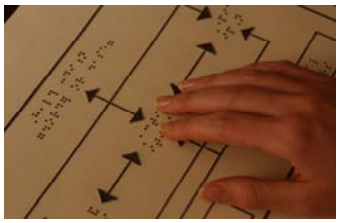
# FLORIDA OFFICE ON DISABILITY AND HEALTH

**University of Florida: College of Public Health and Health Professions**



## FLORIDA DISABILITY & HEALTH ISSUES SURVEY
## DECEMBER, 2007 – AUGUST, 2008
## Final Report September 8, 2008

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***The mission of the Florida Office on Disability & Health is to maximize the health, well-being, & quality of life, throughout the lifespan, of all Floridians & their families living with disability.*** **See our website at http://fodh.phhp.ufl.edu/**

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# Introduction

**The Florida Office on Disability and Health (FODH) was established in 2007 through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (CDC/NCBDDD). An Advisory Board was created, along with active Partners from the public and private sectors and concerned stakeholders from throughout the state of Florida.**

**The primary focus for the FODH in Year 1 was to draft a Strategic Plan for Disability and Health for the state of Florida. Based on Key Informant Interviews, and input from the FODH Advisory Board and Partners, staff created a list of issues as potential focuses for a Strategic Plan. Feedback on priorities was solicited from the citizens of Florida through an online web survey. *SurveyGizmo*© was chosen for the format because of its high ranking for disability accessibility. The survey was launched December, 2007 and closed August, 2008. Partners disseminated the website to consumers, agencies, and Centers for Independent Living throughout Florida through member list-serves, newsletters, and by placing the survey link on their websites. There were 1,371 completed responses to the survey. The results of the survey are contained in this report. A copy of the online survey is attached to this report as an Appendix.**

**Responses were received from 59 of Florida's 67 counties. Almost all of the people who responded were full-time residents of Florida (97.8%), and over one quarter was from rural (10.1%) or small-sized Florida cities (17.1%). Most respondents were aged 35-64 (81.8%), and were female (81.1%). The largest group of respondents were family members of people with disability (55.7%), but 16.8% 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%). More detailed results are shown in the following tables.**

# FODH WEB SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT, AUGUST 15, 2008

**Importance of each item in Florida** **Importance: 0 = not important; 7 = most important**

| Survey Item | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Average | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Children with disabilities moving to adult health care systems | 2.6%<br>35 | 1.6%<br>21 | 2.1%<br>28 | 6.9%<br>91 | 8.5%<br>113 | 17.2%<br>227 | 22.8%<br>301 | 38.3%<br>507 | 5.5 | 1,323 |
| 2. Funding for health care | 0.4%<br>5 | 0.4%<br>6 | 0.2%<br>3 | 0.8%<br>11 | 2.1%<br>28 | 7.0%<br>94 | 15.7%<br>210 | 73.3%<br>982 | 6.5 | 1,339 |
| 3. Access to medical specialists (i.e., rehabilitation medicine, rheumatologist) | 0.1%<br>2 | 0.5%<br>7 | 0.7%<br>9 | 3.6%<br>48 | 4.2%<br>56 | 11.9%<br>159 | 24.5%<br>328 | 54.6%<br>731 | 6.2 | 1,340 |
| 4. Access to alternative health care (chiropractic, acupuncture) | 5.0%<br>67 | 6.8%<br>91 | 7.3%<br>97 | 12.9%<br>172 | 14.3%<br>191 | 17.1%<br>228 | 14.8%<br>198 | 21.9%<br>292 | 4.4 | 1,336 |
| 5. Mental health care | 1.0%<br>13 | 0.7%<br>10 | 0.9%<br>12 | 4.1%<br>55 | 5.4%<br>72 | 11.3%<br>151 | 25.3%<br>338 | 51.3%<br>686 | 6.0 | 1,337 |
| 6. Programs & support for families & caregivers | 0.8%<br>11 | 0.6%<br>8 | 1.3%<br>17 | 3.7%<br>49 | 6.1%<br>81 | 14.8%<br>198 | 22.7%<br>303 | 50.1%<br>670 | 6.0 | 1,337 |
| 7. Availability of appropriate transportation | 0.8%<br>11 | 0.8%<br>10 | 1.7%<br>23 | 3.1%<br>41 | 6.5%<br>87 | 14.9%<br>199 | 23.3%<br>310 | 48.9%<br>651 | 6.0 | 1,332 |
| 8. Access to recreation & social opportunities | 0.8%<br>10 | 1.7%<br>22 | 2.5%<br>33 | 6.8%<br>91 | 11.0%<br>147 | 19.9%<br>265 | 24.1%<br>321 | 33.3%<br>443 | 5.5 | 1,332 |
| 9. Accessibility to businesses & neighborhoods | 1.1%<br>15 | 1.8%<br>24 | 2.8%<br>37 | 6.5%<br>86 | 11.9%<br>158 | 20.9%<br>279 | 25.5%<br>339 | 29.6%<br>394 | 5.4 | 1,332 |
| 10. Employment & Work at home issues | 1.0%<br>13 | 1.5%<br>20 | 2.2%<br>29 | 5.1%<br>68 | 7.6%<br>101 | 18.0%<br>239 | 25.5%<br>339 | 39.1%<br>520 | 5.7 | 1,329 |
| 11. Education & training | 0.4%<br>5 | 1.0%<br>13 | 1.3%<br>17 | 2.1%<br>28 | 7.7%<br>102 | 14.4%<br>190 | 22.8%<br>302 | 50.4%<br>667 | 6.0 | 1,324 |

