



LINKING HANDS

Issue 12

Summer 2005

Inside this issue:

- *Haught named new Family Network Director*
- *New Referral Packet available online*
- *Second Annual Resource Fair a Big Success*
- *WV Schools: IDEA 2004 goes into effect*
- *August 24 is "Graduation Day" for Regional System of Care*

As of July 2005:

1,166 youth enrolled in MSFA System of Care



Federal children's mental health program grants extension year to Mountain State Family Alliance

Southwestern WV's System of Care approved for seventh—and final—year of federal funding

CHARLESTON, WV-The WV-DHHR Bureau for Behavioral Health has been notified that federal match funding for the Mountain State Family Alliance Regional System of Care will be extended through August 2006.

According to David Majic, Director of the state's Children's Mental Health Division and principal investigator for the children's mental health pilot initiative, federal extension approval was based on the WV-DHHR's matching investment and the demonstrated success of the regional partnership in helping children with serious emotional and behavioral challenges since 1999.

Although the federal Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program funds grant communities for a maximum of six years, the extension will allow the Mountain State Family Alliance a seventh and final year of federal support. The project can use unspent grant funds to continue core community based service and support programs in WV's southwestern counties.



The core services include: intensive community-based case management services for children at highest risk of out-of-home/out-of-state psychiatric residential placement; free respite services; free family-to-family education and support; and funding for additional services and supports based on individual needs.

Mountain State Family Alliance will also continue to provide regional coordination, training and outreach to child serving agencies, schools and families in Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, Roane and Wayne counties.

MOUNTAIN STATE
FAMILY ALLIANCE

Linda Watts
Project Director

Edited by Jeanette Rowsey
Technical Assistance Coordinator

Mountain State Family Alliance
940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 335
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 399-0126
Fax (304) 399-0130

Visit us on the web at:
www.orgsites.com/wv/msfa

On August 24, 2005, Mountain State Family Alliance will be observing our “graduation” as a 6-year federal System of Care grant community.

Having accomplished our goals as a partnership of parents, providers and public agencies—MSFA will welcome our federal project officer, recognize our collaborative successes and celebrate the approval of an extended year of support.

The following organizations have served as partners in the Mountain State Family Alliance having provided services, personnel, training, governance, planning and collaboration to better address the needs of children and adolescents with serious emotional disorders and their families in southwestern West Virginia:

Alliance for Children
Braley & Thompson, Inc.
Cammack Children’s Center
Children’s Home Society
Family Service of Kanawha Valley
Golden Girl, Inc.
Governor’s Cabinet on Children & Families and Local Family Resource Networks
KVC, Inc.
Marshall University—JC Edwards School of Medicine, Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health
Mountain State ParentsChildren & Adolescents Network
Pressley Ridge
Prestera Center for Mental Health Services
Region 2 Children’s Summit & Community Children’s Collaboratives
Region 2 Family Network
River Park Hospital
Stepping Stones, Inc.
WV Youth Advocate Program
Westbrook Health Services
WV-DHHR Office of Behavioral Health Services
WV-DHHR Bureau for Children & Families
WV Division of Juvenile Services
WV Department of Education—Office of Special Education

ONE OF MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE:

Between October 1999 and July 2005, at least 309 children and adolescents from Region 2 were prevented from impending out of home or out of state placement, through regional collaborative efforts.

(Source: Tamara Swinson, KidsCare Coordinator)



Laurel Haught named Director of Regional Family Network

Region 2 Family Network, a support organization for parents and caregivers of children with serious emotional and behavioral challenges who are at risk of out of home placement, has named as its director Laurel A. Haught of Cross Lanes.

Region 2 Family Network—founded in 2003 under the administration of Marshall University School of Medicine/ University Physicians and Surgeons—is a key partner in the Mountain State Family Alliance regional System of Care grant initiative, and serves the southwestern quarter of the state that comprises WV-DHHR Region 2.

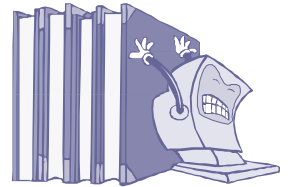
Through the Family Network, parents and caregivers of children in the System of Care have free access to skilled parent liaisons who provide information and referral, parent-to-parent education, individual advocacy and support to help families to navigate child-serving agencies and become active partners in their children's success.

Haught, the mother of seven children, has twenty years experience as a registered nurse, and has been actively involved in the Mountain State Family Alliance System of Care since 2001 as a steering team

representative, evaluation program interviewer, parent liaison and regional point-of-entry coordinator before assuming her new duties as Family Network Director.

Haught has also served on Governor Manchin's Inaugural Behavioral Health Care Transition Team, the Barboursville School Human Rights Committee, Regional CBT Oversight team, and DHHR Out of State Task Teams.

For more information, contact the Region 2 Family Network at 1-888-711-4334.



Region 2 Family Network moves!

