

THE COALITION

Advocacy Coalition for People with Disabilities

We Celebrated a Decade of Support at the 10th Annual Conference

Held on May 19th at the Citadel, the conference featured speakers from SC Protection and Advocacy, DHEC (Babynet), Richland County School District 2, Pattison's Academy, Connie Hawkins from the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center in North Carolina, and Jackie Sue Hoch, a self advocate from Florence County.

In addition to a full agenda of informative talks and a yummy catered lunch, the conference also included advocacy awards presented by the Advocacy Coalition for People with Disabilities. Honored this year:

Teacher of the Year: Amy Lambert
CE Williams Middle School

Advocate of the Year: Mary Tutterow,
Executive Director of Healing Farms Ministry

Tina Paul Advocacy Award: Kenny Fox

Francis Roy Advocacy Award: David Goldmintz
Disabilities Board of Charleston County

Parent Advocate(s) of the Year: Kevin and Patricia McFarland

Self Advocate of the Year: James. M. Wiswell

Congratulations to this year's winners!!!

Awards are given each year to tri-county advocates. If you know of someone you would like to nominate for an award at the next conference, please call, write, or email the FRC.

Be sure to attend next years conference—Date to be announced. If you have a special interest or need you would like to see spotlighted, please let us know. You can call us at 266-1318 or email the FRC at frc@frcdsn.org. The conference is for you and the loved ones you care for and support. Each year we try

to present current topics of interest and help to a very wide population. We welcome suggestions and inquiries although we are not able to accommodate everyone each year. **We look forward to seeing you at the 11th Annual Conference!**

SPECIAL THANKS TO
DR. CONWAY SAYLOR
AND THE PSYCHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT AT THE
CITADEL FOR TEN YEARS OF
SUPPORT OF THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ON DISABILITIES

AND "Thank You" Mr. Howard Bohne for your donation of the lovely Angel Oak prints to our silent auctions!!

NOW ON LINE
The Parent's Manual on Special Education Services is now available on line. See Page 8 for more details.

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Back to School With Special Education

Remember, parents can be their child's best educational advocates. This is especially true of parents of children with disabilities. There is SO much to learn and know. Because parents have a key role in the special education process it's important to learn good advocacy practices. Be involved ALL year long - not just during meetings. Consider the following suggestions:



Develop a partnership with the school. Share relevant information about your child's education and development. Your observations can be a valuable resource in your child's progress.



Ask for an explanation of any aspect of the program that you don't understand. Educational and medical terms can be confusing, so do not hesitate to ask.



Make sure the IEP or IFSP goals and objectives are specific. This will ensure that everyone teaching your child is working toward the same goals. Take the IEP or IFSP home to think about it before you sign it. You have 10 school days in which to make a decision.



Make sure your child is included in the regular school activities program as much as is appropriate, including nonacademic areas such as lunch and recess and other areas such as art, music, and physical education.



Monitor your child's progress and periodically ask for a report. If your child is not progressing, discuss it with the teacher and determine whether the program should be modified. As a parent, you can initiate changes in your child's educational program.



Try to resolve directly with the school any problems that may occur with your child's assessment, placement, or educational program. In some situations, you may be unsure of how to proceed to resolve a problem. Refer to the "Parent's Guide" you received at your last IEP meeting for a list of resources (including the PTRC) that can provide you with the guidance or referrals you need.



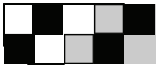
Keep records. There may be questions about your child that you will want to discuss, as well as meetings and phone conversations you will want to remember. It is easy to forget important information that is not written down.



Join a parent organization or support group. Besides sharing knowledge, experiences, and support, the group often can be an effective force. Parents often find that, as a group, their united voices have greater power to strengthen special services.



Attend every training opportunity you can manage. Learn your rights and responsibilities as a parent in your child's special education process. Contact the Parent Training and Resource Center (266-1318) if you need direct 1:1 support in order to understand the process and acquire the advocacy skills to work proactively to resolve disputes.



