



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 23, Issue 2, Spring 2015 Edition



Family Resource Network is excited to announce that it has been awarded a \$45,000 grant from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Only three new applicants from throughout the state received funds for the Foundation's California Community Care Coordination Collaborative (5Cs). FRN was part of a San Joaquin coalition that worked for several months to craft the grant request.

The goal of the 5Cs is to improve local systems of care coordination for children with special health care needs and their families. The San Joaquin project is focusing on children birth to 5 years. While the focus is on services for children age birth to 5, the collaborative feels confident that older children will benefit as well. The grant committee has identified several areas where we believe systemic changes can be made that will improve services to children and families.

FRN will serve as the Project Director for the grant. The San Joaquin Coalition includes representatives from First 5, which will serve as the fiscal agent, along with Valley Mountain Regional Center, California Children's Services, special education, behavioral health, local hospitals and local health plans. There are also parent representatives on the coalition.

In addition to local monthly meetings representatives from the San Joaquin 5Cs will take part in the statewide California Community Care Coordination Collaborative (5Cs). The 5Cs provides a structured opportunity for the coalitions to learn from one another, identify areas of shared need, discuss emerging challenges and connect with others engaged in improving the quality of services for children with special health care needs in California.

The grant period is from January 1st, 2015 to June 30th, 2016. To learn more about the projects around the state visit: <http://lpfch-cshcn.org/our-work/california-community-care-coordination-collaborative/>

Family Resource Network
and San Joaquin SELPA present:



Charting the Course:

Understanding How Charter Schools Serve Children with Special Needs

When: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA

Topics will include:

- What are Charter Schools?
- How do Charter Schools serve children with special needs?
- What issues should be considered when determining if a Charter School is appropriate for a child with special needs?
- How do Charter Schools address inclusion?
- Charter Schools and related services such as transportation, speech, etc.
- Charter Schools and district of residence
- Problem resolution

This workshop is free to families and professionals residing in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne Counties. Interested parties from outside the 5-county region should contact FRN for registration information.

To register, please use the flyer which is available at www.frcn.org and click on calendar.

Family Resource Network Newsletter
Spring 2015 edition
Printing 5,700 copies

EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

Production costs for Family Resource Network Newsletter are underwritten by grants from California's Early Start Program – Department of Developmental Services, Parents Helping Parents Prevention Resource and Referral Services funding and private donations. *FRN Newsletter* is distributed at no cost to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. The newsletter is posted on FRN's website. Scholarships identified in this publication are available only to families in FRN's service area. Scholarships may be limited to the specifications of the granting agency. Family Resource Network, Inc., is a parent directed 501 ©(3) non-profit corporation committed to providing information and support to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties. Items printed in the *FRN Newsletter* are for information purposes only and may not necessarily reflect the opinion or endorsement by Family Resource Network or its underwriters. Direct questions or comments to:

Family Resource Network Phone: 209-472-3674

5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148 Fax: 209-472-3673

Stockton, CA 95207

Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. FRN is using the funds to assist parents of special needs children within FRN's 5 county service area with registration fees to attend non-FRN conferences or workshops on topics related to children with special needs and their families.

This is a reimbursement scholarship which means that FRN reimburses the parent after the parent has attended the event. Parents wishing to access these scholarship funds should contact FRN **prior** to attending the event. FRN reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships for any specific event. Restrictions apply. For more information contact FRN staff.

..... New Name/Same Agency

State Council on Developmental Disabilities/ Area Board 6 is now State Council on Developmental Disabilities/North Valley Hills Office. Their new email is northvalleyhills@scdd.ca.gov



Sibshop is the recreational support group for **non-disabled siblings of children with special needs,** ages 7 through 13.

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.

Our next Sibshop will take place in Stockton in June. Information will be posted online soon. Feel free to call FRN to request a registration packet.

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



FRN thanks The California Wellness Foundation!!

The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) has awarded grants to FRN over the last few years. Funds from prior grants were used to improve support to Spanish speaking families and to strengthen FRN's sibling support through its Sibshops project. For 2015 TCWF is providing grant funding to FRN to underwrite a major portion of the costs associated with printing the mailing the newsletter. FRN is grateful to TCWF for its generosity and continued support of families raising children with special needs.

