Preschool Posse

Due to the success of FRN's Tikes and Tunes program, FRN has now created the Preschool Posse. The Preschool Posse is open to families whose children with special needs are three or four years of age. The children must be receiving special education services in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Amador, Calaveras or Tuolumne Counties. Registration is required.

Parents are encouraged to come learn how you can use music to enhance your child's development. We will focus on speech, motor and behavioral development issues. Parents will learn skills that you can use at home. We'll have lots of music and laughter. Bring your preschooler, a blanket and perhaps a pillow for your back.

The sessions will be led by Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist - Board Certified, and Director and Founder of In Harmony Music Therapy Services.

**WHEN:** Preschool Posse meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207

The registration form for Preschool Posse is posted on the calendar page at www.frcn.org or you can call or email FRN to register.

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Emergency Regulations for Children's Autism Treatment Approved

SACRAMENTO - Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones today announced that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the emergency regulations aimed at eliminating delays and denials of coverage for autism treatment. Commissioner Jones issued these emergency regulations to protect children diagnosed with autism and their families from the emotional, physical and financial harms caused by insurer denials or significant delays in autism treatment, which has reached crisis proportions in California.

"I am extremely pleased that the Office of Administrative Law has approved our emergency regulations," said Commissioner Jones. "These emergency regulations will ensure that insurance companies cover medically necessary treatment required by the Mental Health Parity Act and Senator Darrell Steinberg's autism treatment legislation. Autistic children and their families should now, without delay, receive the transformative treatment that will enable them to succeed in school, their families, and communities."

The California Mental Health Parity Act was intended to provide adequate private health insurance coverage and benefits for mental illnesses. The legislature found that autism is one of several severe mental conditions that are seriously disabling. Failure to provide adequate coverage in private health insurance policies significantly increases expenditures by state and local government for medical treatment, special education and other services.

Later laws, such as SB 946 (Steinberg), signed by Governor Jerry Brown in October, 2011, reconfirmed the mandate for health insurers and HMOs to provide behavioral health treatment for autism. This emergency regulation is expected to benefit thousands of California's children and families and save California taxpayers approximately $138.8 million to $197.8 million over the next year in costs that should properly be borne by insurers. These emergency regulations are the latest in a series of actions taken by Commissioner Jones to make sure autistic children can receive behavioral therapy treatment.
**Family Resource Network Newsletter**

*Spring 2013 edition*

*Printing 6,000 copies*

**EDITOR:** Ann Cirimele

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Direct questions or comments to:

**Family Resource Network**

Phone: 209-472-3674

Fax: 209-472-3673

5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148

Stockton, CA 95207

Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com  

[www.frcn.org](http://www.frcn.org)

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**Sibshops**

The recreational support group for non-disabled siblings, ages 7 through 13.

**Friday, April 19, 2013**

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Stockton Covenant Church,**

1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204

Meet other siblings who have the same kinds of issues. There are games, crafts, discussion activities, food and lots of fun! There is no cost to attend.

Registration is required and must be submitted one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.

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**Congrats to the WINNER of FRN’s latest drawing:**

- Leslie Crosby
- Shawnna Cutforth
- Regina Reyes

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**Think College** is an initiative of the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston. ICI has been a leader in the area of [postsecondary education](http://www.thinkcollege.net) for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities for over fifteen years. As interest in postsecondary education for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities has expands, so has the need for research and training in this area. ICI currently has three federal grants designed to conduct research and provide training and technical assistance for professionals, families, and students related to postsecondary education for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. For more information go to [http://www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

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**Thank You Volunteers!**

FRN thanks the following for their volunteer efforts:

- Katey Clark
- Brian Okura
- Don Okura
Check FRN’s website, www.frcn.org and click on “calendar” for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.
FRN Library Resources

FRN has almost two thousand library resources for parents and professionals to borrow. There are books, videos, dvds, cds, and audio tapes. You can find an updated list of FRN library resources on FRN’s website at http://www.frcn.org/library.php.

FRN Events!