The Region 2 Family Network will be sharing administrative space with the MSFA staff beginning in August. Please note the following changes:

940 Fourth Avenue
Suite 335
Huntington, WV
25701

(304) 525-4817
Fax (304) 399-0130

**Toll Free:
1-888-711-4334**



Attention Parents: MAJOR CHANGES IN FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW TO AFFECT INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION (IEP) PROCESS

The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004)*, reauthorized by Congress on November 19, 2004 and signed into law on December 3, 2004, includes revisions to IDEA 97 as well as some new provisions.

According to the WV Office of Special Education, all provisions of the new special education law are effective July 1, 2005.

Many of the provisions will become clearer as regulations and guidance are provided by the U.S. Department of Education. Following receipt of the new federal regulations, the West Virginia Department of

Education, Office of Special Education (OSE) will revise *WV Policy 2419* to reflect those changes.

In the meantime, WV-OSE will work with local school districts and with parent support organizations (including the Mountain State Family Alliance & Region 2 Family Network) to make a smooth transition to the new law.

In addition to changes in due process procedures and disciplinary action, several important changes affect the IEP process as of July 1, 2005:

- With the exception of students taking the Alternate Assessment, IEP teams are no longer be

required to list short-term objectives/benchmarks on the IEP document.

- With the parent's written consent, IEP a team member can be excused from the IEP meeting under certain conditions.
- Changes to the IEP can be made without convening a meeting so long as the parent and county special education representative agree to develop a written document of IEP changes.
- Parent and county special education representative can choose to use alternative means of meeting participation if a face-to-face meeting is not practical.



LEARN MORE ABOUT IDEA 2004 CHANGES . . .

IMPORTANT LINKS FROM WV OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/ose/AmendedPolicyStatementswIntroduction.pdf> (Interim Guidance)

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/ose/ParentNotice2.doc> (An Important Message for Parents on Major Changes)

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/csos/> (West Virginia Content Standards & Objectives)

OTHER INFORMATIVE SITES:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c108:h.r.1350.enr>

<http://www.copaa.net/news/idea04.html>

<http://www.c-c-d.org/IdeaUserGuide.pdf>

<http://www.fape.org/idea/2004/summary.htm>

<http://www.advocacycenter.com/Bridge%2012-04.pdf>

<http://www.askresource.org/resources/July%2005%20%20PTI%20PRESS.pdf>

http://www.chadd.org/webpage.cfm?cat_id=5&subcat_id=23

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which is now known as the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, was first enacted in 1975. This landmark legislation was needed to assure that students with disabilities receive free appropriate public education (FAPE) and the related services and support they need to achieve. IDEA was created to help states and school districts meet their legal obligations to educate children with disabilities.

For further information, contact your school IEP Chairperson, County Special Education Representative, or local Parent-Educator Resource Center:



Cabell County

Family Connection
2549 First Avenue
Huntington, WV 25703
(304) 528-5208
Billie J. Chapman-Parent
Lisa Ledbetter-Educator
Tiffany Copenhaver-Educator
Kimberly Watson-Educator
Renee Kessinger-Educator

Jackson County

P.O. Box 770
Ripley, WV 25271
(304) 273-3545
Melanie Rankhorn-Parent
Cathy Stout-Educator

Kanawha County

200 Elizabeth Street
Charleston, WV 25311
(304) 348-7715
Cheryl Belcher-Educator
Jane Elliott-Educator
Jeanne Grubb-Parent
Sheila Harper-parent
Cindy Hawkins-Educator
Marianne LeDonne-Educator
Beverly Mullins-Parent
Marilyn Nichols-Parent
Kim Waggy-Educator

Lincoln County

10 Marland Ave.
Hamlin, WV 25523
(304) 824-3033 Ext. 238
Donna Jarrell-Parent
Carolyn Walls - Educator

Logan County

P.O. Box 477
Logan, WV 25601
(304) 792-2086
Tammy Farrow-Parent
Debbie Willis - Educator

Mason County

Hannan High School
6770 Ashton Upland Road
Ashton, WV 25503
(304) 576-2571
(304) 743-3212
(304) 675-5762 (Pt. Pleasant)
Brenda Stover - Parent
Donna Mayes – Parent
Volunteer
Sandra Lovejoy-Educator

Mingo County

Route 2 Box 310
Williamson, WV 25661
(304) 235-3333 ext.123
Teria Keathley - Educator
Sharron Hill-Parent

Putnam County

P.O. Box 640
Eleanor, WV 25070
(Putnam Career & Technical Center
1001 Roosevelt Blvd.,
Eleanor)
(304) 586-3494, ext. 243
Terri Eggleston-Parent
Elaine McClagherty-Educator
Adrian Zinkl-Parent

Roane County

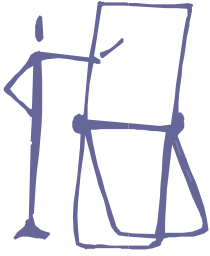
802 Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 609
Spencer, WV 25276
(304) 927-6441
Nicole Rhodes-Parent
Kim Frum-Educator

Wayne County

P.O. Box 70
212 North Court Street
Wayne, WV 25570
(304) 272-5116 ext. 330 or
315
Patricia Cline-Parent
Elaine May-Educator

For additional information or help on understanding your child's emotional/behavioral diagnosis, as well as strategies for working with schools and other professionals to help meet your child's educational needs, contact the Region 2 Family Network at 1-888-711-4334.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Designed to increase competency of families and professionals who serve children with emotional or behavioral disorders. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JEANETTE ROWSEY AT MOUNTAIN STATE FAMILY ALLIANCE AT 399-0126, extension 101.