The Sound of Music

FRN offers two musical play groups for young children with special needs and their parents. **Tikes and Tunes** is for children ages birth to 36 months who are served through Early Start or Prevention Resource and Referral Services (PRRS). **Preschool Posse** is for preschool age children who are receiving special education services through an IEP. Parents will learn how they can use music to enhance their child's development. Both groups are led by Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist. We'd love to have you join us, but space is limited so be sure to register! Registration forms are on FRN's website or you can email or call FRN to register. Both groups meet at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton.



Tikes and Tunes

A Musical Play Group for Infants and Toddlers in Early Start or PRRS

When: The first Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Posse

A Musical Play Group for preschoolers receiving special education services



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

No Musical Talent Required.



Don't forget to register!

And Don't Forget that FRN has **Toy Lending Libraries** for children in Early Start and PRRS in **Stockton, Modesto and Sonora**. Contact FRN for more information.



The following is a message from TBODS:
The Brighter Side of Down Syndrome (TBODS) is a nonprofit organization. TBODS meets on a monthly basis. Child care and a meal are typically provided for the monthly meetings. Families share new information and ideas to support each other to become better advocates. We often have speakers on specific subject matter and enjoy planned social events throughout the year. In addition to monthly meetings, TBODS has four groups developed specific to the interests of our members. The four groups are the Birth - 5 group, 6-12 group, Teen and Adult group and a Dad's group. Each group has funds allocated to them to use to meet the unique interests of each group. Check out our webpage at <http://www.tbods.com%20amilies/> for more information then come participate with us. Want to learn more about TBODS? Want to receive information on monthly meeting topics and planned activities? Want to develop friendships with some amazing people? Then contact us at tbodsofsjc@yahoo.com or (209) 598-3441 and let us know.



Searching Special ED Code?

California Special Education Reference (CASER) is a research tool provided to special education program directors, school administrators, teachers and other service providers, parents and parent support groups who need information regarding special education quickly and in a searchable format. Here is the link: http://policy.microscribepub.com/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=95992949&infobase=caser.nl&softpage=PL_frame

This searchable database has recently been posted online and replaces the one previously on the California Department of Education's website.

Editor's Note: I encourage anyone who wishes to use this database to read the User Guide which is available when you access the database. This new format is very different from the old one and takes a bit of getting used to. The User Guide has good information and helpful tips.

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.

Save the Date

Info on upcoming events:

Family Resource Network is working on a variety of workshops in the coming months. Registration is required for many of the events and registration forms are posted on FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on Calendar or you can contact FRN staff at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

- **March 10, 2015: Financial and Estate Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs** presented by Frank Quacinella, Merrill-Lynch and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA, **Stockton**, Registration required.
- **March 19, 2015: Financial and Estate Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs** presented by Frank Quacinella, Merrill-Lynch and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with Modesto City Schools' CAC, **Modesto**.
- **May 1, 2015: 28th Annual CHOICES Institute, Safe CHOICES: Home, Work, School and Community; San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton**, registration required. There is a registration fee to attend this event.
- **June 25, 2015: Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs**, presented by Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA, **Stockton**, registration required.



Autism Forum, Tuesday, May 5th

This is an all day workshop. Dr. Bridget Taylor will be the morning keynote speaker. The afternoon will include several break-out sessions on evidence based practices. Registration will be available soon. For more info contact Gail Dalton at gbrodigandalton@sjcoe.net.

Attention All PRRS Families



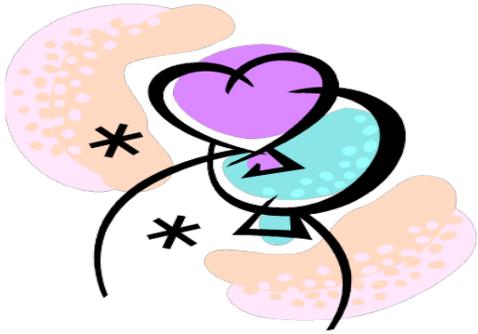
Effective January 1, 2015 the eligibility criteria for California's Early Start program has been broadened. The new criteria means that your child, who is currently served through Family Resource Network's Prevention Resource and Referral Services, might now be eligible for Early Start services. In order to receive Early Start services your child will need to be assessed by staff from Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).