Please note that these events take place at a variety of sites. Be sure to check the location of the workshop you are interested in. Flyers for these workshops are available at www.frcn.org and click on calendar. For more information call FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

April 18 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • Tuolumne County EOC, 18440 Striker Ct., Sonora, 6 – 8:30 p.m., FREE, reservations are required.

23 de Abril - ¿Empecemos a Hablar – De Burbujas a Palabras! Taller para Padres Presentado Completamente en Español – Enfocado en Promover el Desarrollo de Lenguaje entre las Edades de Nacimiento a tres años. Presentadora: Sylvia Marquez-Baker, M.A., Terapeuta Bilingüe de Habla y Lenguaje, San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton, 6:30 – 8 p.m., El cupo es limitado y se requieren reservaciones, GRATIS. This workshop will be conducted entirely in Spanish

April 24 - Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program • Presenter: FRN, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Stockton, 9:15 to 11:30 a.m., FREE, registration is required.

April 25 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • FRN Office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton , 6 – 8:30 p.m., FREE, reservations are required.

Don’t forget to register!

Information for VMRC Families Regarding Residential Care

Valley Mountain Regional Center has established a Residential Task Force (RTF). The job of the RTF is to identify current and future needs and services regarding out of home placement (i.e. when a VMRC consumer does not live with family and the housing is funded through VMRC). Several parents are members of the RTF. If you have information or concerns related to VMRC funded residential placement, you are welcome to email or call FRN with your comments and FRN staff will relay your information to the RTF. Your information will be shared anonymously unless you request that FRN share your name with the RTF. You can call 472-3674 or email FRNfamilies@aol.com with your comments or concerns.

FRN Toy Lending Library now in Sonora!

FRN is partnering with Tuolumne County Office of Education to open a Toy Lending Library in Sonora. The toys are available to families whose children, ages birth to 36 months, are served either through the Early Start program or Prevention Resource and Referral Service (PRRS). There is no cost to use the library.

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location:
Tuolumne County
Superintendent of Schools
175 S. Fairview Lane, Sonora, CA
95370
Room 210

Contact info:
209-536-2040
FRN has received donations from:

- Sue Allyn
- Thea Etheridge
- Heather Gilchrist
- Graham Ultch Charitable Trust
- Margaret Mayoral
- Carlos and Amarisa Murillo in honor of Camila Murillo
- Pepsi Survivors Trust in memory of Russell Dietrich Family
- Frank and Nancy Quacinella
- TPG Global in honor of Hillary Cirimele
- And Anonymous Donors

Family Resource Network extends its thanks to the following for their support of the 15th Annual Mothers Retreat which took place on February 2nd:

- Costco Wholesale-Lodi
- Costco Wholesale-Stockton
- Department of Developmental Services
- Frank Okura
- Hands On Educational Supply Store
- Jackson Rancheria Casino & Hotel
- Mark Drobny Law Office
- Mary Valdez
- OK Flower Shop-Will & Tracy Debudey
- Parents Helping Parents
- Quilters Quarters-Debbie Chase
- San Joaquin County Office of Education
- Valley Mountain Regional Center

Atención

Familias de habla hispana

Rita Gutiérrez miembro de nuestro personal en Family Resource Network, esta disponible para hablar con usted en español. Rita estará en FRN lunes a jueves de 8:30 am a 12:30 pm. Usted puede contactarla llamando a los teléfonos 209-472-3674 o 800 847-3030 o enviando un correo electrónico a FRNfamilies@aol.com. Rita proveerá apoyo así como información sobre temas de interés a las familias que están criando niños con necesidades especiales. Por favor no dude en llamar, será un placer atenderlo a usted.

Buscando Sonrisas

Un grupo de apoyo en español para las familias con hijos con necesidades especiales.

(This is a support group for Spanish speaking families raising children with special needs. It is conducted entirely in Spanish.)