Upcoming Workshops and Conferences

The Law & Special Education with Mitch Yell, Ph.D.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Autism Society (SCAS)

Saturday, Sept. 15, 9AM - 4PM

William Hall Institute, 1800 Colonial Dr., Columbia, SC

\$20 Workshop Fee/\$15 for groups of 3 or more (fee does not include lunch)

To register visit www.scautism.org or contact the SCAS at 800-438-4790

SCAS Annual Autism Conference

Oct 12 & 13 - Conference begins at 9AM

Friday Keynote: Dr. Richard Simpson, Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas

"Evidence Based Strategies & Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder"

Saturday Keynote: Sean Barron "Making Your Way - Living with Autism"

Sean is co-author (with Temple Grandin) of Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships-Decoding Social Mysteries Through the Unique Perspectives of Autism and (with his mother, Judy Barron) There's a Boy in Here

To register visit www.scautism.org or contact SCAS at 800-438-4790

Tourette's Syndrome Workshop

Sponsored by Pro Parents of South Carolina & Tourette's Syndrome Association

Friday, October 26, 2007 | 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Solomon Conference Room - Room 125

114 Doughty Street Building, MUSC Thurmond / Gazes Research Building, Charleston, SC

OR

Saturday, October 27, 2007 | 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

MUSC Institute of Psychiatry - Auditorium, 67 President Street, Charleston,

For more information or to register contact Shawntel Greene at 1-800-759-4776 or visit www.proparents.org.

Transition Workshop: "Transitioning Out"

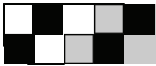
Sponsored by Pro Parents of South Carolina & The PACER Center

September 18, 2007 - Residence Inn Charleston Airport.

5035 International Blvd. North Charleston, SC 29418

Presented by: Larry Kortering, professor in special education at Appalachian State University and co-principal investigator for the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC).

The Workshop topics include: Transitioning Out; IDEA Requirements; State responsibilities; State Performance Plan -Indicator 13; Age appropriate transition assessment (*Mr. Kortering will be available to do Age Appropriate Assessment on site for students 14 and older with "high



Parent Training and Resource Center Fall Training Schedule

Please call Susan at 266-1318 to Pre-register for ALL workshops

September 7, 2007	10:30AM -12:30	FRCDSN Conference Room 1575 Savannah Hwy - Ste 6 - CHS	Understanding ADHD
September 19, 2007	6:30-8:00PM	FRCDSN Conference Room 1575 Savannah Hwy - Ste 6 - CHS	Accessing Community Resources
September 21, 2007	10:30AM -12:30	Exclusive Enterprises 3024 W. Montague Ave. N. CHS	What is response to intervention? Can it really help your child?
October 3, 2008	6:30-8:30PM	FRCDSN Conference Room 1575 Savannah Hwy - Ste 6 - CHS	Positive Behavioral Interventions
October 5, 2007	10:30AM -12:30	Exclusive Enterprises 3024 W. Montague Ave. N. CHS	Understanding ADHD
October 17, 2007	6:30-8:30PM	FRCDSN Conference Room 1575 Savannah Hwy - Ste 6 - CHS	Is your Child a Target of Bullies?
November 7, 2007	6:30-8:30PM	FRCDSN Conference Room 1575 Savannah Hwy - Ste 6 - CHS	Building programs to Serve Youth With disabilities in middle and high school

Workshops & Conferences Continued:

incidence" conditions (SLD, ED, ADD/ADHD and behavior disabilities). Representatives from SC DDSN & SC Voc Rehab will also be available at the workshop to answer questions.

Autism Training

Sponsored by SC DDSN/Autism Division

The Autism Division provides a variety of training programs for parents and professionals. Please contact the Charleston office at 852-4120 for more information. Advance registration is required. VISIT: <http://www.state.sc.us/ddsn/autism/AutismTrainingBrochure2007-08.pdf>
Local training: Aug 29-31 -Basic Treatment Options; Sept 5 - Parent Training; Sept 19 - Introduction to Autism

Check Out These Internet Sites:

DisabilityInfo.gov is the federal government's one-stop Web site for people with disabilities, their families, employers, veterans, workforce professionals and many others.

www.goodsearch.com is a special search engine that will contribute 1 cent to your designated non profit (501c3) each time you perform an Internet search. We're registered to participate in this program. The next time you search, try GoodSearch and specify The Family Resource Center as your preferred organization. Even a penny adds up quickly when many people contribute.



