



CELEBRATING OUR NETWORK

Family Voices Leaders Get a 'Jump Start' on Quality Improvement

Family Voices leaders from California, Colorado and the National Office attended an intensive training course called, “**Jump Start: A Course for Leaders in Childrens Health Care**”, on November 7-9, 2005 in San Mateo, California. This training course was sponsored by the **National Initiative for Childrens Healthcare Quality (NICHQ)** and attended by healthcare leaders from hospitals, physician groups, nursing, community clinics, and state organizations. Attending on behalf of Family Voices was **Juno Duenas, Linda Swan, and Diane Storman** from FV of California; **Christy Blakely** and **Jenifer Vasquez** from FV of Colorado; and **Jennifer Cernoch** from the National Office. **Elizabeth Aquino**, who is the Parent Co-Leader for the NICHQ Epilepsy Learning Collaborative, was also a family leader participant. The course was designed to improve quality within programs and services for children and families by describing the role of leadership in quality improvement, describing strategies to build a business case for quality, describing high-level change concepts, developing models for improvement for children and families, and defining roles for family and patient involvement in quality improvement programs. Each team was asked to prepare a storyboard for a quality improvement initiative within their organization. Family Voices of Colorado (Christy and Jenifer) stepped up to the plate and designed a remarkable storyboard for parent involvement and the power of parents – “Plug in the Power of Parents”. All attendees were asked to vote on the storyboards. **Congratulations to FV of Colorado for winning two prizes – Best Overall Appearance and Most Creative Design!** Family Voices will continue to work on initiatives in quality improvement for children and youth with special health care needs in collaboration with NICHQ. Our sincere thanks to Charles Homer, President and CEO of NICHQ, and the NICHQ staff for inviting us as family leaders to the training course and believing in the power of parents!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to welcome **Irlanda Ruiz Aguirre** to the Family Voices Network. Irlanda, who works at the Parent Training and Information Center in San Juan (APNI PR), joins Maria Fernandez in sharing resources and information with families of CYSHCN in Puerto Rico. She comes to us with experience and knowledge in the areas of early intervention, special education, and deaf and hard of hearing. Irlanda serves on the Advisory Council for the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities as a legal counselor, and is a member of the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Puerto Rico Bar Association, and the March of Dimes. Join us in welcoming Irlanda to Family Voices.

BRINGING THE KIDS HOME

The state of Alaska continues to struggle with sending an exorbitant number of children experiencing significant mental health/emotional issues – approximately 700 of them – to out-of-state residential treatment programs. Over the next several years, Alaska’s Mental Health Trust Authority and the Department of Health and Social Services will focus considerable resources on this issue through “**Bringing the Kids Home,**” a major initiative to support youth who experience severe emotional disorders and/or co-occurring disorders including developmental disabilities. Included in the multi-million dollar funding plan is \$300k to direct toward “Parent/Peer Navigation” services that will involve several organizations, including **FV Alaska**. Planning for the initiative has included input from a broad range of stakeholders. For more information, contact the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority at <http://mhtrust.org>.



ReCap of FV Talk

This information is a summary collected from Family Voices Talk listserv

Resources, News, & Stories

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/13/business/yourmoney/13cont.html>

Why should the boss pay for your health care?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/14/giving/14berger.html>

Retired doctors, retired nurses, very busy clinics.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/16/national/16children.html>

Illinois law offers coverage for uninsured children.

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7402.cfm>

In recent years states have been trying to shift resources from institutional to home and community based long-term care services. This report examines "transition" and "diversion" policies and practices in eight states. It provides a sense of what state Medicaid programs are doing or could be doing to promote diversion.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/14/AR2005111400690.html>

High Court Rules Against Parents in Md. Special Education Case



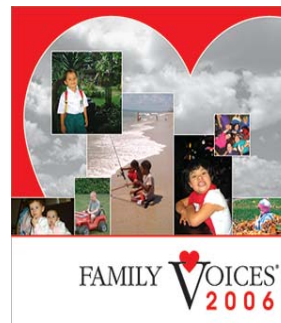
Family Voices continues to earn money from purchases made through our web site link to Amazon.com. Continue to purchase items for the holidays online through our website www.familyvoices.org. Look for the Amazon link on our home page. Amazon carries hundreds of holiday gift ideas. Thank you so much for your support!

All the miles of a hard road
are worth a moment of true
happiness.

--Arnold Lobel

GIFTS

Recently, Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) board member **Micah Feldman** celebrated his 21st birthday. Happy Birthday, Micah! Instead of receiving gifts, Micah asked his friends and family to make donations to Family Voices in honor of his birthday. Single-handedly, Micah raised over \$400 for Families Helping Families, the Family Voices' Hurricane Relief Fund. What a way to celebrate a special person! During this holiday season, please consider asking friends and families to make secure, on line donations to Family Voices and Families Helping Families, Family Voices' Hurricane Relief Fund. Donations may be sent directly to: Family Voices, 2340 Alamo, SE, Suite 102, Albuquerque, NM 87106. To learn more about how you can help and how financial gifts are used, please visit our website at www.familyvoices.org. Thank you, Micah, for sharing "from the heart".



The Family Voices Calendar is ready for you to purchase. What a great gift! Family Voices Calendar is a must-have for the holidays! To order: please visit our web site and either click on the PayPal link or, for payment by check, print a catalog order form and submit it to the National Office by postal mail with the check enclosed.

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Send an email to
fridayschildnews-subscribe@yahogroups.com
To become a member of our family and for more information
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