

AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE RUNDOWN



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am honored to share that the Florida Senate has confirmed my appointment as Director of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities. I am deeply grateful to Governor Ron DeSantis and the members of the Senate for their confidence in me, and I appreciate the support of the friends, teammates, and partners who joined me in the Senate gallery for this special moment. With the 2026 Legislative Session now over halfway complete, we remain focused on advancing initiatives that strengthen services and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. I am proud of the work our team continues to do each day and look forward to building on this momentum in the weeks ahead.

OBSERVANCES

- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month
- World Down Syndrome Day – March 21st



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

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APD STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Aaron Thomas grew up in Tallahassee and joined APD nearly five years ago after spending more than a decade working in Risk Management. Drawn to APD's mission and the opportunity to do more purpose-driven work, Aaron made the transition to the agency and has been proud to be part of the team ever since. As the State Office Budget Analyst, Aaron manages the State Office budget and helps ensure the agency has the resources in place to support individuals with developmental disabilities and advance APD's mission. His work plays an important role in supporting programs and services across the agency, and his dedication and commitment make a meaningful impact each day.

APD WAIVER SUPPORT COORDINATOR SCORECARD

APD's Waiver Support Coordinator (WSC) Scorecard is a helpful online resource that provides information about Waiver Support Coordinators currently serving individuals across Florida. The Scorecard is designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families make informed decisions when selecting a Waiver Support Coordinator that best meets their needs!

The Scorecard is regularly updated with new information and monitoring items, so users are encouraged to check back for the most current data. To get started, simply select your county to view the Waiver Support Coordinators who serve that area. The Scorecard can be accessed at: scorecard.apd.myflorida.com/Survey/Index.

CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL

APD was proud to participate in Children's Day at the Florida Capitol as part of Children's Week! This annual advocacy event brings together families, educators, and community partners for a day of interactive learning, performances, and engagement focused on supporting Florida's children and their development. APD hosted an informational table to share resources and connect with families, and Director Asztalos joined the festivities by reading a story to children during Storybook Village. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of early support and strong partnerships that help children of all abilities thrive.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DAY AT THE CAPITOL

APD was proud to participate in Developmental Disabilities Day at the Florida Capitol, an event that brings together self-advocates, families, providers, and community partners from across the state. The event offers an opportunity to share resources, highlight services, and engage in meaningful conversations about issues impacting individuals with developmental disabilities! APD staff connected with attendees, answered questions, and shared information about agency programs and initiatives. Director Asztalos also joined the event, reinforcing APD's continued commitment to collaboration and engagement with the broader community.



A NIGHT TO SHINE

APD team members were honored to participate in A Night to Shine, a global prom experience hosted by local community partners for individuals with disabilities. This special evening brought together participants, volunteers, and families for a night of celebration, connection, and joy!

ROCK YOUR SOCKS DAY IS ON MARCH 21ST

APD encourages team members, clients, and partners to participate in Rock Your Socks on March 21 in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day! This global awareness effort invites people to wear colorful, mismatched socks to spark conversation and promote understanding.

It's a simple way to show support, raise awareness, and celebrate individuality while helping highlight the importance of community connection and belonging.

IMS AND IMS PROVIDER PORTAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As APD continues working to strengthen services and supports across Florida, the agency is preparing to launch a new Incident Management System (IMS) and IMS Provider Portal in 2026! These new tools are designed to modernize how critical and reportable incidents are submitted, reviewed, and managed, creating a more streamlined and efficient process for both provider partners and APD regional staff.

The Provider Portal will replace manual reporting forms and offer providers a more seamless way to submit incident reports, view incident history, and communicate follow-ups with APD. The IMS will allow regional staff to review reports in real time, manage notifications, and collaborate more effectively with providers. Together, these improvements are intended to support timely, accurate reporting and strengthen responsiveness for the individuals APD serves.



PROVIDER HIGHLIGHT: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE: NORTH FLORIDA ADULT TRAINING CENTER, LLC

APD congratulates North Florida Adult Training Center, LLC on 10 years of dedicated service to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Perry, Tallahassee, and surrounding North Florida communities. Since 2016, the provider has remained committed to dignity, consistency, and strong community engagement, supporting more than 30 waiver clients and employing over 10 direct care professionals. We appreciate their continued partnership and commitment to serving Florida's disability community!