



National Federation of Families
for Children's Mental Health

February 2018

Federation in Action

The past year has been an exciting time for the national office as we continue to rebuild, rebrand and expand to better meet your needs and those of our families. Our primary focus has been to ensure that the National Federation remains the national voice for families whose children experience behavioral health challenges. Below are just some of our achievements during this past year:

- Conducted a national environmental scan regarding certification reimbursement, standards and job descriptions
- Conducted a national environmental scan regarding parent-peer competencies as the precursor to revising the national certification exam
- Hosted interactive webinars with state Medicaid offices, affiliates and reimbursement experts to facilitate discussions around reimbursement and certification
- Underwent a social media revival – updating our website, adding extensive resources, branching out on Pinterest and continuing to keep you in-the-know on Facebook
- Expanded family voice by adding 10 new affiliates
- Presented at the first meeting of the ISMICC, partnered with SPAN and facilitated Town Halls with Conni Wells, the only family voice on the ISMICC
- Continued to connect families with their local family-run affiliates

In addition, our 28th annual conference in Orlando was a tremendous success, bringing 650+ participants from 32 states as well as Canada and Guam. We were proud to have representatives from 46 of the National Federation's chapters/affiliates in attendance - and 159 presenters sharing their knowledge and experience in 87 different breakout session presentations.

As you can see, 2017 was very productive and we have set an ambitious agenda for 2018. None of this work would have been possible without the continued support of you and your chapters. Your participation in our activities helps to strengthen our organization. We are committed to steadfast partnerships with every Federation chapter.

Thank you for your continued support of the National Federation and for your unwavering support of children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Lynda

Lynda Gargan, Ph.D.
Executive Director

29th Annual Conference



NOVEMBER 1 - 3, 2018
HYATT REGENCY - HOUSTON, TX

The only national conference dedicated solely to issues that impact children, youth and young adults with behavioral health challenges and their families. Our conference focus is inclusive of children and youth who experience complex diagnostic challenges.

[Call for Presenters](#)

[Learn about Conference](#)

Legislation and Advocacy

The Federation actively represents you as part of the **Mental Health Liaison Group**. The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) is a coalition of almost 70 national organizations representing consumers, parents and family members, advocates, providers, and mental health experts dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness

- The Federation through the MHLG expressed support for the Medicaid CARE Act (H.R. 2687). [MHLG Letter of Support](#)
- The Federation supported the [Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act](#)
 - [Sen Warren's Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act](#)
 - [Rep Kennedy's Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act](#)
- The Federation kept affiliates up to date on the latest with Mental Health Parity.
 - [MHLG Parity Memo](#)
 - [Disparity Analysis](#)
 - [Insurance Commissioners by State](#)

Congressional Mental Health Caucus

The mission of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus is to work in a bipartisan manner to raise the visibility for mental health reforms and find solutions to improve mental health care and the delivery of services to those in need.

Their latest news section contains the latest stories and links to mental health issues in the news.



[Link to Latest Mental Health News](#)

CHIP Funding

The spending bill that the Senate and House adopted January 22nd, provides six years of federal money for the Children's Health Insurance Program, a bipartisan creation that furnishes coverage to nearly 9 million children and 375,000 pregnant women.

\$124 billion in funding through 2023 was part of the approved spending bill. Federal money will pay for 88% of the programs's expenses in every state for the first two years.

SAMHSA's New Approach

On January 11th, Elinore F. McCance-Katz, MD, PhD, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use held a call where she read a statement and answered questions about a new approach to EBPs and the Federation was part of that call. The call focused on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices and SAMHSA's new approach to implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs)

[Read the Statement](#)

Webinars and Training

PAX Tools for Parent Peer Support Specialists



On January 30th, Dennis D. Embry, Ph.D., and Erin Roepcke from PAXIS Institute conducted a webinar on PAX Tools for Peer Support Specialists. As PAX has evolved, an emphasis on parent/family support has emerged. PAX tools are now being developed that families need to reinforce the strategies children are learning through the Good Behavior Game. By utilizing parent/family peer specialists who are PAX trained, we predict enhanced outcomes for children and their families.

Look for more news about PAX Tools for Parent Support Providers coming soon!

[PAX Tools for Families Webinar](#)



Best Practices in Peer Support Training

Monday, February 5, 2018

2:30:00 PM CST - 4:00:00 PM CST

Peer support is an essential part of recovery-focused services and systems. With the launch of the first advanced National Certified Peer Specialist Certification, individuals across the country have the opportunity to get certified, explore new career paths, and expand a growing and needed mental health workforce. To ensure the best outcomes and biggest impact for both peer specialists and those they support, individuals need to receive Peer Support Training. Learn from two national leaders in Peer Support training on the history, fundamentals, and best practices in training and how to join the growing network of

[Register now](#)



Growing Up, Staying Safe, and the Journey to Adulthood

Tuesday, February 27th

10:00 AM MT

This presentation will help parents understand how to talk to their tweens and teens about the changes that occur in their lives as they go through puberty. Strategies and tools for having these discussions are provided and include information on physical development, relationships, and social behaviors. In addition, information will be shared about risk factors that can put children with mental health conditions in dangerous situations including managing technology and online behaviors

[Register](#)

Social Marketing for Awareness Day 2018

Thursday, February 8th

2 pm ET

The Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign Social Marketing TA Team is hosting a webinar, "Social Marketing for Awareness Day 2018." This webinar will explain how National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (NCMHAD) provides social marketing opportunities for systems of care (SOC). Community presenters will share how they have used NCMHAD to involve others in their SOC and create strategic partnerships. The TA Team will provide details about SAMHSA's plans for Awareness Day 2018 (May 10) and how communities can get involved.



[Register](#)



[Learn more](#)

Planning for a Healthy Transition to Adulthood

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MST

or 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. MST

Parents and youth will participate in a discussion about the importance of having good self-advocacy skills, strategies for healthy living and self-care, and how to find and access adult services and health care.

Andrew F.: A New Tool for Enhancing the Parent Voice at the IEP Table!

Thursday, February 1st, 2018

3:00-4:30 pm ET

National PLACE invites you to a webinar focused on the impact of Endrew F. on the families of children with disabilities at the IEP decision-making table. Join us to learn about the implications of this unanimous US Supreme Court decision that



- Raised the standards for millions of children with disabilities
- Affirmed families' expectations that our children can learn, progress, and achieve, and
- Strengthened families' ability to ensure appropriately ambitious and challenging objectives for every child with disabilities!

[Register](#)



A Seat at the Table: The Family Voice is Needed

Date: Saturday, February 17, 2018 — 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Parents of children ages birth to five who are on IFSPs or IEPs will become prepared to actively participate as informed stakeholders at all levels of decision-making.

Being an Active Participant in your Child's Transition Before Age Three

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 — 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

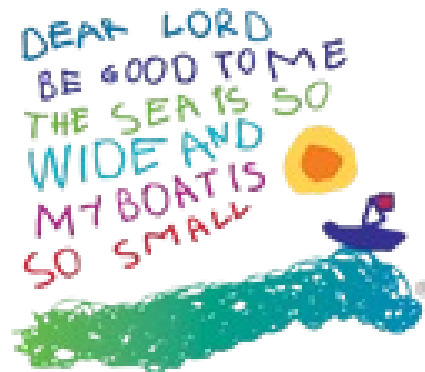
Families will learn how to actively participate in the transition process from Part C Early Intervention Services to Part B Preschool Services or other services in the community.

[Register for Live Webstreams](#)

Resources

Report on the State of America's Children

The Children's Defense Fund's new report, [The State of America's Children@ 2017](#), provides a comprehensive look at the status of America's children in 11 areas: child population, child poverty, income and wealth inequality, housing and homelessness, child hunger and nutrition, child health, early childhood, education, child welfare, juvenile justice and gun violence. The report's corresponding [state factsheets](#) provide one-page summaries of how children are doing in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and nationwide.



Children's Defense Fund

[State Fact Sheets](#)

[Full Report](#)

Career Opportunities

Family Based Services Association - Monmouth County, NJ

Peer Support Partner - <http://www.fbsanj.org/about/careers/>

