

AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE RUNDOWN



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we move through this year's legislative session, I am encouraged by the continued focus on strengthening supports and expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities across Florida. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to ensuring that the individuals we serve have every opportunity to live, learn, and thrive in their communities. I am also proud of the incredible talent showcased at our recent APD Art Show at the Capitol. Seeing the creativity and joy expressed through each piece of artwork—and having the opportunity to meet some of the artists—was a powerful reminder of why our work matters. Thank you to our Adult Day Training programs, staff, and partners who helped make this event such a meaningful success. As we look ahead, I remain grateful for the dedication of our team and our partners across the state. Together, we will continue to build on this momentum and advance our mission of supporting Floridians with developmental disabilities and their families.

OBSERVANCES

- Autism Awareness Day – April 2nd
- Wear Blue Day for Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 4th
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Autism Awareness Month
- Hot Car Awareness Month



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Contact Us
Address: 4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
Toll-Free: 1-866-APD Cares
(1-866-273-2273)
Phone: (850) 488-4257



APD STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kaitlyn Bradwell, a Tallahassee native, has been with the Agency for three years and is our Employee of the Month! After beginning her career with the Department of Children and Families and advancing through roles with the Department of Corrections, she joined APD to pursue more mission-driven work.

As a Contract Manager, Kaitlyn oversees contracts for the Southern Region and State Office, ensuring they are effective, compliant, and deliver value. Known for her reliability and strong performance, she consistently goes above and beyond to support her team and the Agency's success.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES IMPACTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Several bills this session aim to strengthen supports and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities across Florida. Proposals include enhancing autism-specific training for educators and law enforcement, improving interactions between first responders and individuals with autism through the Blue Envelope Program, and providing flexibility for students with disabilities to meet graduation requirements through Special Olympics participation. Additional measures focus on strengthening APD services, expanding Medicaid eligibility for working individuals with disabilities, and reestablishing a statewide program for missing persons with special needs. APD will continue to monitor these bills and provide updates as they progress.

THE FRONT LINE OF SERVICE: APD CALL CENTER TEAM

APD's IT Call Center plays a key role in supporting the agency's day-to-day operations. Serving as a central point of contact for technical assistance, the team helps staff troubleshoot issues and ensures systems remain up and running. Each day, they manage a high volume of requests,

working quickly and efficiently to resolve challenges and keep teams connected.

While much of their work happens behind the scenes, their impact is essential. Their responsiveness, expertise, and dedication help ensure the agency can continue delivering services across the state. We appreciate the important role they play in supporting APD's mission.



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY – ROCK YOUR SOCKS

APD staff across the state joined in celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 by participating in “Rock Your Socks.” Staff wore bright, colorful, and mismatched socks to help raise awareness and show support for individuals with Down syndrome. The day served as a meaningful reminder of the importance of awareness, acceptance, and recognizing the contributions individuals with Down syndrome make in our communities.



SUNLAND ATHLETES COMPETE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Residents from Sunland recently participated in the Special Olympics Area Games on March 7, competing in bocce, athletics, basketball skills, and cycling. The event served as an exhibition ahead of the Regional Games, offering participants an opportunity to showcase their skills, enjoy friendly competition, and celebrate their accomplishments.

FAMILY INITIATIVE WALK

APD staff participated in the Family Initiative Autism Walk in Fort Myers, showing support for individuals with autism and their families. The event provided an opportunity to engage with the community and highlight available services and resources.



APD'S FIRST ANNUAL ART SHOW

APD proudly hosted its first annual Art Show at the Florida Capitol, showcasing original artwork created by individuals participating in Adult Day Training programs across the state. The event brought together artists, families, providers, and community members to celebrate creativity and self-expression, with several artists in attendance to share their work. The exhibit also welcomed visitors, including legislators, who had the opportunity to experience the talent and dedication behind each piece. The Art Show highlighted the important role that creative programs play in supporting individuals in living, learning, and engaging in their communities.