You're NOT Alone - Lowcountry Agencies Are Here To Help

The Lowcountry has many services available to individuals with disabilities and their families. The trick is finding out where they are and who to contact to get them.

On June 20, 2007, West Ashley High School, hosted a panel discussion with representatives from various local agencies. The discussion was one of the breakout sessions in a two day workshop presented for Charleston County teachers. The following agencies participated and provided information on their services and answered questions from the audience:

County Disability Boards are funded in part through the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs to provide services to eligible populations. Each county in SC has its own Disabilities Board. **Disabilities Board of Charleston County** provides a variety of services from Early Intervention and Service Coordination to Day and Residential Programs. Families of children, birth - three, needing early Intervention Services contact Babynet @ 792-4373. All others may call 805-5835 and ask for the Intake Worker or the Screener. There are two Levels of Service Coordination which is determined by the amount of intervention needed by a service coordinator to access services. Families requiring more intervention would receive Level I service coordination. A Plan is developed once every 365 days and the needs are monitored quarterly. Families requiring less intervention would receive Level II service coordination. Contact is made once a year. If we are unable to locate a family and there is no response to our correspondence then we do close the case and eligibility will need to be redetermined.

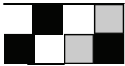
If you do not live in Charleston County, check with the Board in your area. To find your County Disabilities Board log onto the DDSN Web site @ www.state.sc.us/ddsn. **Berkeley Citizens' number is 843-761-0331. Dorchester County number is 843-871-1285.**

SC Department of Mental Health provides mental health assistance to individuals of all ages including school based mental health counselors to assist students in the school setting. Counselors come to the school and take all referrals as long as the student is not seeing a counselor from another agency or group already. **Contact Mack Magee at 843-414-2350**

The Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center provides medical assessments, counseling, and referrals to children who have been victims of abuse (physical, emotional, and sexual) or neglect or may be potential victims. The center works closely with law enforcement, the school district, DSS and other agencies. The Center also provides free mandated reporter training to any agency working with children. For more information **contact Rebecca Williams, the Child Abuse Liaison at 843-723-3600 or at www.dnlcc.org.**

Hotline provides 24 hour support and referrals to anyone experiencing a crisis of any type. There is also a special teen hotline staffed by trained teens to discuss concerns and issues just for teens. **Contact Hotline at 744-HELP** at any time for assistance.

Carolina Children's Charity is well known in the area due to its yearly fundraising drive which is assisted by local firefighters, Channel 2 WCBD TV, and countless other volunteers. CCC



provides temporary financial assistance to families of children with disabilities for direct services or items designated for the individual child. This may include: therapies not funded through insurance; assistance with special equipment or supports to enable a child to participate fully with peers; one time assistance with prescription refills in extenuating circumstances; and other items. Families interested in obtaining assistance or providing contributions should **contact Sonia Beale at sbeale@carolinachildren.org or at 843-554-6222**. A special note: Carolina Children's Charities is currently conducting a fundraising drive for the Charleston firefighters fund to support and thank the firefighters who give generously of their time each year.

Family Connections provides peer support to families coping with a child's disability. Families are paired as closely as possible with another parent of a child with the same disability for telephone support. The new office is in Carriage Lane office building. **Contact Katherine Lemon, the parent educator for more information or locally, Meagan Labriola at 556-5010** about a new "Mom's Night Out" program.

Continuum of Care provides services to children with mental health and emotional problems. Children with a diagnosis of PDD are also eligible for services and assistance can be provided to the parents in completing the application for services either at the office or in the school setting. The Continuum provides intensive case management and works with mental health to try to keep the child in the home environment and avoid out of home placement. **Contact Enid Jenkins at 1-803-734-4500 or 1-888-782-1381 or www.continuum.sc.org** for more information.

