



## Adult Transition Pilot Program

When a neurotypical child reaches a milestone, it is time for celebration. First steps, first words, kindergarten, turning 18 are all milestones worth celebrating. However, for parents of individuals with Angelman syndrome (AS), many of these milestones bring angst and worry. Turning 18 means that the AS child is now considered an adult and subject to all the freedoms of being an adult without the ability to independently make mature decisions. Unless planned correctly, parents have little ability to assist or make decisions for their adult child with AS. FAST is working hard at curing Angelman syndrome; however, FAST also realizes the reality of the present day challenges of the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

The Adult Transitioning Program is here to provide parents the tools and support to successfully navigate this transition. Two Liaisons, Juli DelMonego and Tracy Carreola, both parents of adults with Angelman syndrome, are equipped to provide adult transition information and guidance to parents of children transitioning into the age of adulthood. The information FAST Liaisons provide follows federal guidelines.

If you are a parent of a child turning 18 or has recently turned 18, and would like guidance with the transition, please visit <https://cureangelman.org/for-families>, locate the Adult Transition Program and complete the survey. Juli and Tracy are ready to assist you.



Juli DelMonego is mom to 3 sons, and her 32 year old daughter Marina with AS. Juli started learning about disability rights soon after her daughter's diagnosis, researching Special Education laws at the FSU law library in the pre-internet days. She advocated for disabled children's rights and AS diagnosis awareness at the University of Florida's genetics program before the Florida Cabinet and the Florida Legislature in the early 1990's. In 1993, Juli and her husband Robert, together with another Tallahassee family, started the Southeast Angelman family support organization, which encompassed a 14 state region in the US. She was the SE Regional coordinator for the organization.

She did trainings for professionals and families for Florida's Family Network on Disabilities and also represented families on the Florida Big Bend Transition Council when Marina was in high school. The Transition Counsel assisted with the transition into postsecondary options.



Tracy Carreola is a proud mother of two. Tyler, and her adult angel Chelsea. She has personal and professional experience navigating federal and Florida state resources for individuals with disabilities.

She began her career at ARC, an advocacy group supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providing services to individuals with disabilities in 2000. In 2003 she decided to establish her own company providing services through the Florida Medicaid waiver program, Community Experiences, which has been steadily growing ever since. Tracy currently holds a position on the board of directors at ARC Gateway in Pensacola, Florida.