

**Florida Disability and Health Program**

# **Sustainability Report 2015**

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Florida Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease  
Prevention and Health Promotion

In conjunction with the University of Florida

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**The mission of the Florida Disability and Health Program is to achieve the inclusion of Floridians living with disabilities in local and statewide health promotion, wellness, disease prevention, and disaster preparedness activities.**

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## Background

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded by a four-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The overall goal of the program is to include Floridians of all ages with disabilities in all of the Department of Health's programs and activities for health promotion, disease prevention, wellness, and disaster preparedness.

The DHP partners closely with the University of Florida (UF) to meet its goals. UF assists with strategic planning and manages all data collection efforts for the program. The DHP also relies on volunteer members of a Disability Community Planning Group (DCPG) consisting of an Advisory Panel, Partners, County Health Department Disability Health Liaisons, and Program Leaders to provide professional insights and personal experiences as they relate to living with a disability. The DCPG partnership has a targeted focus on topics of concern that include: health care access, physical accessibility to health services, health provider knowledge about disabilities, disaster and emergency preparedness, and community resources for persons with disability. The DCPG is comprised of persons with a disability (PWD), family members/guardians/caregivers of PWD, and those who work on behalf of PWD.



## **Seven Goals of the Disability and Health Program**

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) uses the seven goals that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created to plan its' activities and measure their success. The seven goals are as follows:

1. Enhance Program Infrastructure and Capacity
2. Improve State Level Surveillance and Monitoring Activities
3. Increase the Awareness of Health-Related Disability Policy Initiatives
4. Increase Health Promotion Opportunities for People with Disabilities to Maximize Health
5. Improve Access to Health Care for People with Disabilities
6. Improve Emergency Preparedness among People with Disabilities
7. Effectively Monitor and Evaluate Program Activities

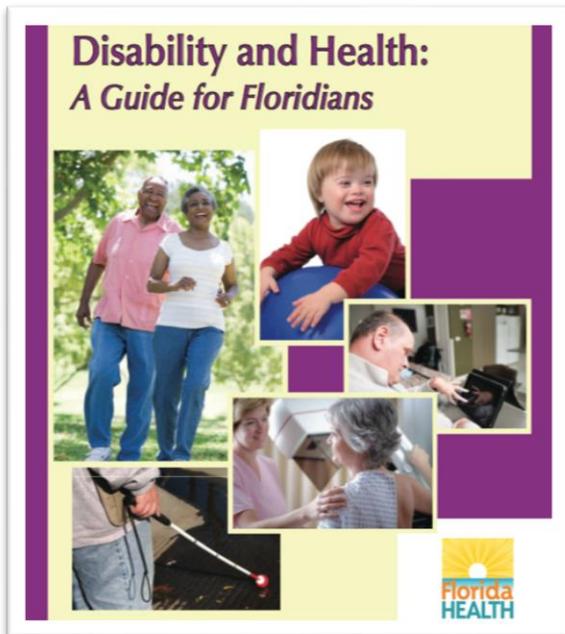
## DHP Accomplishments

People with disabilities need health care and health programs for the same reasons anyone else does—to stay well, active, and a part of the community. To be healthy, PWD require health care that meets their needs as a whole person, not just as a person with a disability. Most people with or without disabilities can stay healthy by learning about and living healthy lifestyles. To aid with this educational need and gap in existing resources, the DHP and UF have created a number of tools for PWDs:

[Disability and Health: A Guide for Floridians](#) is a tool to assist persons with disabilities to get the best health care possible. A [Spanish version of the guide](#) is also available. The DHP has also produced a fact sheet on [Physical Activity & Fitness and Healthy Eating & Healthy Weight](#), all of which were distributed among Agency for Persons with Disabilities’ (APD) service providers, support coordinators and Family Care Council representatives.

The Disability and Health Program has developed three videos for persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers, and those who work with them. Each 20 minute video focuses on a different aspect of health and will be used to train Arc of Florida staff and APD care support staff.

- [General Health and Chronic Disease](#)
- [Healthy Diet and Healthy Weight](#)
- [Physical Activity and Fitness](#)



The DHP also created a two sided tip sheet on [Increasing Accessibility for Healthcare Providers](#) which was disseminated to all County Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers and over 700 cancer screening providers.

In addition, the DHP has worked closely with its UF partners to create annual [Disability Data Reports and briefing documents](#) used to educate DCPG members and legislators on the healthcare access needs of persons with disabilities. These reports and briefs are derived from data sources like the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the Medicaid Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) and several in house surveys like the Persons with Disabilities Survey (PWDS).

The DHP is continually effective in leveraging resources and was successful in placing 25 wheelchair accessible scales in County Health Departments (CHDs) statewide, making strides in ensuring physical accessibility of facilities that provide healthcare to persons with disabilities. The DHP also works closely with the Department of Health Bureau Preparedness and Response and has facilitated several trainings for PWD, Community Health Workers, first responders and CHD nurses who staff special needs shelters. The DHP assisted by purchasing a hands-on nursing mannequin that could be used to train and test nurses. The mannequin was used to provide training at 13 Florida sites, for a total of 308 nurses trained in 2013-14. There were 272 nurses trained in seven sites in 2014-15. That Bureau plans to continue providing training each fiscal year.



## DHP Partnerships

The mission of the DHP is furthered through close relationships with partners within and outside of the Department of Health. It is through these partnerships and collaborations that the DHP has been so successful.

### Collaborations within Department of Health

- Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention: Collaborating on activities to benefit citizens of Madison County, FL, including project for Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)
- Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention, Breast Cancer Screening: Collaborating to develop an on-line training on working with women with disabilities for radiology & mammography technicians.
- Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention: Collaborating with the Community Health Workers Coalition
- Bureau of Preparedness and Response: DHP Program Manager serves on the Special Needs Shelter Interagency Committee to identify how to serve persons with complex health care needs for sheltering and preparedness and also serves on the Functional Access Needs workgroup
- Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida: The DHP identified the need to include TDD/TTY information on the Tobacco Free Florida website and the Bureau responded.
- Florida County Health Departments: Survey Monkey tool developed and launched to determine need for accessible weight scales and adjustable height examination tables.
- Bureau of Minority Health: Developing a webinar to provide communication and accessibility tips to Department Minority Health Liaisons.
- DOH Contract Manager training: Working with DOH Contract Manager Liaison to develop a 2-sided tip sheet with information and resources pertaining to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for use by DOH Contract Managers and DOH providers.

### Disability Community Planning Group Partners

There are currently 88 members on the DCPG. Twenty-six of them have willingly acknowledged to the DPH that either they have a disability and/or are the parent/caregiver of someone with a disability. The DCPG also includes 26 staff from County Health Departments (CHDs) who have volunteered to serve as Disability Health Liaisons. Their role is to provide disability related information and resources with other CHD staff as well as to form community relationships and collaborations with others working on disability related issues and community inclusion. The 26 DHLs represent 39% of CHD's in Florida.

- Organizations represented include:
  - Centers for Independent Living
  - Florida Academy of Family Physicians
  - Veterans Administration
  - University of South Florida, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (UCEDD)
  - Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Health Care and Prevention Task Force
  - FloridaHATS (Florida Health and Transition Services)
  - Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention
  - Department of Health, Children’s Medical Services
  - Department of Health, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program
  - Department of Health, Bureau of Preparedness and Response
  - Department of Health, Coordinator Florida Birth Defects Registry
  - Department of Emergency Management
  - Department of Elder Affairs
  - Elder Options/Mid-Florida Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
  - Agency for Persons with Disabilities
  - Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
  - Florida Disabled Outdoors Association
  - Project 10: Transition Education Network, University of South Florida
  - Complex Systems Innovations
  - University of Miami, Center on Aging and Disabilities
  - University of Florida, Department of Education
  - University of Florida, Mailman Center for Child Development
  - University of Florida, ADA Compliance, Environmental Health and Safety
  - The Family Café
  - Alzheimer’s Community Care
  - Alliance for Aging
  - Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)
  - University of Florida, Pediatric Pulmonary Center Training Program
  - University of Florida dentist serving children and adolescents with special health care needs

## Results from Sustainability Assessment

Based on recommendations from the CDC, the DHP utilized [www.sustaintool.org](http://www.sustaintool.org) as our method of evaluating the program's sustainability. In March 2015, the DHP asked 12 representative organizations of the DCPG to complete a sustainability assessment of the program through SustainTool. The table presents the average rating for each sustainability domain based on the responses provided by 8 organizations (67%).

The DHP was assessed on the basis of eight domains contributing to overall capacity for sustainability: (I) Environmental Support, (II) Funding Stability, (III) Partnerships, (IV) Organizational Capacity, (V) Program Evaluation, (VI) Program Adaptation, (VII) Communications, and (VIII) Strategic Planning.

### Sustainability Capacity by Domain

Sustainability Domain	Overall DCPG Rating
Overall Capacity for Sustainability	4.7
Environmental Support	4.9
Funding Stability	3.6
Partnerships	5.1
Organizational Capacity	4.9
Program Evaluation	4.8
Program Adaptation	4.9
Communications	5.0
Strategic Planning	4.1

1= accomplished to little or no extent – 7= accomplished to a great extent

Overall, the DHP was evaluated as having significant capacity for sustainability, with particular strengths in partnerships and communications. The domain with the lowest evaluation was that of funding stability, which will be addressed in the “Sustainability Planning” section of this report.

