

Gain
valuable insights on
parenting a child with
special needs!

**Don't miss this opportunity
to invest in your child's future!**

*Specifically designed for parents of children with disabilities/delays
from birth through 21 years of age.*
5th Bi-Annual Parent Conference

GET CONNECTED!

Present

**Options & Advocacy for McHenry County,
Family CARE and
Special Education District of McHenry County**



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Crystal Lake, IL 60012

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**Get
Connected!**

**Options & Advocacy for McHenry County,
Family CARE and
Special Education District of McHenry County (SEDOM)**

Present

GET CONNECTED!

5th Bi-Annual Parent Conference

*Specifically designed for parents of children
with disabilities/delays from birth through 21 years of age.*

Saturday, March 13, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

McHenry County College, Conference Center

8900 U.S. Highway 14

Crystal Lake, IL 60012

Breakout sessions include:

- Understanding the Siblings of Children with Special Needs
- Lift Up Your Voice and.... Why Family (Your) Voice is so Important!
- What's Up, Doc?
- Effective Communication for a Successful IEP
- Navigating Government Resources
- Engaging Youth in Active Communication
- Planning for my Child's Future
- Show Me the Money – Dwindling State Resources and a Potential Response
- Managing and Understanding Behavior

**The cost of this conference is \$35 per participant / \$50 per couple*
(Lunch included)**

Registration is required - Space is limited - Please register early!

**Scholarships available through the Arc of Illinois
Consumer Involvement Fund Program and
STAR NET's Family Fellowship Program.
Visit www.thearcofil.org/document.asp?did=35
and www.thecenterweb.org/starnet/fund-fellow.html
for further details.*

Related
social service agencies,
support groups, and vendors
will be on-site throughout the
conference.

For further information contact Kathy Reeves at 815-477-4720 ext. 250, or kathy.reeves@opad.org

Dr. Richard Ney - Keynote Presenter

The Importance of First Being a Family

Dr. Richard Ney is a father of 2 adult children, one of whom has autism. Dr. Ney is also a Professor in the Department of Behavioral Medicine at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, IL and a Clinical Psychologist with Salt Creek Therapy Center in Naperville. He received his Ph.D. at Loyola University in Chicago in Experimental Cognitive Psychology and completed a two-year post-doctoral training in psychotherapy at University of Health Sciences/Chicago Medical School. Richard is a former director of Adult Inpatient Services at Chicago-Reed Mental Health Center in Chicago and former Chair in the Department of Psychology at Lewis University.

Breakout Session One 9:45 - 11:00 am

Understanding the Siblings of Children with Special Needs An odyssey is defined as a long adventurous voyage or trip, an intellectual or spiritual quest. This definition truly describes the life journey of families and siblings of children with special needs. During this presentation, you will explore the emotional, social and intellectual development of these siblings. We will also look at what happens to siblings of children with special needs as they enter adolescence and adulthood.

Dr. Richard Ney See Keynote

Lift Up Your Voice and....Why Family (Your) Voice is so Important! There is a movement across the US for Health Care – Physical and Mental -to become “Family/Consumer Driven and Youth Guided.” What exactly does that mean, and how does that pertain to us as a family member, consumer or youth? Is it possible for us to really drive the care that we ourselves or our loved ones receive? This breakout will show you how that is possible and give you tools to lift up your voice and... join the movement.

Susan Ling is the Illinois Dept. of Human Services/Division of Mental Health/Child & Adolescent Services - Family Consumer Specialist for DMH Region 2. She has served in this role since October 2008. Before this she worked as a Family Resource Developer in McHenry County working with families involved in the Wraparound process. She has been very active in NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) for the past six years and was awarded her affiliate's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2008 and 2009. She is currently serving her fourth year as the NAMI Illinois Consumer Council Rep to the NAMI National Consumer Council and is most interested in educational issues as they pertain to mental illness and disorders of the brain. She is very active at the local, state, and national levels in all areas pertaining to youth and adult mental health issues.

What's Up, Doc? Dr. Gancayco will explore the difficulties that parents experience navigating the medical environment and parenting a child with special needs. Additional topics will include communicating with your pediatrician and specialists effectively, simple advice on working with your insurance company and learning how to be an active participant in your child's medical care. Questions from the audience are encouraged.

Dr. Jamie Gancayco is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Gancayco received her MD from Loyola University Chicago and is a physician in Urgent Care practice with Centegra Primary Care. Dr. Gancayco is also a board member for The Center for Independence through Conductive Education and co-directs the Northwest site located in Lake Zurich, IL. The Center provides intense motor training for children with Cerebral Palsy.

Breakout Session Two 12:10 - 1:20 pm

Navigating Government Resources This presentation will provide the who, what, where, when, why, and how of government benefits. Sherri will sort out the alphabet soup of SSI, SSDI and HBWD, as well as medicaid and medicare. She will address how to effectively navigate the winding maze of services in order to ensure the quality of your child's future.

Sherri Schneider, QMRP, President of Family Benefit Solutions, Inc., and the mother of a child with special needs has been dedicated to helping individuals with special needs and their families. She also launched one of the first CLF facilities funded under a Medicaid waiver. She now meets with families to assess their situations and pursue appropriate benefit assistance programs by personally guiding them through the application process. Due to her vast experience, she has skillfully established and maintained open, productive relationships with government agencies involved in the entire decision-making process.

