



**Families of Children with Special Needs**  
**September 23, 2015; 10:00am**

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Deborah Berry-Toon, Haley McCracken, Sara Scott, Kathy Nauta, Laura Roy-Fink, Debra Koss, Kathy Baklarz, Helen O'Shea, Cassandra Munoz-Bielowski, Jennifer Nunez, Ria Smith, Christina Skretovicz*

**School Outreach**

- 40 Back to School Nights with presentations at Walnut Ridge, Merriam Avenue School, Clifton E. Lawrence, and Franklin Elementary.
- Planning Pajama party literacy events as a way to get families out and share information
- Scheduling Father/Daughter Dances
- Preschool Handicap program at Franklin Elementary – holds dinners two times per year that SCCYC can attend

**Pediatrician Outreach –**

- Debra Koss reports that the culture is different in each office
- Dr. Saluja has a nurse that acts as the community liaison and has materials readily available for patients
- Dr. Chris Canzoniero accepts private and non private insurance
- Recommendations to reach out to Dr. Porter, Dr. Mckewon, Dr Jakobsen and Dr. Calabrese
- Target office staff to give out information/referrals
- Magnet to be handed out with wellness visit papers
- Staff luncheon/in-service
- Plastic sleeve inserts on the back of exam room doors with simple message
- Also reaching out to Dr. Saluja in Vernon and ipediatrics in Jefferson
- **BUILD Conference**
  - Supports state leaders
  - Goal is for better outcomes in Early Childhood Education
  - Diane Delano in group as representative from NJ Advocates for Kids
  - State and Community reps were present to discuss health, leadership and more
  - Library in Ocean County conducting a pilot program called Family Place Libraries
- **Special Education Parent Advisory Groups**
  - SCCYC looking to adopt model and help promote in schools
  - Ria Smith reports following the SPAN model to start SEPAG in Hardyston
  - Positive collaboration with school CST and administration
  - Hold open forum to discuss needs of all special needs students, not as a time to complain about administration or their child
  - Members of SEPAG include, child study team member, school social worker, school psychologist, LDTC (learning disabilities teaching consultant), and member of the board
  - Developed a code of conduct and confidentiality contract for all members to sign

- Holds an education forum that all districts are invited to
- Teaches parent accountability
- Laura Roy-Fink reported that the SEPAG in Vernon is not as structured
- Ria reports the need for teachers to be trained in special education
- Will help prepare Parents for IEP meetings and meeting alike
- Jennifer Nunez reports needs services for her 14 year old autistic son when he turns 21, Laura Roy-Fink reports giving a list of resources to her case manager
- Debra Koss emphasizes the importance of communication and using education as a way of improving education – the American Psychiatric Association uses an evidence based program to education teachers on how to accommodate children with special needs in the classroom.
- NAMI has programs for teaching staff, parents and students
- Central Intake – Department of Health Race to the Top dollars
  - Originally started as a single point of entry to streamline home visitation referrals, has since been expanded by the state to include referrals for people of all ages
  - PSS has funding for Sussex and Warren and are the only new vendor
  - Pregnant mom's on Medicaid fill out Perinatal Risk Assessment that gets sent to the state that PSS has access to the department of health data collection system; Women check off that they can be contacted for additional resources, PSS intake worker contacts and links to services; also follows up with them
  - Goal is for every pregnant mom regardless of insurance type fills out a PRA
  - PSS on site at NPC 5 days per week
  - Participants and providers can refer to Central Intake by filling out the Community Health Referral Form
  - LOS in Sussex is 80 which was doubled in August
  - LOS in Sussex is 80, which is lagging, but getting higher each month
  - This is not an emergency service phone number – answering machine will say to call 911 if there is an emergency
  - Empathetic intake worker on the other line
- Resource Guide
  - 400 piece mailing went out in July to build on resources to add to resource guide
  - Will also include pertinent parent information on poison control and developmental milestones
  - Also suggested to include information on Performed Care and Child System of Care
- General Council meeting – 10/21/15 9am or 6pm – overview of SCCYC and presentation from Sue Ryan Arc of Warren County Media, Technology and Screen Time with Young Children
- Parent Leadership Training
  - Kris Imbrie suggests AHAparenting.com and Dr. Laura Markham and TED Talks 2013 winner “School in the Cloud,” a lesson on encouragement
- Next Meeting: November 18, 2015; 1pm