You should have received in the mail a letter from FRN detailing how the Early Start referral process works. If you have concerns about your child's development and would like your child to be assessed by VMRC for possible Early Start eligibility please contact FRN staff and we will take your information and submit the referral to VMRC. You can contact FRN via phone (209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030), fax (209-472-3673), email (FRNfamilies@aol.com) or by coming into FRN's office (office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207). It will take about 10 minutes to gather the information we will need from you in order to make a referral to VMRC.

There is no requirement for you to have your child assessed by VMRC. It is totally parent choice. If at any time before your child's third birthday you have concerns about your child's development and would like your child assessed by VMRC for possible Early Start services just contact FRN staff and we can take your information and submit the referral to the Regional Center.

While your child is in PRRS your family will continue to receive information from Family Resource Network until you tell us otherwise. You will continue to receive FRN's newsletter and periodic phone calls from FRN staff.

If you have any questions about PRRS, the Early Start program or any other way that FRN can be of service to you please contact FRN staff.

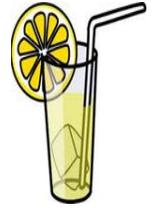


THANK YOU!

Family Resource Network extends its thanks to the following for their support of the 17th Annual Mothers Retreat:

- ❖ Canepa's Car Wash
- ❖ Costco Wholesale-Lodi
- ❖ Costco Wholesale-Stockton
- ❖ Department of Developmental Services
- ❖ Drobny Law Offices, Inc.
- ❖ M & W Dutch American Bakery
- ❖ Sarah Marquez
- ❖ Pacific Avenue Bowl
- ❖ Parents Helping Parents
- ❖ Professional Evaluation & Developmental Services (PEDS)
- ❖ San Joaquin County Office of Education
- ❖ Kevin Schimpke Jewelers
- ❖ The Brighterside of Down Syndrome (TBODS)
- ❖ Valley Mountain Regional Center

It's not too early to Save the Date!!



We hope moms can join us on Saturday, February 6, 2016 for the 18th Annual Mothers Retreat. Registration information will be available in December.



FRN has received donations from:

- ♥ Sue Allyn
- ♥ Molly Bjork
- ♥ Teresa Duff
- ♥ Thea Etheridge
- ♥ Patrick O'Connor
- ♥ PEDS
- ♥ Hermelinda Sagredo
- ♥ And Anonymous Donors



Want to be In The Know?

Send your email address to FRNfamilies@aol.com to receive email updates on topics of interest to parents of children with special needs. There is no fee to be on the email list and FRN does not share your email address with anyone, ever.

It's "IEP Season"

FRN offers its "Writing An Effective IEP" workshop at a variety of locations throughout FRN's five county service area. These workshops are free but registration is required.

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.

Thursday, March 19, 2015– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs
 • Presenters: SCDD North Valley Hills Office and Family Resource Network • **Lodi Public Library**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Thursday, April 9, 2015 - Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters :Family Resource Network and SCDD, North Valley Hills Regional Office • **Calaveras County Public Library, San Andreas**, 6 – 7:45 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Thursday, April 16, 2015 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs
 • Presenters: SCDD North Valley Hills Office and Family Resource Network • **Sonora EOC**, 18440 Striker Court, Sonora, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., FREE, reservations are required.

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs
 • Presenters: SCDD North Valley Hills Office and Family Resource Network • **Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center**, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., FREE, reservations are required.

Information provided by CDCAN DISABILITY

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE: DEPARTMENT RELEASES NEW 2015 FACT BOOK & LANTERMAN ACT

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the state agency that oversees the state owned and operated facilities called "developmental centers" and the 21 non-profit regional centers who assess and determine eligibility and coordinate services for over 270,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities – including infants and toddlers in California's early intervention program called "Early Start" – released this week the 12th edition of its "Fact Book" that compiles data, population of the people the agency serves.

Also released this week by the department is the latest edition, including revisions resulting from recent changes in State law, of California's landmark "Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act", known as the "Lanterman Act".