YOU MAY ALSO LOOK FOR SUPPORT FROM OTHERS:

Advocacy Coalition For People with Disabilities (ACPD) contact Paula Byers 795-5316

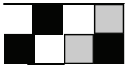
Trident Head Injury Support Group: meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30, at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Robert Durland at 270-5001 or Lee Anne Bellamy at 852-5550 ext. 11

HIPS (Head Injury Support Group for Survivors): meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 1:00-2:30 PM at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Lee Anne Bellamy at 852-5550 ext.11

Low Country Polio Survivors Network: no longer meets

Down Syndrome Association of the Low Country: sponsors four Information Programs and four Social Events each year - in addition to Mothers Night Out. For more information call 553-3725 or check their website at www.dsalowcountry.org for a complete calendar of events.

Parent & Guardian Association of the Coastal Center: holds general meetings four times a year. The meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, & October, for more



Support Groups Continued

info call Barbara West at 821-5809.

Rett's Syndrome Support: for families needing a contact person to access support services for girls with Rett's Syndrome contact Nancy Banov at 556-4632

Tourette's Syndrome Support Group: no longer meets

Autism Support Groups: 1st Monday of each month at Vickery's in Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 PM. Contact Laurie Priester at 884-3062 for information. A group also meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in North Charleston at 6:30 PM. at Carolina Children's Charities office at 6296 Rivers Ave. Suite 300. Contact Kelly Herrick at 863-1445 for information regarding meeting changes or email at specialneedssupportsc@yahoo.com. In the Summerville area a group meets from 6:30-8 PM at the Summerville YMCA (900 Cross Creek Drive off Trolley Rd.) Childcare is provided For more information please contact Kima at 821-9337. **The Coastal Autism Division** support group for parents of children newly diagnosed with autism no longer meets.

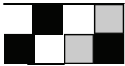
Heart to Heart: a support group for patients, family members and parents of individuals with congenital heart disease no longer meets. Parents of children with heart disease who are interested in managing the group and holding regular meetings should contact Robin Ellinger at 792-3179

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of the Charleston area offers support group meetings for individuals who suffer from a brain disorder and for family members and caregivers of those who have severe and persistent mental illness. The meetings are 6-7:15 p.m. the second Monday of every month at First Christian Church, 1293 Orange Grove Road, West Ashley and at Sunrise Christian Church, 102 Myers Road, Summerville. Meetings are held at another location on the fourth Monday of each month at the Institute of Psychiatry, 67 President Street, 5th floor, North Tower classroom 526. Free parking is available for this group in Visitor Lot G and Doughty street Garage. The support group sessions often are followed by an educational program. For more information Call NAMI at 727-6405 or visit www.namicharlestonarea.org.

Faith and Light Community

Faith and Light is a spiritual organization for persons with mental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Faith and Light is centered in the Catholic tradition but is open to people of all faiths. Its purpose is to recognize the unique gifts of the mentally disabled and to provide them a place of prayer, sharing, support and celebration. The group meets at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 11001 Dorchester Road., Summerville, SC 29485. For more information, please contact Msgr. Edward Lofton at 875-5002

The disAbility Resource Center support group meets the fourth Monday of each month from 5-7 PM. Call 225-5080 for more information.



New Support Groups:

The Tri County support Group for Tweens and Teens with Diabetes (ages 10-17 and parents) began meeting on August 13th at HealthFinders in Northwoods Mall.

The group will meet the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact Melanie Robinson at 792-3561 or 1-800-305-4173 for more information.

The Palmetto Autism Spectrum Support Group meets at Palmetto Behavioral Health at 2750 Speissegger Drive suite 106 in North Charleston. The group is geared to the needs of children with high functioning autism or Aspergers although no one is turned away. The meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 6-8PM. For additional information contact Elizabeth Thames (pronounced Tims) at 571-6301 or email her at elthames@comcast.net.

Parent's Resource Manual for Special Education Services

An excellent resource for *both* parents & teachers, the Manual has been recently revised to reflect the changes to IDEA 04; the Manual includes chapters such as Advocacy 101; Education Laws; Early Intervening Services; the IEP; Special Conditions; Spanish Language Resources. Visit the FRC website: www.frcdsn.org to view the Manual in pdf. Additionally, through the support of the CCSD Office of Exceptional Children, a hard copy of the Manual is available at ALL public schools in Charleston County.