ORIENTATION TO CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS OF CARE (2 HRS)

By appointment, contact Jeanette at MSFA at 399-0126 to schedule.

SOLVING THE PUZZLE OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS, WITH CLINICAL AND PARENT PERSPECTIVES. (3 HOURS)

Available in self-study video format, or through Region 2 Family Network, 1-888-711-4334

MARSHALLING THE TROOPS – STRENGTH-BASED ASSESSMENT & SERVICE PLANNING (6 HRS)

- **Wednesday, September 21**, Logan, WV. CEU's available.
- **Wednesday, November 9**, Ripley, WV. CEU's available.

FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE (6 HRS)

- **Wednesday, August 31**: Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center (Charleston). Contact Regional FRN at 414-4470 to register. Social Work CEU's available.
- Additional dates to be announced for Fall 2005.

Visit MSFA's website for a complete updated calendar of Learning Opportunities & Events:

www.orgsites.com/wv/msfa

"HOW DO I KNOW IF A CHILD IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE MOUNTAIN STATE FAMILY ALLIANCE?"

- The child has a Mental Health diagnosis that severely impairs his/her functioning
- The Child is involved with two or more systems such as education, juvenile probation, child welfare or public health in DHHR Region II and Clay County
- The legal guardian or caregiver agrees for the child to receive System of Care services.
 - The child is able to remain at home or is being placed in a family-type setting

For more information: Call (304) 399-0126

New MSFA
referral forms

ATTENTION CASE MANAGERS:

Mountain State Family Alliance has revised its referral and consent forms as of June 24, 2005. Please discard old referral packets.

The new packet may be downloaded as an Adobe Acrobat Reader file at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/wv/msfa/ReferralPacket.pdf>

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council is currently seeking applications from adults with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities to participate in the Partners in Policymaking (PIP) training series starting September 2005. **In addition, the Council has obtained scholarships from the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council and the WV Department of Education to support a few parents of children and adults with disabilities other than developmental disabilities.**

A copy of the application can be found on the Council web-page www.wvddc.org, by calling the DD Council office at (304) 558-0416



WV-DHHR child welfare staff from southwestern WV gathered in Charleston to meet with dozens of regional service providers at the second annual Resource & Service Fair sponsored by Mountain State Family Alliance and the Region 2 Children's Summit.

Photo by Robin

Second Annual Region 2 Resource & Service Fair a welcome opportunity for new Child Protective Services staff and many others

In June 97 child welfare employees of the WV Department of Health & Human Resources took advantage of a new kind of learning opportunity made available through the Region 2 Children's Summit and the Mountain State Family Alliance.

The Region 2 Resource & Service Fair was a brainstorm of DHHR Regional Program Manager Beth Cook and others at a monthly Region 2 Summit meeting early in 2004. Building on the successes and lessons of last year's fair, MSFA's Jeanette Rowsey and Cindy Bryant joined efforts with DHHR employees Amy Lawson-Booth, Sue McDowelle, Jennifer Lilly, Gina Watson, Keyota Bradley, Patty Harold, Vanessa Brunty, Matthew Pettry and John Grant to put on the four-hour event.

Over 30 regional providers of community mental health, behavioral health, foster/adoption, residential, shelter, hospitalization, early childhood, juvenile justice, education and family-to-family support services were represented at the fair. Each organization provided literature, referral materials and "face time" to the 144 participants.

Overwhelmingly positive evaluations were received from the participants. DHHR Child Protective Services, Youth Services, Foster and Adoption staff, many of them new to their jobs, commented on things they especially liked about the Resource & Service Fair.

"I liked learning about different programs that are available throughout the region."

"Having a wide variety of service info available at one time"

"Brochures from providers that I was not familiar with"

"Finding new services for my consumers"

"Meeting providers face to face client had only talked to on the phone"

"All the information given out by each individual resource, phone numbers, contacts, updated info, etc."

"Hearing about other programs and making the initial contact"

"Learned of additional services to better serve clients"

Mountain State Family Alliance
c/o Prestera Center for Mental Health Services
3375 U.S. Route 60, East
Huntington, WV 25705

Nonprofit Organization
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Huntington, WV
Permit No. 56

Mountain State Family Alliance

940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 335
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 399-0126

We're on the web!
www.orgsites.com/wv/msfa

The vision of the Region II System of Care Grant Project, Mountain State Family Alliance, is a comprehensive and integrated system of care where children with serious emotional disturbances and their families can choose and receive timely services within their communities that are strength based and culturally sensitive.

At the core of the system of care are these principles:

- Child-focused, family-driven services
- Community-based services
- Strength-based service planning
- Availability of services regardless of ability to pay
- System level coordination
- Partnering with families
- Ongoing training for families, providers & communities