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Agencies Work Together to Solve Issue

TALLAHASSEE, FL - The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) have resolved a technical issue improving the approval process of providers to offer waiver services.

When the new legislatively required Medicaid waiver tier system goes into effect on October 15, providers wanting to offer services to people in Tier 4 must have registered to be providers for that tier. With AHCA's recent computer system transition, many Tier 4 providers had not been approved. APD and AHCA met last week and agreed to speed up the approval process for Tier 4 providers. Recently AHCA has processed an additional 179 providers adding to the already 4,300 Tier 4 providers already approved.

Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Jim DeBeaugrine said, "We appreciate the Agency for Health Care Administration working so hard to assist in processing these provider requests. Agency cooperation is essential for prompt and accurate payment of providers. We are pleased that this issue was resolved so quickly and prior to the tier implementation."

In 2007, the Florida Legislature required APD to create four new Medicaid developmental disability waivers called tiers. The Legislature established criteria for each of the four waiver tiers. The criteria cover the individual's needed level of service, along with other important characteristics, and the person's current living situation. The new tier system establishes financial limits for three of the tiers.

- Tier One No cap
- Tier Two Cap of \$55,000
- Tier Three Cap of \$35,000
- Tier Four Cap of \$14,792

Current service providers of the Developmental Disabilities waiver had to complete an additional request form to be approved to offer services in Tier 4. Providers that were already serving people in the current Family and Supported Living waiver did not need to complete an additional form to continue services in Tier 4.

APD supports people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, and work in their communities. For more information about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, visit www.apdcares.org or call toll-free **1- 866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273)**.

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