CCC 8K Run / Walk

The Carolina Children's Charity 8000 Meter Run and 1 Mile Walk

Presented by Young Clement Rivers LLP

Saturday, September 22, 2007 - Hanahan Recreation Center.

The 8000 Meter Run will begin at 8:15 AM and the Walk will start at 8:45 AM.

Run registration starts at 7am and the cost prior to race day is \$15.00 and \$20.00 the day of the event. Walk registration begins at 7:45 am and a minimum \$15.00 contribution is required for each participant. Walk teams are welcome. You can also register here:

http://www.active.com/page/Event_Details.htm?event_id=1467983

Please call the CCC office at 554-6222 if you would like to participate individually, form a team or just need more information.

This is a great way to show your support for those who provide support!

2007 Lowcountry Buddy Walk

Presented by the Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry

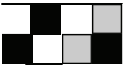
Sunday September 30, 2007

Registration and festival 2:00 - 1 mile fun walk 3:00

Etiwan Park, Daniel Island

To register: <http://buddywalk.kintera.org/lowcountry>,

For more Information: buddywalk@hometelecom.com or call: (843) 553-DSAL (leave message)



FUN AND GAMES

The Circle of Friends Community Choir is taking the summer off. The choir is directed by Kim Embler and Palmetto Music Therapy Services and is staffed by three board certified music therapists. To register and find out when the choir will start again, call Kim at 727-1808.

Tuesday Night Bowling at TriAngle Lanes, Savannah Highway. Teenagers and Young Adults with disabilities are welcome to join others at 6:00 PM on Tuesdays. Bowlers can bowl with/without bumpers and wheelchair bowlers can be easily accommodated. Due to the generosity of TriAngle Lanes, bowling costs \$2.50 per game, including shoes. *First timers please call 266-1318 for more details and to confirm bowling schedule.*

WHEN IT'S JUST TOO HOT !!

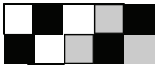
With hot summer days and high humidity, many children with disabilities find the weather intolerable and enjoy playing on the computer. Below is a list of fun online games just for kids, geared to preschoolers especially but enjoyed by older children with cognitive limitations as well. Great just for fun or to teach early computer skills, pre-reading, letter and number identification. 1) **Nick Jr. Games Online:** <http://www.nickjr.com/> Click on Nick Jr. Playtime to open the games window. 2) **PBS** brings an array of fun to their website: (<http://pbskids.org/>). Such as: **Build a Neighborhood Online Game:** An online build-a-picture game from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood at PBS Kids along with many other fun activities; **Sesame Street Games Online** (<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/sesamestreet/>) has a variety of games so your child shouldn't get bored and is a great destination for online preschool games; and **Noggin Games** (<http://www.noggin.com/games/pwms/pwms/>) where your child can play games like "build a robot," games with Sesame street characters and games to play with your child, printable coloring sheets and games etc. 3) **Fisher Price Online Games** (<http://www.fisher-price.com/uk/playtime/default.asp>) Here you'll find games for *Infants*, *Toddlers*, & *Preschoolers*. 4) **Resources Kaboose** (<http://resources.kaboose.com/games/index.html>) has online games for all age - even Mom!

If creative & fun crafts were what you had in mind for the air-conditioned indoors, check out these sites:

<http://www.makingfriends.com/freekidscrafts.htm>

www.abcteach.com for free printables like coloring sheets, worksheets, and puzzles

<http://www.crayola.com/> You can always depend on crayola for colorful activities



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007

ALL TREATS - NO TRICKS HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

COSTUMES - CONTESTS - PRIZES - FOOD - ADULT BEVERAGES - SILENT AUCTION

MUSIC BY JOHN CUSATIS

TICKETS: \$ 25.00 PER PERSON

7:00 - 10:00 PM

1553A KING ST. EXT. CHARLESTON

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS &
THE PARENT TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTER**

Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs
1575 Savannah Highway - Suite 6
Charleston, South Carolina 29407
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