

# NEWSLETTER # 3 - 1

AREA 12  
FAMILY  
CARE  
COUNCIL



www.fcc12.org

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## MEETING WITH SENATOR WISE BY

*Philip A. Pearson*

### Vote with Your Feet!

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Last year, when I met with Senator King, he readily admitted that the subject of Developmental Disabilities was not his strong point. He was very polite, however, read all of the material that I sent and was genuinely empathetic to our situation. Especially with our issue of "what happens to our kids when we die?"



He did make a recommendation that I speak with Senator Wise in Jacksonville about the issues that we have. He, according to Senator King, was an expert on the subject and would welcome our input.

He also volunteered to contact Senator Wise to help set up a meeting.

I received a reply from Senator Wise indicating that he would be pleased to meet with me after the November elections.

This was really good news because we really need a champion for our cause.

I scheduled a meeting for Jan. 23rd at 12:30pm and put that on my calendar. I invited the Chairperson of the Area 4 Family Care Council to attend as well.

On the 23rd, I left home at about 10:30am to allow for traffic and headed for Jacksonville. I arrived in Jacksonville at about noon and waited for Sheri (the Area 4 FCC Chairperson). We entered Senator Wise's office just before 12:30 am only to

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I don't know about you folks, but we have been spending about \$100 per month for cell phones for the 3 of us. I won't mention the carrier but they are all about the same.

I got an email from APD a few months ago and forwarded it to our mailing list. It was about a free phone for the disabled. It is called Safelink and it, apparently, is supported by some of our Govt. organizations. I applied for Bill, our son, thinking that this couldn't be real.

Well, we got the phone a few days later and turned it on and it worked quite well. You can get this by applying at [www.safelinkwireless.com](http://www.safelinkwireless.com) or by calling 1-800-378-1684.

After some checking I found out that this appears to be part of tracfone which sells at local retailers. Upon further investigation, I found that I could get

### Representative Proctor

by

*Philip A. Pearson*

Back at the end of September of last year, I met with Representative Proctor.

Since I had such a successful meeting with Senator King, I wanted to spread my influence around. He (Proctor), also, couldn't remember the last time that a person representing the DD community was in his office. An eye opener! We need to be in their face.

He was very receptive and insightful and, in fact, volunteered to attend a Florida Family Care Council meeting in Orlando to give us all his message about

how to effectively advocate for our folks.

His experience as an educator and representative was right on target.

He did exactly that last month. He attended and gave us a play-by-play methodology for what works with the legislator. Our FCCF secretary is preparing the notes now.

One message that we need to take away is that we need to start talking with the legislature all of the time. This includes the

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### Representative Proctor



## Vanessa Carter

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lyst

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Ana-

Area

I am the training coordinator for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities in Area 12 (Volusia/Flagler counties). I have been certified by The Council on Quality and Leadership as a trainer on Personal Outcome Measures (POMs). Part of this training focuses on assisting people to identify what is important to them in their lives and why, looks at what people expect from the services and supports they have and taking a look at what types of supports are in place or may be needed to help people achieve their goals/dreams. When looking at supports they are not just the paid services from APD but include a whole circle of supports. Two examples would be natural supports or community-based resources,

Some of my other responsibilities include: Providing professional development/training opportunities for service providers, etc. – some may be mandated according to the Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook and others are developed upon the needs of providers, people receiving services, families, and the community. Coordination and publishing of the training calendar, organizing the provider quarterly meetings/monthly support coordinator meetings, facilitation of trainings/meetings, giving presentations, providing technical assistance as needed or requested, serve as a member of the school-based transition team, and working with other members of our Provider Development unit as a team on quality assurance.

I have an extensive background and spent many years in the Healthcare field. I have a Bachelors degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Central Florida and am working on my Masters degree at UCF in Instructional System Design focusing on Professional Development and E-Learning.

I was born and lived in Massachusetts until moving to Florida in 1989 (Go Pats! Go Sox!). I have two boys ages 7 and 15 that keep me very busy. My oldest son plays football in High School and is an honor roll student, also coming upon transition years. My youngest son also plays football and is very outgoing and active. I enjoy watching and attending sporting events, a big NASCAR fan, love going to State/County/National Parks, being outdoors, kayaking/white water rafting, and especially spending time with family and friends.

## An Introduction from Your New Chairperson

First let me express my gratitude to everyone for electing me as your new chairperson for Family Care Council Area 12. I hope I can lead the Council as well as former Chairperson Phil Pearson.

I have many goals or dreams for the Family Care Council that I would like to share with everyone in hopes that we can work together to achieve them. First, I would like to see our membership increase by at least 3 new members within a six month period of time. I believe that by increasing our membership we can start to really focus on where we can do the most good on the issues that are at most important to the Council and the families. Second, I want to have more trainings so the members are more knowledgeable as to their rights with the Medicaid Waiver programs and a more full understanding. Third, a resource center or resource book to where families that are on the waitlist can obtain services that they need. These are just some of my ideas, in no particular order, which I would like to see happen with all of us working together as a team. I truly believe that by working as a team we can make a difference in the lives of everyone. So, I hope everyone will join me in making a difference and working towards finding a solution that will work for everyone.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from everyone. If anyone would like to contact me you may reach me at 386-437-8134 or by email (which is the easiest and best way) [ChrisPintoFCC@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisPintoFCC@gmail.com). See everyone at the next Family Care Council meeting.

Best Regards,  
Christina A. Pinto

**Senator Wise**

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find that he wouldn't be able to make the meeting! What a disappointment! We did, however, speak with his legislative assistant, Steve Richardson, about our issues. A nice enough fellow but not the Senator. The Senator did show up at 1pm in time for his next meeting and we did have a few minutes to give him a crash course in DD.

We did learn a few things, however. First, one question that Steve asked us was "who are you people?". He made a good point. He couldn't remember the last time that a person came to their office to ask about the Developmentally Disabled. It was obvious that we were not even on their radar screen. To me, this was emphasized by Senator Wise not showing up. We are just not important to them and WE NEED TO BE!

Lesson learned, AGAIN. We need to be in their face all of the time. We need to go to Tallahassee on Disabilities Awareness Day this year ( 3/24/09 ).

And next year starting in May, we need to all start visiting our Congress-people regularly. They need to hear our message

**What will happen to our people when we die?**

APD (Agency for People with Disabilities) must focus and prioritize services based on this question.

So, get involved. Come to an FCC meeting. Help us and yourselves.

**FEET**

*(Continued from page 1)*

a family plan for my wife and I for about \$15 per month. Granted, the phones don't have all of the features that the other phones have but they are phone and one heck of a lot cheaper. And consider that they support our folks. I haven't seen the other carriers helping out!

Say no more—we voted with our feet! Transferred our old numbers and cancelled our old service.

Heck of a deal!

**Special Olympics Florida**  
By Maribel Alvarado  
Flagler County Special Olympics Parent

Special Olympics is well known for providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual

disabilities. Parents of persons with disabilities often share the frustration and heartache of watching their child or adult disengage from the community as their opportunities to participate in community activities and sports events decline.

By promoting self-awareness and giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, courage, joy and participation in sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community, they develop a sense of belonging and self-worth.

Our goal is to continue to provide these special athletes with a program which the community can embrace as its own and further anticipate the local events throughout the year.

If you would like more information about Special Olympics please visit them on their website [www.sofl.org](http://www.sofl.org) or you may contact them at 1-800-322-4376 to find your local program.

**Representative Proctor**

president of the Senate, the Governor and the Speaker of the house.

So, Representative Proctor is a class act! He really helped us out by telling us what we needed to do and how to do it. Now we need to follow through.

Get involved, attend your local FCC meetings, target a representative or senator and get in your car and go visit them. Tel them about your concerned and ask them

**"What will happen to my child when I die?"**

**Future FCC meetings**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/12/09 cancelled</li> <li>• 4/9/09 7-9 pm, Florida Hospital in Palm Coast</li> <li>• 5/14/09 3-5 pm, APD</li> <li>• 6/11/09 7-9 pm, Florida Hospital in Palm Coast</li> <li>• 7/9/09 3-5 pm, APD</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8/13/09 7-9 pm, Florida Hospital in Palm Coast</li> <li>• 9/10/09 3-5 pm, APD</li> <li>• 10/8/09 7-9 pm, Florida Hospital in Palm Coast</li> </ul> |
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