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Moving Forward on the Momentum of the Family Voices 15th Anniversary Gala and National Conference



Gala Emcees, Mitch Hamilton and Jana Stanfield

In our last edition of Friday's Child, we shared some of the highlights of the Family Voices 15th Anniversary Gala and National Conference "Moving Forward the Future of Health Care for Children and Youth: Families, Partners and Communities". A show stopping, heartwarming Gala evening and information packed conference certainly left many of us feeling energized, excited, and perhaps even a little overwhelmed with the work still to be done. So, how do we keep the momentum going after we've returned home, and how do we continue to support each other as parent leaders while partnering with other professionals and

organizations? Try a few of these tips:

- Revisit the Family Voices website frequently, <http://www.familyvoices.org>, for links to information and materials shared throughout the conference as well as other helpful resources developed by families of CYSHCN for families.
- Stay linked to the over 200 family and youth leaders, professionals and national and state policy makers in attendance by participating in listservs, engaging in topical calls, and visiting the websites of our national partners at the National Center for Cultural Competence, the Catalyst Center, Healthy and Ready to Work, AAP National Center for Medical Home Initiatives, Champions for Inclusive Communities, NS National Center for Hearing Screening and Management.
- Capture your passion to effect systems change and start the conversation that matters in your community with partners that you have not engaged before (Have you connected with Managed care organizations, Rotary Clubs, pediatric training programs and others?)
- Pull out those business cards and contact lists, and call a fellow parent leader that you met at the conference for his/her insight on a particularly challenging issue in your state.
- Recall the lyrics to our guest emcee and friend Jana Stanfield's song, "What Would I Do Today If I Were Brave" (<http://www.janastanfield.com>)
- Take time to celebrate our successes and our victories.



Conference Speakers, Deborah Klein Walker and Merle McPherson



Most of all, remember the words of Meg Wheatley:

"There is no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask 'What's possible?' not 'What's wrong?' Keep asking. Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams. Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters."

Stay engaged. Choose to be a part of the conversation that means so much to children—our children— and families.

SCHIP Update

The SCHIP reauthorization debate provides a timely and unprecedented opportunity to secure health insurance coverage for low income older adolescents who have been left out of expansions in children's health insurance coverage. Family Voices, along with many other parent and family led organizations, has signed a letter to be sent to the chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee encouraging them to require states to phase in Medicaid coverage for adolescents up to age 21 in families with incomes below 100% of poverty and to allow states the option of covering adolescents up to age 21 as targeted low-income children under SCHIP.

The National Immigration Law Center is also urging elected officials to support inclusion of the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA, S.764, H.R. 1308) in the reauthorization package for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Much is happening around the reauthorization of SCHIP right now, so be sure to watch for frequent updates, and to visit the Legislative Action Center, <http://www.familyvoices.org/lac/> to contact your legislators to advocate for the reauthorization of SCHIP.



Network News



Family Voices offers their gratitude and best wishes to **Julie Sipchen**, Project Director (Kids As Self Advocates), upon leaving Family Voices. Julie has worked for Family Voices for over 10 years in many different capacities and has been instrumental in the growth of the Family Voices organization and network.

As Project Director of KASA, Julie has promoted youth leadership through many varied and successful efforts: networking and outreach to young adults across the country, guidance in the development of materials, participation in conferences and youth celebrations, assistance in expansion of the KASA website and listserv, and much more.

Naomi Ortiz, who has worked with Julie for many years and is currently the KASA Project Coordinator, will assume the KASA Project Director responsibilities. We wish Julie and her family well and welcome Naomi to her new position.



Julie Sipchen, Naomi Ortiz



News You Can Use: Resources and More

New KASA report Standardized Testing: What Youth with Disabilities Have to Say

Do you want to know what young people with disabilities have to say about the high school exit exam (a standardized test a student must pass to get a high school diploma) as well as other standardized tests? This report shares:

- Youth voice – [many quotes from youth];
- Cutting edge ideas to improve test accessibility and knowledge of rights;
- How standardized testing has affected people with disabilities in history.



Use this report to educate policy makers, school boards, state officials, education and special education departments!

Order now from: <http://www.fvkasa.org>, where you can download an order form to mail in, or online from the Family Voices catalog, <http://www.familyvoices.org/catalog.php>.

New Research Shows Simplifying Medicaid Can Reduce Children's Hospitalizations

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities this month released a 2-page report by Leighton Ku—"New Research Shows Simplifying Medicaid Can Reduce Children's Hospitalizations." This summary of research conducted by Dr. Andrew Bindman and his associates at the University of California at San Francisco, "indicates that improving the continuity of Medicaid coverage through what is known as '12-month continuous eligibility' can improve children's health and avert unnecessary hospitalization costs." To view the report, go to

<http://www.cbpp.org/6-11-07health.pdf>.

