



RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

*Better Health Care for all Floridians*

ELIZABETH DUDEK  
SECRETARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **What they are saying...**

### **Advocates on the State's actions for medically complex children**

#### **Dr. Mimi Graham, Director, Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy**

“AHCA Secretary, Liz Dudek, has been proactive and highly involved in addressing this issue by asking parents what they want and need, visiting the facilities, providing nurse case managers to ensure appropriate services, and making nursing care more available to families who want to keep their child at home. We applaud her for these steps. We also know that infant mental health services are especially critical for helping children deal with the trauma of complex medical needs and can reduce toxic stress, help them gain weight and be healthier all around.”

#### **Chris Snow, Alliance of Florida PPECs**

“We appreciate Secretary Dudek’s leadership on addressing the importance of providing the necessary array of Medicaid services to medically fragile children. She and her staff have attacked this issue head on and we have seen many positive changes that will allow these children to receive the services they need to thrive. We look forward to continuing to work with the Secretary on these very important issues.”

#### **Linda Merrill, health care advocate for children**

“We have made great progress in the last year, and that progress will turn into positive outcomes for medically complex children. The improvements made by the state in conjunction with advocates will allow these children to have more of the developmentally appropriate services they need to reach their full potential. We can and should always continue to do more.”

#### **Dana Farmer, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for Disability Rights Florida**

“While there is much that still needs improvement, we acknowledge the work of AHCA in moving toward community integration.”

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