**Importance of each item in Florida** **Importance: 0 = not important; 7 = most important**

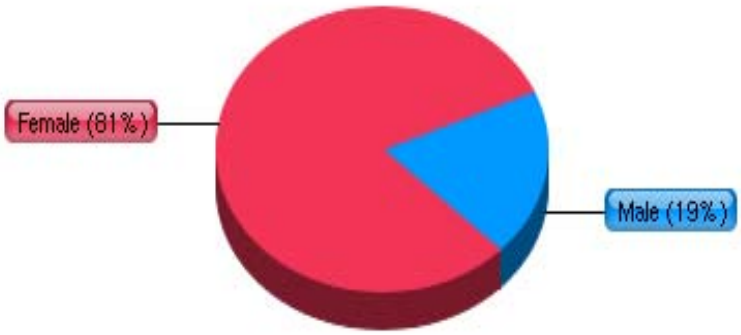
| Survey Item | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Average | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. Planning for & assistance during disasters (i.e., hurricanes) | 1.4%<br>18 | 1.7%<br>22 | 3.8%<br>51 | 6.4%<br>85 | 9.8%<br>130 | 17.5%<br>232 | 21.3%<br>283 | 38.2%<br>508 | 5.5 | 1,329 |
| 13. Access to & funding for assistive technology/devices | 0.8%<br>11 | 1.4%<br>19 | 1.8%<br>24 | 5.2%<br>69 | 10.2%<br>137 | 18.4%<br>247 | 24.5%<br>328 | 37.6%<br>504 | 5.6 | 1,339 |
| 14. Accessible housing | 1.0%<br>13 | 1.0%<br>13 | 1.9%<br>25 | 3.3%<br>44 | 6.5%<br>86 | 13.1%<br>175 | 24.2%<br>323 | 49.1%<br>654 | 5.9 | 1,333 |
| 15. Independence in housing & life skills | 0.5%<br>7 | 1.2%<br>16 | 0.7%<br>9 | 3.3%<br>44 | 6.2%<br>82 | 13.9%<br>184 | 26.0%<br>345 | 48.2%<br>640 | 6.0 | 1,327 |
| 16. Personal care assistance programs | 0.6%<br>8 | 0.8%<br>11 | 1.7%<br>22 | 3.4%<br>45 | 7.8%<br>103 | 14.4%<br>190 | 26.1%<br>345 | 45.3%<br>600 | 5.9 | 1,324 |
| 17. Availability of personal care providers | 0.8%<br>11 | 1.4%<br>19 | 1.9%<br>25 | 3.8%<br>50 | 6.9%<br>92 | 14.8%<br>197 | 24.8%<br>329 | 45.5%<br>604 | 5.9 | 1,327 |
| 18. Public education about disability & those persons with disabilities | 0.9%<br>12 | 1.7%<br>23 | 3.2%<br>42 | 6.1%<br>81 | 11.2%<br>149 | 16.1%<br>213 | 22.5%<br>299 | 38.3%<br>508 | 5.5 | 1,327 |
| 19. Crimes against people with disabilities | 0.8%<br>11 | 1.7%<br>23 | 2.7%<br>35 | 5.7%<br>75 | 8.3%<br>110 | 14.2%<br>187 | 18.4%<br>243 | 48.1%<br>634 | 5.8 | 1,318 |
| Average % | 1.3% | 1.5% | 2.1% | 4.8% | 7.9% | 15.0% | 22.6% | 44.7% | | |

