- Bright Path Education offers Home Education Co-Op for ages 5-12. Opened in January. See flyer for additional information.
- Art classes and workshops provided by Arts For All Studio, weekdays and evenings. Pre-registration is required. See flyer for additional details.
- Early Steps sponsors a free Community Play Date for children under 5 every fourth Wednesday of the month from 9-10:30 at the Children's Center, 5650 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville. This month's play date will be on **July 22nd**. Spaces are limited. RSVP to Mary: 321-292-1370. See flyer for more info.
- Early Steps also sponsors a free play group at various locations and times throughout the month. See flyer or contact Mary at 321-292-1370 for more information.
- Presented by The Parker Foundation, "Hey Mama! Mom's Retreat" for those raising children with autism and special needs. **Wednesday, July 8th**, at 6:30 p.m., Kiwi Racquet and Fitness Club, 30 Tradewinds Dr, Indian Harbor Beach. Free registration via Eventbrite. See flyer for details.
- From UCF CARD, "Caregiver of Adults and Soon-To Be Adults". Free monthly resources and discussion group for parents of adults and late teens on the autism spectrum. **Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** via Zoom. See QR Code on flyer to register.
- UCF CARD and PALS co-sponsor the monthly Brevard Community Connect, at the Field of Dreams, 3053 Fell Rd West, Melbourne. June's event will be **Friday, July 31st** from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. RSVP is required. Scan QR code on flyer
- UCF CARD presents Adults With ASD Forum via Zoom on the first Thursday of every month from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. June's events are on **July 2nd and July 16th**. Registration required. See flyer.
- Join the NAMI Neurodivergent Support Group on-line meeting held every 4th Thursday of the month. July's meeting will be held on the **23rd of July** at 11:00. Scan QR Code of flyer to register.
- The Parker Foundation presents Speak Through the Arts, Summer Session II beginning Wednesday July 15th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Kiwi Racket and Fitness Club, 30 Tradewinds Drive, Indian Harbor Beach, FL. Registration through Eventbrite.
- **Saturday, July 26th**, is the 45th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- **Save the Date:** Brevard Autism Coalition along with One Voice Coalition Florida presents the 13th Annual Brevard Uncorked Wine Gala on **Friday, November 6th**, from 6-10 p.m. at the Hotel Melby. Watch this space for more information.
- **Save the Date:** Brevard Autism Coalition presents Camp2Can 2026. Camp dates are **July 6-10, July 13-17, and July 20-24**. See flyer for registration information.
- **Save the Date:** One Voice Helping Hands Conference, **Saturday, August 29th**, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne. Watch this space for more information.
- **Save the Date:** Community Partnership for Kids presents the second annual Teddy Bear Picnic in the Park on **Saturday, October the 10th**. Watch this space for more information.



Event Flyers



Event Flyers

BREVARD COMMUNITY CONNECT

Private Events for Neurodivergent Adults 18+ • The Last Friday of Every Month

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Social Connection
Engage in various fun and meaningful activities that **build connections** with like minded individuals.

Skill Building Mini-Lessons
Each month comes with a different **theme** and focus for our group. Activities support social skill development.

Groups for Various Needs
We **welcome everyone**. Groups will be thoughtfully organized based on support needs to create the best experience for participants. Separate groups will also be available for parents and caregivers.

*Show up as you are.
Be understood.
Grow & learn together.*

HUGE THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Join our community!
Scan to fill out the interest form or visit our website for more information.
MindshiftND.com/events

Community shouldn't require you to mask who you are.

Brevard Community Connect

EVENT SCHEDULE

SOCIAL GROUP FOR NEURODIVERGENT ADULTS
⌚ LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

2/27	Connection & Shared Understanding
3/27	Advocating for yourself
4/24	Autism Awareness Month—Acceptance, Identity & Belonging
5/29	Social Energy & Boundaries
6/26	Showing Up in Your Own Way
7/31	Nurturing Connections
8/28	Community Growth
9/25	Navigating Difficulties Together
10/30	Halloween Bash
11/20	Friendsgiving
12/18	ALL Holiday Celebrations

Sign up to keep updated on monthly event times and locations!

HELP SUPPORT

SAVE THE DATE

13TH ANNUAL

Brevard Uncorked

WINE GALA

AN EVENING OF FINE WINES, EXQUISITE DINNER, AND UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

11.06.2026

6PM - 10PM

HOTEL MELBY
MELBOURNE, FL

GOOD WINE. GREAT CAUSE. LASTING IMPACT.
Be there.

