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GOVERNOR

*Better Health Care for all Floridians*

ELIZABETH DUDEK  
SECRETARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **In Case You Missed It...**

***Tallahassee Democrat: “Agencies announce plan to improve care for disabled children”***

For full story click [HERE](#).

By Travis Pillow

Online: January 10, 2013

Florida state agencies are taking new measures to help parents with medically fragile and disabled children.

Officials on Thursday announced a plan to provide disabled children with care coordinators — 28 nurses who will help parents deal with the multiple agencies involved in their children’s care.

The agencies in charge of care for Florida’s disabled children announced the effort to improve communication with parents ...

Liz Dudek, the secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration, said **the nurses will help parents understand the services that are available to their children. In some cases, she said, the initiative could help parents move their children out of the nursing homes to live with their families.**

“This would be one person they can go to who has knowledge of what’s in the system and help them walk through the system — almost like a medical advocate for their children,” Dudek said in an interview.

...

**Dudek said having nurses to work with could help families document the medical necessity of services they require.**

...

Kathy McAllister, who chairs the Florida Developmental Disability Council, said the changes announced Thursday would help parents navigate the system. The group is working on a full set of recommendations for the state agencies that care for disabled children.



“The council is encouraged by the plans and provisions that the state has started, and their openness to suggestions,” she said.

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“We don’t think we need oversight, because we haven’t violated anything,” **Dudek said.** “**We would like to show them that we are doing it and that we will do it better.**”

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