Effective Communication for a Successful IEP Our speaker will provide information to families on identifying the roles of IEP participants and clearly understanding their rights and responsibilities as parents. Ms. Woods will give guidelines on how to effectively plan for your child's future in education and will stress the importance of timely transition planning. A local school district representative will be present to provide a local perspective as well connect parents with what is happening in our communities.

Susy Woods is the mother of two adult children, one of whom has a developmental disability and numerous health problems. Susy is currently the director of disability services at University of Illinois Springfield and has also taught as an adjunct in the Women's and Gender Studies program. She also is the public policy educator for the Illinois Assistive Technology Program. She is chair of ISAC (Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Students with Disabilities), serves on the Parental Leadership Council, serves on the board of the ARC of Illinois as the public policy chair, serves as secretary for Impact Center for Independent Living and as public policy chair, serves on the Due Process Screening Committee, and serves as part of the focused monitoring team for ISBE.

She holds a master's degree in political science and women's issues and is working on an Ed.D. in education. She currently does pro bono advocacy for families who need support in the educational system.

Engaging Youth in Active Communication Looking for new ways to engage your youth? Do you want to improve family communication, cooperation, and problem-solving? Does it seem like talking is not getting the lasting change you seek? Come prepared to experience a method that involves the whole person through active participation. Attendees will have the opportunity learn how to facilitate at least one exercise and be informed on where/how they could access additional resources if they want to learn more.

Sean M. Hoyer is a Youth and Family Treatment Specialist working for OMNI Youth Services. As a senior member of the Juvenile Justice Team and JOURNEY Team Leader, Sean combines therapeutic and outdoor technical skills to reach youth in innovative programming. Mr. Hoyer is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified AODA Counselor (CADC), and a Certified Clinical Criminal Justice Specialist. Mr. Hoyer also holds certificates as a School Social Worker, Wilderness First Responder and an Outdoor Educator. OMNI Youth Services has offered comprehensive community-based social services to the youth and families of Chicago's northwest suburbs since 1972.

Breakout Session Three 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Planning for my Child's Future As parents of a child with special needs, we all wish... no, we pray... that our child with “special needs” will have a long, happy & enjoyable life... but that we live at least one moment longer. As difficult as it is to think about dying before our “special” child, we must! We must plan to assure that our child with special needs remains qualified or able to qualify in the future, for government benefits such as SSI and Medicaid... and to protect any future inheritance from claims of the government for reimbursement for benefits provided to our child prior to receipt of the inheritance.

Brian Rubin has practiced law since 1976 and is a parent of three children, one of whom has autism. Since 1981, he has been dedicated to serving the legal and “future planning” needs of families with children and adults with special needs. Brian is a past Chairman of the State of Illinois, Department of Human Services (IL-DHS) Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) and serves on the following committees: Co-Chairman of the IL-DHS Autism Task Force, a member of IL-DHS Division of DD Strategic Plan Committee, and a member of the Illinois Disabilities Services Advisory Committee (Olmstead Committee) by appointment of the Governor. Also by appointment of the Governor, he serves as a member of the IL-DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) Quality Care Board, which oversees the activities of the OIG, investigating allegations of abuse and neglect of individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

Show Me the Money – Dwindling State Resources and a Potential Response Each year funding for services for children and adults with developmental disabilities becomes less and less. Senator Pamela Althoff and Cindy Sullivan will present the stark realities of services within Illinois and a possible local response. Learn how we could potentially make real change in McHenry County.

Cindy Sullivan, M.S. is the Executive Director of Options & Advocacy for McHenry County. She is the parent of two adult children, one of whom has significant disabilities. First as Stef's mom, Cindy has been advocating on behalf of persons with disabilities for over 25 years. She remains committed to the belief that parents can and do make a real difference in this world!

Senator Pamela Althoff was appointed to the Illinois State Senate in March of 2003 and elected to a four-year term in November of 2004. Senator Althoff serves on a number of Senate committees. Locally, Senator Althoff served as a board member and general campaign chair for United Way (2006-7) and remains active as a board member. The senator is also active with the McHenry County College Foundation Board, McHenry County College Friends of the Foundation, McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce, Pioneer Center and PALS.

Prior to joining the State Senate, Althoff served as Mayor for the City of McHenry, as well as being a Special Education teacher. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Education from Illinois State University and a Masters Degree in Education from Northeastern Illinois University.

Managing and Understanding Behavior This interactive training will provide effective, concrete techniques for parents working with children and adolescents that exhibit moderate to severe behavior problems. This training will contain practical applications of techniques that parents can use for children/adolescents to help them regain control over their environment. The participants will have an understanding how parents with children/adolescents that have behavior problems are living within domestic violent homes (children abusing family). This upside down DV situation provides little empathy and direction from communities since we are trained to see only the children (and battered wives) as victims. This training will allow parents and providers to recognize DV homes and teach real world techniques to empower parents to move from surviving to living within their homes once again.

Jim Kling (MA, Special Education) has been working in the field of behavioral psychology for nearly twenty years. Concerned about increasing numbers of children who would not respond to traditional methods, Mr. Kling founded Alternative Teaching, Inc. in 1996. Since then, he has helped countless families of difficult children, moving them from complete dysfunction to stable and successful family units.

Mr. Kling specializes in “treatment resistant” children and adolescents and is often contacted after repeated placement disruptions. His Fair but Firm® method has proven effective especially when traditional methods have been unsuccessful. The in-home service program was originally designed to work with youth exhibiting behavioral problems such as oppositional/defiant, hyperactivity and other related issues. The program has expanded to include behaviors associated with cognitive and social impairments, including mental retardation and autism.