Each domain contributing to overall capacity for sustainability was broken down into five component parts, which partners were asked to rank on a scale of one to seven. The scale values corresponded to the belief that the DHP accomplished to component parts “to little or no extent” (scale value of 1) to “accomplished to a great extent” (value of 7). There was no comment box provided to explain rating choices, and the DHP acknowledges the flaw of the tool in the subjectivity between the ranks on the scale. The component breakdown of each contributing domain is as follows:

<b>Environmental Support</b>	<b>Average</b>
1. Champions exist who strongly support the program.	5.4
2. The program has strong champions with the ability to garner resources.	5.3
3. The program has leadership support from within the larger organization.	5.4
4. The program has leadership support from outside of the organization.	4.9
5. The program has strong public support.	3.6

<b>Funding Stability</b>	<b>Average</b>
1. The program exists in a supportive state economic climate.	3.3
2. The program implements policies to help ensure sustained funding.	4.2
3. The program is funded through a variety of sources.	3.7
4. The program has a combination of stable and flexible funding.	3.7
5. The program has sustained funding.	3.2

<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Average</b>
1. Diverse community organizations are invested in the success of the program.	5.5
2. The program communicates with community leaders.	5.3
3. Community leaders are involved with the program.	4.9
4. Community members are passionately committed to the program.	4.6
5. The community is engaged in the development of program goals.	5.1

<b>Organizational Capacity</b>	<b>Average</b>
1. The program is well integrated into the operations of the organization.	5.1
2. Organizational systems are in place to support the various program needs.	5.1
3. Leadership effectively articulates the vision of the program to external partners.	5.1
4. Leadership efficiently manages staff and other resources.	5.4
5. The program has adequate staff to complete the program's goals.	3.5

Program Evaluation	Average
1. The program has the capacity for quality program evaluation.	4.8
2. The program reports short term and intermediate outcomes.	5.5
3. Evaluation results inform program planning and implementation.	5.0
4. Program evaluation results are used to demonstrate successes to funders and other key stakeholders.	4.1
5. The program provides strong evidence to the public that the program works.	4.5

Program Adaptation	Average
1. The program periodically reviews the evidence base.	5.2
2. The program adapts strategies when needed.	4.9
3. The program adapts to new science.	5.0
4. The program proactively adapts to changes in the environment.	5.0
5. The program makes decisions about which components are ineffective and should not continue.	4.7

Strategic Planning	Average
1. The program plans for future resource needs.	4.5
2. The program has a long-term financial plan.	3.0
3. The program has a sustainability plan.	3.9
4. The program's goals are understood by all stakeholders.	4.8
5. The program clearly outlines roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.	4.3

Communications	Average
1. The program has communication strategies to secure and maintain public support.	5.0
2. Program staff communicate the need for the program to the public.	5.0
3. The program is marketed in a way that generates interest.	5.0
4. The program increases community awareness of the issue.	5.1
5. The program demonstrates its value to the public.	4.6

## Sustainability Planning

The DHP intends to re-apply for CDC funding when the Funding Opportunity Announcement is released during the next calendar year. However, should sustained funding not be granted, the DHP plans to continue the following activities in efforts to sustain the program.

- Disability and Health DVDs and Booklets will continue to be distributed by the Florida Department of Health and its information will be received as approved continuing education for Arc staff and case managers.
- The Bureau of Preparedness and Response will continue to plan and facilitate Communications Access for Disaster Planning workshops and funding provided by the DHP for train-the-trainer initiatives was leveraged into new funding that will allow the Bureau to expand the trainings they provide.
  - The DHP also funded the purchase of a health mannequin which will keep being used to educate County Health Department nurses who work in special needs and regular shelters. The mannequin helps ensure that the nurses' hands-on care skills are current.
- The DHP was also able to secure additional funding to purchase 16 wheelchair accessible weight scales for county health departments which will continue to provide expanded accessibility at those sites long after CDC funding ends.
- DOH DHP Program Manager Susan Redmon, will continue to serve as a Resource Member on the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Health Care and Prevention Task Force on her own time regardless of grant funding.
- In collaboration with the Florida Family Network on Disabilities (FND), Susan Redmon assisted them in securing a grant that enabled the FND to develop and analyze satisfaction surveys from parents whose children were enrolled in Children's Medical Services, the Florida Title V program for children with special health care needs DPH has facilitated a 2-sided tip sheet with the DOH Contract Manager Liaison to share with DOH Contract Managers and contract providers. It will serve to educate new contract managers on the importance of ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act compliance. These contract requirements, while present in DOH standard contract language, are often well understood so these tip sheets will add weight to these contractual requirements.

UF contracted partners have also planned for the possibility of an end in funding:

- The UF College of Public Health will keep the DHP website up and running regardless of grant funding.
- While the DHP newsletter will not continue, UF partners will provide DCPG members with a comprehensive listing of listservs and websites where material is routinely drawn. This listing will be housed on the UF DHP website and DCPG partners will be encouraged to sign up for any listservs that interest them so they continue to receive disability information and materials from other sources.

- UF will not continue to produce Disability Data Reports should funding cease, however, DCPG partners have been taught how to use CDC's Disability Health Data System (DHDS) through a training provided by CDC staff and partners will have the knowledge to use the DHDS in lieu of a report from our office should funding end.
- UF has also led a train-the-trainer session for community health workers to educate them on the needs of PWD, which has an impact that will continue long after funding ends.
- UF's shared commitment to disability issues extends beyond grant funding as evident by the many special projects, lectures and classroom training happening on a College level surrounding disability awareness, this training of the public health workforce has the potential to reach far beyond the university and will continue regardless of funding.