FACT BOOK - To view or download the Fact Book, as a PDF Document Copy (44 pages) from the department's webpage:

http://www.dds.ca.gov/factsStats/docs/factBook_12th.pdf

LANTERMAN ACT – To view or download the Lanterman Act as a PDF Document Copy (388 pages) from the department's webpage:

http://www.dds.ca.gov/Statutes/docs/LantermanAct_2015.pdf

SUPPLEMENTAL CODES (TO LANTERMAN ACT) – To view or download as a PDF Document Copy (62 pages) from the department's webpage:

http://www.dds.ca.gov/Statutes/docs/LantermanAct_Supplemental2015.pdf



**May your choices reflect your
hopes, not your fears."**

-- Nelson Mandela



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**

Office for Civil Rights

**Meeting the Communication Needs of Students
with Hearing, Vision, or Speech Disabilities**

***What do Federal laws require of a public school
to meet the communication needs of students
with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities?***

- Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), schools must provide a student with a disability a free appropriate public education (FAPE) designed to provide meaningful educational benefit through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, schools must, without charge, ensure that communication with students with disabilities is as effective as communication with students without disabilities, giving primary consideration to students and parents in determining which auxiliary aids and services are necessary to provide such effective communication.

***Will the aids and services required be the same
under both Federal laws?***

- It depends on the individual needs of the particular student.
- Sometimes the special education and related services provided to a student as part of FAPE under the IDEA will also meet the Title II requirements. In other instances, in order to meet the Title II requirements, a school might have to provide a student with aids or services that are not required by FAPE.
- Some services related to communication, like teaching a child to read Braille or understand sign language, are not required by Title II's effective communication requirement but may be required by FAPE.

***Does the school have to give a student the aid
or service the parents request?***

- Under Title II, the school must provide the aid or service requested unless the school can prove that a different auxiliary aid or service is as effective in meeting the student's communication needs (in which case the school must provide that alternative), or the school can prove that the aid or service would result in a fundamental alteration or in undue financial and administrative burdens (in which case the school must take other steps to ensure that the student can participate).
- Schools are not required to provide aids or services greater than what is needed to ensure effective communication, or to comply with requests about details of the aid or service (such as particular brands or models) that are not relevant to its effectiveness.

***What types of aids or services could be required
for students?***

- There are no categorical rules. A school must assess the needs of each individual.
- For a student who is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, some examples are: exchange of written materials, interpreters, note takers, real-time computer-aided transcription services (for example, CART), assistive listening systems, accessible electronic and information technology, and open and closed captioning.
- For a student who is blind, deaf-blind, or has low vision, some examples are: qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, Braille materials and refreshable Braille displays, accessible e-book readers, screen reader software, magnification software, optical readers, secondary auditory programs (SAP), and large print materials.
- For a student with a speech disability, some examples are: a word or letter board, writing materials, spelling to communicate, a qualified sign language interpreter, a portable device that writes and/or produces speech, and telecommunications services.

***Where can I get more information about the
rights of students with hearing, vision, or
speech disabilities?***

- The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, along with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), have issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) and a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document explaining what federal law requires of schools to meet the communication needs of students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

***What can a parent do if the school won't give a
child what the parent thinks is needed?***

- Arrange to meet with the IEP or 504 team or the school's Title II or 504 Coordinator.
- Consider using the school district's published disability grievance procedures.
- Under the IDEA, a parent challenging the provision of FAPE may request mediation, may file a complaint with the State educational agency, or may request an impartial administrative hearing by filing a due process complaint.
- Under Title II, a parent may choose to file a lawsuit in court. Parents of an IDEA-eligible student generally must exhaust the administrative hearing procedures of the IDEA, which means obtaining a final decision under the IDEA's impartial due process hearing procedures, before filing a lawsuit seeking a remedy that is also available under the IDEA.
- OCR and DOJ both investigate complaints of disability discrimination at schools.
- To learn how to file a complaint with OCR, call 800-421-3481 (TDD: 800-877-8339), email ocr@ed.gov, or go to www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintintro.html.
- To learn how to file a complaint with DOJ, call 800-514-0301 (TTY: 800-514-0383), email ADA.complaint@usdoj.gov, or go to www.ada.gov/fact_on_complaint.htm.