



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 21, Issue 2, Spring 2013 Edition

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.



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

Production costs for Family Resource Network Newsletter are underwritten by grants from California's Early Start Program – Department of Developmental Services, Parents Helping Parents 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



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.

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

- ♥ **Leslie Crosby**
- ♥ **Shawna Cutforth**
- ♥ **Regina Reyes**



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](#) 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 expanded, 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>

Thank You Volunteers!

**FRN thanks the following
for their volunteer efforts:**

Katey Clark
Brian Okura
Don Okura

What's Happening At FRN!!



Tikes and Tunes

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

Come learn how you can use music to enhance your infant/toddler's development. Our Play Group Leader is Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist.

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

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



No Musical Talent Required.



Brown Bag Parent Discussion Group

When: The last Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

Come meet other parents and join the conversation. Attendees are to provide their own brown bag lunch and FRN will provide beverages.



Don't forget to register!

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.



Want to try out an iPad?

Some families have expressed interest in purchasing an iPad if it would benefit their child, but they aren't familiar with the device. Family Resource Network has two iPads that are available for parents to try out. Parents may try the iPad in FRN's office during scheduled office hours (Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) to see if they think the device might be something of interest to them or their child. The iPads may not be taken out of the office. If you'd like to schedule a time to try out the iPad, just give FRN staff a call (472-3674 or 800 847-3030) or send us an email at FRNfamilies@aol.com. You are welcome to walk in to try out an iPad, but preference will be given to those who scheduled a time.



Save the Date!!

Autism Forum

The 12th Annual Autism Collaborative Forum will be held on **Saturday, 4/13/2013** from 8:00 to 4:00, at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, Wentworth Educational Center, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA 95206. For more information please contact Gail Brodigan-Dalton, at (209) 468-4907 or gbrodigandalton@sjcoe.net

CHOICES 2013

Friday, April 12, 2013 is the date for the **26th Annual CHOICES Institute**. The theme is Roads to Independence. For more info call 473-6950.

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.

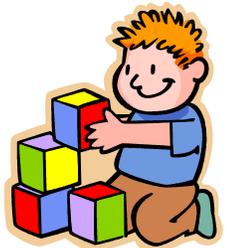
FRN Toy Lending Library now in Sonora!

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



To view FRN's entire library list or to check out a library resource, visit www.frcn.org and click on Library. For more information call FRN at 800-847-3030 or email FRN at FRNfamilies@aol.com.



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*
- Pepsy 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 registrasion

Family Resource Network estara ofreciendo un entrenamiento acerca de la ley Lantermen, servicios del centro regional, en compania de Disability Rights California. Mayo 8, 2013 9:30am-11:30am. En la oficina de Stockton.

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.



Joseph Cirimele

1954 – 2013

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