[*Note: Not all respondents answered all questions & those questions skipped varied.]

**FODH Health Survey Issues**
**Ranked in Order of Importance ***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Funding for health care | 73% |
| 2 | Access to medical specialists | 55% |
| 3 | Mental health care | 51% |
| 4 | Education & training | 50% |
| 5 | Programs for families & caregivers | 50% |
| 6 | Accessible housing | 49% |
| 7 | Transportation | 49% |
| 8 | Crime: people with disability | 48% |
| 9 | Independence; housing & life | 48% |
| 10 | Availability of personal care providers | 46% |
| 11 | Personal care assistance programs | 45% |
| 12 | Employment & work at home issues | 39% |
| 13 | Public education about disability & those persons with disabilities | 38% |
| 14 | Planning for & assistance during disasters (i.e., hurricanes) | 38% |
| 15 | Access to & funding for assistive technology/devices | 38% |
| 16 | Access to recreation & social opportunities | 33% |
| 17 | Accessibility to businesses & neighborhoods | 30% |
| 18 | Access to alternative health care (i.e., chiropractic/acupuncture) | 22% |
| 19 | Other (combined variable answers) | 68% |

*** People could rank more than one item at the level of most important, thus this priority list is a ranking of items that most commonly were rated at #7**




**Survey Respondents' Gender**

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Female | 1,079 | 81.1% |
| Male | 252 | 18.9% |
| Total Responses: | 1,331 | |

**Survey Respondents' Age**

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| 35-64 years old | 1,090 | 81.8% |
| 20-34 years old | 149 | 11.2% |
| 65+ years old | 79 | 5.9% |
| Under 20 years old | 15 | 1.1% |
| Total Responses: | 1,333 | |

**Survey Respondents' Background***

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Family member has a disability | 740 | 55.7% |
| Work for Florida disability service agency | 361 | 27.2% |
| Work for private or non-profit disability service agency | 313 | 23.6% |
| I have long-time disability | 224 | 16.8% |
| Licensed health care provider | 199 | 15.0% |
| K-12 teacher | 66 | 5.0% |
| Have newly diagnosed disability | 64 | 4.8% |
| College/University non research role | 48 | 3.6% |
| Other state agency | 45 | 3.4% |
| Researcher | 41 | 3.1% |
| Work for county government | 18 | 1.4% |
| Post secondary educator | 17 | 1.3% |
| Total Responses: | 1,329 | |

*** Respondents could select more than one description**

## Survey Respondents' Residence

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| I reside in a medium-sized Florida city. | 536 | 40.2% |
| I reside in a large-sized Florida city. | 433 | 32.5% |
| I reside in a small-sized Florida city. | 228 | 17.1% |
| I reside in a rural area of Florida. | 135 | 10.1% |
| Total Responses: | 1,332 | |