To subscribe to the e-newsletter version of Friday's Child, please send an e-mail to fridayschildnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. We invite you to share announcements of news, resources, upcoming events, and other information related to children with special health care needs. Please email us at kidshealth@familyvoices.org with the subject "Friday's Child", and we will try to include your listing in our next issue. This issue of Friday's Child and archived issues are available on the Family Voices website, <http://www.familyvoices.org/pub/fc/index.php>. Please forward this website to those you would like to share Friday's Child with, or they can subscribe to fridayschildnewssubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Karen Anzola, Editor and Peggy Curran, Layout

2006 Georgetown University Training Institutes Issue Briefs Now Available

The National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health is pleased to announce the availability of 14 new issue briefs that summarize the presentations and recommendations from the Special Forums held at the 2006 Georgetown University Training Institutes—Integrating Mental Health Services into Primary Care Settings. The documents in PDF are available at http://qucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center/TrainingInstitutes/SpecialForums/.

The Special Forums focused on communities and populations with unique service needs, requiring specialized planning and service delivery approaches within systems of care. The goals of the Special Forums were to:

- summarize issues and challenges related to each topic,
- identify effective service delivery strategies, and
- develop recommendations for policy and technical assistance.

These issue briefs summarize the issues and recommendations from each Special Forum, including: Services in Rural and Frontier Communities; Services in Native American Communities; Services for Children with Co-Occurring Mental Health Disorders and Developmental Disabilities and their Families; Integrating Mental Health Services into Primary Care Settings; Financing Children's Mental Health Services; Coping with a Changing Fiscal Environment; and much more.

2006 National Family Caregivers Association announces Revolution Health Online Health Fair

The The National Family Caregivers Association announces Revolution Health free online health fair now through June 30th. Visit <http://www.revolutionhealth.com/healthfair/?msc=A62604> to participate. Learn how your life as a family caregiver can be happier and healthier. For each daily visitor June 15-30, Revolution Health will make a donation to NFCA and other participating non profit organizations.

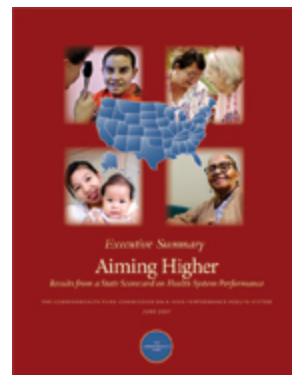
☑ New Health Indicators by State

June 13, 2007- The Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System released the first-ever comprehensive comparison of health system performance in all 50 states. *Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scorecard on Health System Performance* (http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=494551&#doc494551) ranks states on 32 performance indicators of access, quality, avoidable hospital use and costs, equity, and "healthy lives."

The report compares each state's performance to benchmarks that have already been achieved in states across the country. Although some states ranked highly on multiple indicators, no single state or group of states scored top marks in every area. Some, however, far surpassed others: Hawaii and states in the Northeast and Upper Midwest often rank high in multiple areas, while states with the lowest rankings tend to be concentrated in the South. Across states, health care access and quality were found to be highly correlated.

"Where you live clearly matters: for access to care when you need it, the quality of care you receive, and opportunities to live healthier lives," says Fund senior vice president Cathy Schoen, one of the report's authors. The analysis also estimates how much the nation would save in human and economic costs if all states attained the level of performance reached by the top states.

The report is now available for free download on <http://www.commonwealthfund.org>, where you can also find an interactive U.S. map (<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/statescorecard/>) containing rankings and performance data for each state.



☑ REFERENCE POINTS: Research Project Evaluates 20 Years of What Works for Youth with Disabilities

The What Works Transition Research Synthesis Project funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has published the first report in a series to be released. The project was established to review and synthesize the past two decades of research and advancements in the area of transition for youth with disabilities. By reviewing 50 previous studies, this first report examines how teaching life skills as an intervention affected the lives of 482 youth with varying levels of intellectual disabilities. To read the first report "A Systematic Review of the Effects of Curricular Interventions on the Acquisition of Functional Life Skills by Youth with Disabilities, What Works Transition Research Synthesis Project, 2006" go to the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center website, http://www.nsttac.org/?FileName=what_works&type=1. Additional reports will be posted on the site as they become available.

REFERENCE POINTS, transition updates from the TATRA Project, features resources and information to help parent organizations, advocates and professionals better serve adolescents and young adults with disabilities, and their families. Administered by the TATRA Project at PACER Center www.pacer.org, REFERENCE POINTS was launched with the initial support from the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition <http://www.ncset.org>. TATRA is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration.