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"Other things may change us, but we start and end with family."

-- Anthony Brandt

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Family Voices Partners with AMCHP!

When two organizations with overlapping interests decide to join forces and collaborate on their efforts, good things happen. Such is the hope behind the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Family Voices and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP). From the MOU:

“The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate collaborative planning and address opportunities to work together on a variety of issues that pertain to both organizations. Both organizations will seek to facilitate and improve opportunities for collaboration between state maternal and child health programs and families. Together, both organizations will work to identify and highlight opportunities for family involvement in state MCH programs and work to create environments that promote family involvement. Expected outcomes include enhanced family involvement and information sharing between Family Voices programs and AMCHP programs at the state and national levels.”



Sophie Arao-Nguyen, Ph.D. Executive Director, Family Voices and Michael Fraser, Ph.D., CEO, AMCHP

Specific activities that guide this work include:

- Working collaboratively to enhance the Family Scholars program to help fund families' participation in the AMCHP Conference and Family Voices meetings.
- Combining policy work efforts, including mutual support for legislative action and alerts.
- Giving consideration to co-locating respective meetings in February 2009, with some overlap of programming time.
- Jointly developing an Issue Brief that would document best practice on linking state-level Title V programs with Family to Family Health Information Centers and Family Voices groups at the community level.
- Identifying common issues or activities to collaborate on.

This MOU is exciting both because of the statement that it makes concerning the value of collaborative efforts, as well as representing a great potential for future efforts that will be stronger simply because this MOU exists. Families can only stand to benefit from this partnership!

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.

MCHB Brings Together Family-to-Family Health Information Centers

As the funding agency for Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2F HICs), the Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is committed to the success of these centers in every state. Beyond the administration of these grants, MCHB strives to ensure this success by providing opportunities for staff at these centers to continue to learn about and develop their capacity to help families of children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN).

“A Community of Learners,” a 1 ½ day event recently held at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, DC, provided such an opportunity for over 70 staff from all currently funded centers in 41 states. F2F HIC staff gathered with Technical Assistance staff from the Family Voices National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships and MCHB Project Officers Diana Denboba and Hazel T. Booker to learn about:

- Family Leadership
- Cultural Competence
- Healthcare Policy
- Data Technology
- Title V
- Distance Training
- Impact Assessment
- Grant Management

Presentations for many sessions included both national experts, such as Wendy Jones and Vivian Jackson of the National Center for Cultural Competence, as well as experienced family leader staff of F2F HICs who shared tried-and-true tips, tools, and advice.



Vivian H. Jackson, ACSW, LICSW
Senior Policy Associate
National Center for Cultural Competence

A highlight of this meeting was Diana Denboba as Sista Di leading the Doo Wops in an entertaining and motivating look at federal requirements for grant reporting including using the HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHB).

Overall, participants gave high marks to the meeting. Comments from meeting evaluations included “I really enjoyed this meeting and found it enormously helpful. Thank you for all the hard work that went into arranging it!” and “Thank you so much! What a great learning opportunity.”

For more information and to download meetings materials, visit <http://www.familyvoices.org/ncfpp/>.

Bright Futures Family and Community Meeting

What do children in military families, foster children, quadruplets, children with special needs, children on pueblos, and nursing babies have in common? Quite a bit - especially in the realm of children’s health and well-being! This shared interest in families raising healthy children was recently explored at a Bright Futures Family and Community Meeting. Organized by Family Voices, in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the May 28-29th, 2008, meeting was built around the newly revised Bright Futures Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 3rd Edition. Participating organizations all share a strong commitment to families as partners in children’s health care.

The meeting included highlights of the new Bright Futures Guidelines, and focused on sharing by the participants—their children’s health care concerns, their specific activities and projects that address these concerns, and their needs for further effort.

This meeting is seen as the first step in ongoing networking of organizations who have similar missions and overlapping target populations. Further networking opportunities are being explored.

PARTICIPANTS:

- Family Voices (FV)
- La Leche League International (LLLI)
- Latin American Health Institute (LHI)
- Mothers Of Super Twins (MOST)
- National Center For Farmworker Health (NCFH)
- National Foster Parents Association (NFPA)
- National Healthy Start Association (NHSA)
- National Military Family Association (NMFA)
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Pueblo Connections (PC)
- Today’s Child Communications (TCC)

Highlighting:**Aceves Awarded AAP
Cal Sia Award**

Javier Aceves, a pediatrician and member of the Family Voices Board of Directors, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Calvin CJ Sia Community Pediatrics Medical Home Leadership & Advocacy Award which recognizes pediatricians who have demonstrated clinical excellence, community action, and advocacy for children.

Javier follows closely in the footsteps of Dr. Sia as a physician absolutely dedicated to assuring that all children, including kids with special health care needs, have a caring, quality medical home. Dr. Aceves runs the Family and Young Children's Program, a family-centered, family-friendly clinic serving children and families from many backgrounds in Albuquerque, NM. He's also a professor at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and is known throughout the state as a wonderful friend of children and an advocate for families. Family Voices is proud to have Javier as part of our community!

**Integrated Services
Grant Awards**

MCHB has recently announced new state implementation integrated services grant awards for the project period 2008 – 2011. Two F2F HICs were recipients of these grants – Congratulations to Parent's Place of Maryland and Family Ties of Nevada!! Other states receiving these awards include CO, CT, DC, MD, MI, MO, NE, NV, ND, PA, VT and WV. Strong partnerships among families and professionals are an essential component of these grants. We look forward to partnership with these grantees!

