

Federation in Action

Representing You - 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](#)
- The Mental Health Liaison Group expressed our continued opposition to specific provisions within the House and Senate versions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, particularly the provisions repealing the Affordable Care Act's individual shared responsibility mandate and the House's provision repealing the medical expense deduction. [MHLG Opposition to Repeal of Individual Mandate](#)
- The Federation kept affiliates up to date on the latest with Mental Health Parity.
 - [MHLG Parity Memo](#)
 - [Disparity Analysis](#)
 - [Insurance Commissioners by State](#)

CHIP Update

25 states are set to run out of funds by January's end even with recent short term patch – that translates to 2M kids that could lose coverage by end of January.

The Georgetown University Center for Children and Families released new analysis which found that if Congress does not act soon to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an estimated 1.9 million children in separate CHIP programs could lose coverage in January. An additional 1 million children would also be at risk of losing coverage by the end of February.

Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the government funded through January 19, 2018. The bill also includes a small amount of additional funding for CHIP, but it falls woefully short. This CR adds \$2.85 billion to funds CHIP for 6 months – from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018. The federal government spends about \$14.5 billion on CHIP each year. So half a years' funding would be in the neighborhood of \$7.25 billion.

George Town University Report

*MACStats: Medicaid and CHIP
Data Book*

ISMICC Update

The Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) unveiled its 2017 Report to Congress during a press conference and virtual public meeting on Thursday, December 14.

For those of you that have been participating in the Town Halls with Conni Wells, you will remember that Conni let us know that the recommendations are just the starting point for the work of the ISMICC.

The work for advocates is just beginning as we work on making the recommendations they best they can be.

Be looking for announcements from the Federation about upcoming Town Halls.

Visit the [Town Hall Page](#) on the Federation website for more information,

ISMICC Full Report

Passing of Sybil Goldman



It is with great sadness that I share with you the news that Sybil Goldman passed away on December 26th after a courageous battle with cancer. Sybil was a great supporter of the family movement and our efforts in starting the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. She continued to be a wonderful partner in our work to change the systems that serve our children and families. She was the recent and well deserved recipient of the Federation's Karl Dennis Unconditional Care Award. In Sybil's role as the director of the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University and her role at SAMHSA developing children's mental health policy she was able to lead much of the system change efforts that created the services and supports families need to be able to keep their children at home and in their community.

She was a loyal friend and colleague during my years as the director of the Federation and someone I could always count on.

She will be missed.

Barbara Kuff

Upcoming Webinars and Training

Training: How to Create Change for Kids in Your Community

Thu Jan 04 at 12:00pm ET

Getting your child help and support is the first step in becoming an advocate for change.

But many parents have asked the Understood Team how to get better resources for all kids with learning and attention issues. If you'd like to become more involved in making change in your school and your community, join this training to learn the basics.

No registration is needed—simply go to live.understood.org at the time of the chat



SOAR Online Training

The SOAR Online Course trains case managers to assist individuals



who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder to apply for the Social Security Administration's (SSA) disability programs: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). The techniques taught in this course can improve the quality and completeness of any application for SSI/SSDI.

SOAR Training

Resources

Family Support Partners - A Growing Resource for Idaho Families

Sometimes a parent with a "shared experience" can be the most helpful resource when feeling overwhelmed by raising a child with mental health challenges, drawing from their own parenting experience and additional training. Learn more about this service, how to become a CFSP and the CFSP's working in the community.



Powerpoint

YouTube



Dyslexia Resources

For teenagers with dyslexia, every class can be a struggle because they all involve some aspect of reading and spelling. Dyslexia is also connected to some social, emotional and behavioral issues. Use this visual guide to see how dyslexia can affect a high-schooler's daily life.

Link to Visual Guide

2018 Goals Calendar

Middle-schoolers with executive functioning issues often have a hard time starting tasks and completing them. That can make achieving personal goals difficult. Your child might get the idea of the goal, but not clearly see or keep in mind what steps are needed to accomplish it.

These printable 2018 calendar sheets may help him stay on

track with common goals like getting to school on time or cleaning up his room. In addition to the calendar sheets, there are 14 goals you can download, print and cut out. Each one comes with a list of steps your child can follow to get the job done. (You and your child can also create your own goals and steps.)

Together, decide which goal he should tackle each month.

Attach the goals and steps to the space on the right side of the

calendar page, and have him hang it wherever it will help the most—in his room, in the kitchen or by the door. He can check off the days or weeks that he's hit the goal so he and you can see his progress.



[Calendar Download](#)



[YouTube Video](#)

School Responder Model

The School Responder Model is a strategy for meeting behavioral health needs to keep kids in school and an alternative to exclusionary discipline policies. This animated video was prepared by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice with support from the University of Maryland, Baltimore as core partners of the National Technical Assistance Network for Children's Behavioral Health under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

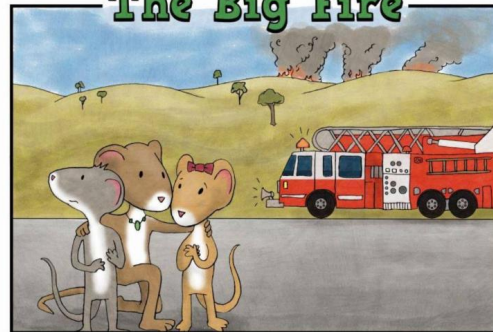
Trinka and Sam Stories

This story was developed in collaboration with the Early Trauma Treatment Network and the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

The story was developed to help young children and their families begin to talk about feelings and worries they may have after they have experienced a fire.

More information about how to help children who have experienced fires or other traumatic events can be found at www.nctsn.org.

Trinka and Sam The Big Fire



[Trinka and Sam and the Big Fire](#)

[Piplo Productions Resources](#)

[Trinka and Sam Stories](#)