Autism Coalition of Brevard

CAMP 2 CAN

2026

SAVE THE DATE!
Registration opens on January 17, 2026

Summer day camp for individuals with Autism and related conditions

Register for one or more weeks. \$285 per week

ACTIVITIES	EVENT DATES
- Building friendships - Learning and using social skills - Exploring nature - Sports and games - Learning various functional skills - Fieldtrips - Leisure activities - Arts and crafts	June 8 - 12, 2026 June 15 - 19, 2026 June 22 - 26, 2026 July 6 - 10, 2026 July 13 - 17, 2026 July 20 - 24, 2026 *No camp during the week of June 29 - July 3

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BrevardAutismCoalition@gmail.com
www.brevardautismcoalition.com
facebook.com/BrevardAutismCoalition

Event Flyers



Event Flyers



Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

ADULTS WITH ASD FORUM

1st Thursday of Every Month
3:00PM-4:00PM

3rd Thursday of Every Month
7:00PM-8:00PM

January - June
via ZOOM

This forum is designed as a safe space for adults with ASD to practice social skills.

To register, scan the QR code or use this link:

Please contact your ASD Specialist for the registration password for this event.

UCF CARD



CAREGIVERS OF ADULTS AND SOON-TO-BE ADULTS WITH ASD

Resource and discussion group via Zoom
6:30PM-8:00PM

Free monthly resource and discussion group for parents of adults and late teens (16+) on the autism spectrum. Open forum for parents to discuss concerns, seek resources, and gain support in assisting their adult children.
NOW ON WEDNESDAYS!

TO REGISTER: scan the QR code or copy the link below:
<https://coa4654.eventbrite.com>

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF CARD



Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

Breathe and Be: A Mindfulness Skill Lab

1st Monday of Every Month: 6:30-7:30PM
via Zoom

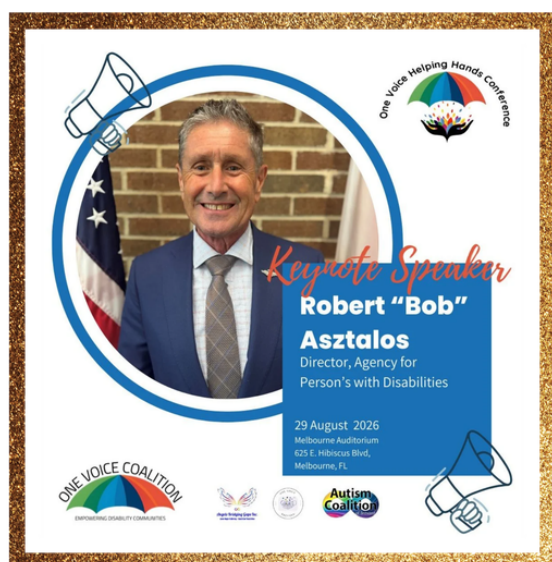
To register, scan the QR code or use this link:

Monthly meeting to include a 30-minute didactic lesson followed by mindful practice for the month.

<https://bnb22026.eventbrite.com>

UCF CARD

Event Flyers



Event Flyers



**Disability Rights
FLORIDA**

Your opinion matters. Take our survey!

Every year, Disability Rights Florida (DRF) reviews how our organization is doing and how we can best support the needs of Floridians with disabilities. Like other nonprofit organizations, DRF functions using a limited amount of grant funding and staff.

The survey does not take long to complete and is available now through July 16, 2026 in English, Spanish and Creole.

Complete our online survey on our website:
www.DisabilityRightsFlorida.org

CARD
CENTER FOR AUTISM & RELATED DISABILITIES

CARD is Partnering with **AHA!**

AHA!
AUTISM HOPE, HEALTH & ABILITIES
CONFERENCE
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

*You care for your child every day.
Let us help support you.*

Connect with experts, resources,
and other families who understand.

- 26 EXPERT SPEAKERS
Insight and guidance from leading experts.
- 40+ RESOURCES & VENDORS
Helpful products and services for your family.
- COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & ANSWERS
Connect, share and find the support you need.

JULY 17-18, 2026 | LONGWOOD, FLORIDA

USE CODE:
CARD20
\$20 OFF REGISTRATION!

FIND ANSWERS. BUILD SUPPORT. MOVE FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE.
ABILITIESWORKSHOP.COM/AHA