Nos reunimos el último Viernes de cada mes de 6pm a 8pm y el segundo Miercoles de cada mes de 9:30am a 11:30am en: Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207

Se requiere registracion


Para más información o para registrarse, póngase en contacto con Rita en el 209-472-3674 o por correo electrónico FRNfamilies@aol.com
IDEA Part B Final Regulations Related to Parental Consent to Access Public Benefits or Insurance (e.g., Medicaid)

On February 14, 2013, the Department published in the Federal Register IDEA Part B final regulations that change the requirements in 34 CFR 300.154(d) related to parental consent to access public benefits or insurance (e.g., Medicaid). [Editor’s Note: In California, Medicaid is known as Medi-Cal, so this article is pertaining to Medi-Cal.] Previously, public agencies were required to obtain parental consent each time access to public benefits or insurance was sought. These final regulations, which take effect on March 18, 2013, will make it easier for school districts to access public benefits while still protecting family rights. The new rules—

1. ensure that parents of children with disabilities are informed of all of their legal protections when public agencies seek to access public benefits or insurance to pay for services; and

2. address the concerns expressed by State educational agencies and local educational agencies that requiring parental consent each time access to public benefits or insurance is sought, in addition to the parental consent required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and section 617(c) of the IDEA, imposes unnecessary costs and administrative burdens.

Specifically, these final regulations require that public agencies—

- obtain a one-time written consent from the parent, after providing the written notification described below, before accessing the child’s or the parent’s public benefits or insurance for the first time. This consent must specify (a) the personally identifiable information that may be disclosed (e.g., records or information about the services that may be provided to a particular child); (b) the purpose of the disclosure (e.g., billing for services); and (c) the agency to which the disclosure may be made (e.g., Medicaid). The consent also must specify that the parent understands and agrees that the public agency may access the child’s or parent’s public benefits or insurance to pay for services.

- provide written notification to the child’s parents before accessing the child’s or the parent’s public benefits or insurance for the first time and prior to obtaining the one-time parental consent and annually thereafter. The written notification must explain all of the protections available to parents under Part B, as described in 34 CFR §300.154(d)(2)(v) to ensure that parents are fully informed of their rights before a public agency can access their or their child’s public benefits or insurance to pay for services under the IDEA. The notice must be written in language understandable to the general public and in the native language of the parent or other mode of communication used by the parent, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.

In Summary:

The regulations protect family rights by ensuring that (1) the one-time parental consent specifies that the parent understands and agrees that the public agency may access their or their child’s public benefits or insurance to pay for services under the IDEA; and (2) the written notification provides parents with critical information that they may not have received in the past to enable parents to understand all of their rights and protections when a public agency seeks to access their or their child’s public benefits or insurance.

At the same time, the regulations reduce burden in that public agencies are no longer required to obtain parental consent each time access to public benefits or insurance is sought. By no longer requiring public agencies to obtain parental consent each time access to public benefits or insurance is sought, public agencies will experience a reduction in paperwork and will be able to implement a simplified process to access a child’s or parent’s public benefits or insurance.
Joe Cirimele, long time FRN volunteer and husband of FRN’s Executive Director Ann Cirimele, passed away suddenly on March 5th. Joe had volunteered at FRN for 16 years acting as a tech support person, furniture mover, and all-around go-fer. There was no job too big or too small for Joe to do, but Joe felt that his most important role for FRN was that of Santa. Joe began playing Santa at FRN’s annual Holiday Open House in 1998 and he took great joy in visiting with the children year in and year out. Some children were surprised when they visited with Santa and he would ask them about specific topics from their previous year’s conversation. Santa assured the children that he remembered everything they said because it was all important to him. He took great delight in hearing the children’s hopes and dreams.

Joe – We love you and miss you.

FRN thanks the following for their donations to FRN in memory of Joe Cirimele:

- John Alkhas
- Arc – San Joaquin
- The Bonneau Family
- Dorline Camozzi
- Gene and Lydia Camozzi
- John and Holly Camozzi
- Changing Faces Theater Company
- Tim and Edie Cheda
- Michele DiFalco
- Rick Keller and Anna Lovecchio
- Kathleen Nakaishi
- Nakashima and Sakoda Families
- Colleen Okura
- David and Diane Page
- PEDS
- Trueman Phillips
- Frank and Nancy Quacinella
- Mr. and Mrs. Bruce St. Jock
- Valley Mountain Regional Center
- Tom Whitesides
- Jean Wiltz
- Deborah Winchell