**Family Leadership in the States:
Spotlight on Youth****♥ Zachary Friedland Recognized by Rhode Island Governor with State
Civic Leadership Award**

Meet Zach Friedland—a recent high school graduate who will be heading to the University of Rhode Island in the fall where he plans to major in music and communications. This “typical” high school graduate has had anything but a typical life. Zach was born with a cardiac defect that required multiple hospitalizations, corrective surgeries, and medications, and now at 18 is healthy and stable—and making a name for himself. Rhode Island's Secretary of State A.

Ralph Mollis recently honored Zach with one of Rhode Island's 2008 State Civic Leadership Awards. Two high school graduates from each high school in the state are selected each year for this honor.

Zach uses his personal medical experience as a way to advocate for the importance of excellent care at children's hospitals. This care is unique—it requires doctors who are specially trained not only in specific conditions, but also in how those conditions affect a child's growing body. Zach has participated in two Family Advocacy Days held in Washington, DC, meeting with senators and representatives to stress the need for this kind of care. In 2006 Zach spoke to 40-50 legislators attending a legislative breakfast in Boston.

Zach says that having been a patient who experienced good care, he brings a unique perspective, a totally different view of health care. He knows how much good care means to the patient, and is eager to share his thoughts and experience.

Last summer, Zach took the initiative to contact his local congressman, 2nd District Congressman James Langezin, whom he'd met previously, and asked about volunteering as an intern. He spent the summer answering phone calls, responding to letters, and said that he got a “first-hand look at how Congressmen communicate with their constituents and the thought that goes into these communications.” He dealt with a whole range of issues including health care and the environment.

Zach encourages other teens to get involved in legislative advocacy. “It's truly a great opportunity. Senators and Representatives are fascinated to hear from you and it really makes a difference.”

Zach is the son of Beth Dworetzky, Project Director, Massachusetts Family-to-Family Health Information Center, a project of Massachusetts Family Voices at the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Congratulations, Zach!





News You Can Use: Resources and More

KASA - New Materials to Help Youth Develop Leadership Skills

KASA has developed 16 new materials to help empower youth to learn how to advocate for themselves and others through better knowledge of health care, school, work, technology, and other current issues. These materials are now available on the KASA website - <http://www.fvkasa.org>. See the box on right for a sampling of the new titles. Also added to the website are two new poems. Check these out, along with artwork and stories created by youth at the KASA Café section of the website.

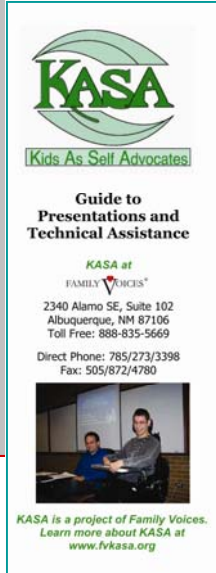
Looking for inspiration? Jennifer Thomas, a member of the KASA National Advisory Board, writes of her dogged pursuit to fulfill her dream of driving a car. This story will redefine perseverance for you!

KASA can help you learn about and work with youth. These services include: presentations and workshops, review of materials, and consultation on support for youth organizations. Learn more about KASA's technical assistance in their brochure -

http://www.fvkasa.org/KASA%20TA%20Brochure%202008_Final.pdf.

A Sample of the New KASA Materials:

- Advocating at Work with a Team
- What is Vocational Rehabilitation?
- Advocacy and Why it's Important
- Advocating for Yourself in Middle School and High School
- Different Ways Of Making Change
- Leading a Meeting
- How To Give a Presentation
- Relationships and Dating



Annie E. Casey Foundation Releases 2008 Kids Count Data Book

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released its 2008 Kids Count Data Book. Kids Count tracks ten indicators of national child health annually. Five indicators have shown improvement this year: child death rate, teen death rate, teen birth rate, high school dropout rate, and teens not in school and not working. The infant mortality rate showed no change. The remaining 4—low-birth-weight babies, children living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment, children living in poverty, and children living in single-parent families—have gotten worse since last year. The Data Book provides state by state information and comparisons, and finds that across all indicators, New Hampshire, Minnesota, and Massachusetts rank the highest in terms of child well-being, and New Mexico, Louisiana, and Mississippi rank the lowest.

The Kids Count Database website (<http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/databook.jsp>) can be used to generate sophisticated reports complete with custom graphs, maps, ranked lists, and state-by-state profiles. Raw data is also available for download.

How does your state rank?

Joseph Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Parent/Family Public Policy Fellowship 2009

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation invites parent and family leaders to apply for a one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, DC. Applicants must have outstanding leadership skills and be working towards enhancing and expanding inclusive services for people with disabilities. The goal of the fellowship, begun by the Foundation in 1980, is to prepare emerging family advocates for leadership in the area of public policy, both in their home state and nationally. Selected fellows live for the year in the Washington area where they actively participate in public policy development in the offices of Members of Congress, congressional committees, or federal agencies.

Former Kennedy Fellows include Family Voices Network members like Sue Badeau (PA), who said, "The fellowship changed my life. I always loved policy work, but the fellowship helped me gain knowledge, understanding, skills and increased my passion for this work. I made lifelong friends and felt that I made valuable contributions to the legislative process. It was one of the greatest highlights of my life!" "It's a once in a lifetime experience! I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to study the legislative process up close," said Maureen Mitchell (VA). The application deadline is August 15, 2008. To learn more visit http://www.jpkf.org/Fellowship_guidelines/Parent_Fellow_app.html.