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| I reside in Florida full-time/year-round. | 1,305 | 97.9% |
| I reside in Florida part-time. | 16 | 1.2% |
| I am not a Florida resident any time of the year. | 12 | 0.9% |
| Total Responses: | 1,333 | |

## Survey Respondents' Residence by County

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Hillsborough | 110 | 8.5% |
| Alachua | 94 | 7.3% |
| Broward | 83 | 6.4% |
| Orange | 82 | 6.4% |
| Lee | 77 | 6.0% |
| Leon | 73 | 5.7% |
| Miami-Dade | 68 | 5.3% |
| Pinellas | 54 | 4.2% |
| Citrus | 45 | 3.5% |
| Palm Beach | 45 | 3.5% |
| Duval | 43 | 3.3% |
| Seminole | 38 | 3.0% |
| Brevard | 31 | 2.4% |
| Volusia | 31 | 2.4% |
| Sarasota | 30 | 2.3% |
| Escambia | 23 | 1.8% |
| Jackson | 22 | 1.7% |
| Polk | 22 | 1.7% |
| Lake | 21 | 1.6% |
| Manatee | 21 | 1.6% |
| | | |

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Bay | 19 | 1.5% |
| Okaloosa | 18 | 1.4% |
| Pasco | 15 | 1.2% |
| Charlotte | 14 | 1.1% |
| Hernando | 14 | 1.1% |
| Monroe | 14 | 1.1% |
| Osceola | 14 | 1.1% |
| Clay | 13 | 1.1% |
| Saint Lucie | 13 | 1.1% |
| Santa Rosa | 13 | 1.1% |
| Marion | 11 | 0.9% |
| Collier | 10 | 0.8% |
| Columbia | 10 | 0.8% |
| Gadsden | 9 | 0.7% |
| Saint Johns | 9 | 0.7% |
| Putnam | 8 | 0.6% |
| Martin | 7 | 0.5% |
| Nassau | 7 | 0.5% |
| Sumter | 7 | 0.5% |
| Flagler | 6 | 0.5% |
| | | |

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Indian River | 4 | 0.3% |
| Levy | 4 | 0.3% |
| Okeechobee | 4 | 0.3% |
| Washington | 4 | 0.3% |
| DeSoto | 3 | 0.2% |
| Dixie | 3 | 0.2% |
| Highlands | 3 | 0.2% |
| Holmes | 3 | 0.2% |
| Madison | 3 | 0.2% |
| Union | 3 | 0.2% |
| Liberty | 2 | 0.2% |
| Suwannee | 2 | 0.2% |
| Wakulla | 2 | 0.2% |
| Calhoun | 1 | 0.1% |
| Gilchrist | 1 | 0.1% |
| Glades | 1 | 0.1% |
| Hamilton | 1 | 0.1% |
| Hardee | 1 | 0.1% |
| Lafayette | 1 | 0.1% |
| Total Responses: | 1,290 | |

# APPENDIX

# Florida Office on Disability and Health Survey #1

Page One

INTRODUCTION

The Florida Office on Disability and Health (FODH) was recently established by funding from the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are located at the University of Florida in the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

The overall goal of this project is to improve the health, well being and quality of life of Floridians living with disability. Disability is likely to impact all people at some time. Thus, it is important to have a sound framework for addressing disability and health issues.

During the first year of this project, through the guidance of an advisory board comprised of various stakeholders, a Florida Strategic Plan will be developed to focus on these issues. Through your participation in this survey, you will provide important information to assist us in the development of this strategic plan.

But, first, we need to know what disability and health care issues concern you most. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and no compensation is offered. You may skip questions and you may withdraw from participation in this survey at any time. The estimated time of completion for this survey is 15 minutes.

Your identity will not be known and no personal identifying information will be obtained through your participation in this survey. There is virtually no risk to you should you choose to participate in this survey. By completing and transmitting this electronic survey, you are acknowledging informed consent and that your participation is completely voluntary.

**THE SURVEY BEGINS NOW:**

1. Please tell us what you think is important for Floridians with disabilities and their families. The first section of this survey contains a detailed listing of possible concerns and other issues which may affect the quality of life and health care access for persons with disabilities residing in Florida.

Please rate the importance of each item by clicking on the button to the right which most closely reflects your opinion on the topic, with "0" (zero) being **not important** and "7" being **most important**.

| | **Not important 0** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **Most important 7** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Children with disabilities moving to adult health care systems | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| 2. Funding for health care | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Access to medical specialists (i.e., rehabilitation medicine, rheumatologist) | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Access to alternative health care (chiropractic, acupuncture) | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Mental health care | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Programs and suppport for families and caregivers | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Availability of appropriate transportation | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Access to recreation and social opportunities | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Accessibility to businesses and neighborhoods | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Employment & Work at home issues | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Education and training | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Planning for and assistance during disasters (i.e., hurricanes) | | | | | | | | |
| 13. Access to and funding for assistive technology/devices | | | | | | | | |
| 14. Accessible housing | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Independence in housing and life skills | | | | | | | | |
| 16. Personal care assistance programs | | | | | | | | |
| 17. Availability of personal care providers | | | | | | | | |
| 18. Public education about disability and those persons with | | | | | | | | |

disabilities

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. Crimes against people with disabilities | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| 20. Other (please give priority rating and explain in #3, below) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

2. Tell us more about your answers in Question #1, Items #1-19)(above). Please reference item numbers in your discussion. (This section is optional.)

3.Tell us more about your answer in Question #1, Item #20 - Other Issues)(above). (This section is optional.)

4. The following statements are for purposes of collecting demographic information only. We would like to ask a few questions about you. No one will know who you are. This information will not be used in any way to describe you or anyone individually. It will help us, however, to gain an understanding of persons interested in these issues.

In this section, you will be asked to click on buttons next to statements which reflect who you are. Please place the cursor on the button to the left of the statement you have chosen and then click on the button. There are four (4) parts to this question: Part A is regarding your gender; Part B is regarding your age; Part C is regarding the size city in which you reside; and Part D is regarding your Florida residency.

4. PART A: Click on the box next to your gender.

○ Male
○ Female

4. PART B: Click on the button to the left of your age group.

- ◯ Under 20 years old
- ◯ 20-34 years old
- ◯ 35-64 years old
- ◯ 65+ years old

4. PART C: Click on the button to the left of the statement which most closely represents the size of the city in which you live.

- ◯ I reside in a large-sized Florida city.
- ◯ I reside in a medium-sized Florida city.
- ◯ I reside in a small-sized Florida city.
- ◯ I reside in a rural area of Florida.

4. PART D: Click on the button to the left of the statement which best reflects your Florida residency status.

- ◯ I reside in Florida full-time/year-round (please go to Question #5 after clicking on this statement.)
- ◯ I reside in Florida part-time (please go to Question #5 after clicking on this statement).
- ◯ I am not a Florida resident any time of the year.

5. Please indicate the Florida county in which you reside:

-- Please Select --

6. Now we would like to ask about your interest in disability and health issues in Florida. Please click on the boxes to the left of all statements that apply.

- ☐ I am a person with a newly disagnosed disability.
- ☐ I am a person with a long-time disability.
- ☐ Someone in my family has a disability.
- ☐ I am a licensed health care provider.
- ☐ I work for a state agency in Florida which provides services related to persons with disabilities.
- ☐ I work for another type of state agency in Florida.
- ☐ I work for a county government in Florida.
- ☐ I am a K-12 teacher in Florida.
- ☐ I am a postsecondary educator in Florida.
- ☐ I work for a Florida college or university in a non-research role.
- ☐ I am a researcher at a Florida college or university.
- ☐ I work for a non-profit or private agency providing services to Florida persons with disabilities and their families.

Finished? Submit your Survey

50%

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