

## Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee FY 2007 Annual Report

The Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee (CDAC)'s purpose is to review county programs, services and facilities to ensure equal access for qualified citizens, applicants and employees with disabilities.

This past year, the committee participated in a walk-through review of the Wilson Building, the Legal Center and the Clerk of Court's Marriage Division area. Facilities staff provided updates on the renovations that had taken place to make those areas compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The committee's 2007 Work Plan included assisting the Equal Opportunity Office in its application for an Accessible America 2007 grant. The plan was to use the funds to conduct a disability awareness campaign and host a 2-day disability rights, education and awareness conference in Alachua County. Unfortunately, we were competing against much larger communities and they were ultimately selected for the awards. We will continue in our efforts to promote accessibility for all persons, and try again in the future.

The committee's main event of the year is the annual celebration of the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). On July 10, 2007 the Alachua County Commission presented a proclamation declaring the month of July as ADA Awareness Month in Alachua County. Partnering with the City of Gainesville, Alachua County School Board, the Center for Independent Living and MV Transport, the CDAC hosted an ADA EXPO on July 26, 2007 at the Sidney Lanier Developmental Center. Presenters at the Expo included the Florida Attorney General's Office of Civil Rights, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities and Southern Legal Council. In addition, over 20 vendors participated in the Expo and presented information on disability-related issues such as access, assistive devices, support groups and legal aid.

Public awareness and education are important goals of the CDAC. The CDAC remains committed to raising awareness of accessibility issues and effective accommodations in all areas of public concern.

Respectfully submitted by: Amanda Cole, Chair  
Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee