



The Beacon



**The NC Family to Family Health Information Center
A project of The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center
Home to Family Voices of NC**

April, 2009



Volume 3, Issue 3

Welcome from the NC Family to Family Health Information Center (HIC)!

This monthly electronic newsletter is designed to provide parents with links, resources, information and activities of particular interest to the issues of children with special health care needs.

To be added or removed from "The Beacon" mailing list please email us at: hic@ecacmail.org

We Still Need YOU!

Child Health Needs Assessment Survey for Families

For those of you that have already completed this survey, we appreciate your input. If you have not had the opportunity to participate, please take a moment and share your opinion with us.

State Title V agencies are required to conduct needs assessments every 5 years and to use the findings of the assessment to identify priorities and to guide resource allocation and program planning. The Title V Needs Assessment, a requirement of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant application, is a critical element of the MCH program planning process. Your response will be used in this process. Thank you!

Your opinion counts!



Click here: [SURVEY](#)

For more information on Title V agencies please click on the link below:

[Title V](#)

Previous Editions

Click on the month:

March 2009
February 2009
January 2009
December 2008
November 2008

The NC Family to Family Health Information Center

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Best Practice Bulletin:



This month we are providing another "Best Practice" Bulletin. The Policy Brief we consider a Best Practice is titled "**Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Family Supports**" and can be found on the National Center for Cultural Competence's (NCCC) website (please click link below). This document is an important tool for programs and organizations who provide family supports.

Examples of family supports include in-home care and services; temporary relief and respite care; child care; financial assistance; assistance in accessing and coordinating needed resources; family-to-family support; education and skill building to provide effective parenting and care; modifications to the family's dwelling; future financial planning; and social, spiritual, and emotional support for all family members.

The NCCC is a component of the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development and is housed within the Department of Pediatrics of the Georgetown University Medical Center. They provide national leadership and contribute to the body of knowledge on cultural and linguistic competency within systems and organizations. The NCCC provides services to local, state, federal, and international governmental agencies, family advocacy and support organizations, local hospitals and health centers, healthcare systems, health plans, mental health systems, universities, quality improvement organizations, national professional associations, and foundations.

NCCC Definition of Culture

Culture is an integrated pattern of human behavior which includes but is not limited to thought, communication, languages, beliefs, values, practices, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting, roles relationships, and expected behaviors of a racial, ethnic, religious, spiritual, social, or political group; the ability to transmit the above to succeeding generations; and dynamic in nature.

NCCC Definition of Linguistic Competence

Linguistic competence is the capacity of an organization and its personnel to communicate effectively, and convey information in a manner that is easily understood by diverse audiences including persons of limited English proficiency, those who have low literacy skills or are not literate, and individuals with disabilities.

Please follow the link to discover the important effect that cultural and linguistic competence has in family supports:

[Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Family Supports](#)

Internet Links:

Topic	Link To Web Article Simply click on title to be taken directly to the web page! (Ctrl + click)
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs	<u>Achieving and Measuring Success: a National Agenda for Children with Special Health Care Needs</u>
Families In Need	<u>Making Ends Meet</u>
Monthly Health Topic: Sports Eye Safety Month	<u>American Academy of Ophthalmology</u>
Financial Concerns Insurance Issues	<u>Health Choice Fact Sheet</u>
Medical Home	<u>Video from NC Healthy Start</u>
Cultural Awareness	<u>Cultural Awareness Resources</u> (
Mental Health Information	<u>Instruction Manual on Person-Centered Planning</u>
Caregivers	<u>Respite Article</u>
Families as Leaders*	<u>North Carolina Family Policy Council</u>

*For parents interested in leadership activities please contact the North Carolina Family to Family Health Information Center to learn more about our Family Leaders conference calls and blog. The telephone number is 1-800- 962-6817 ext.35.



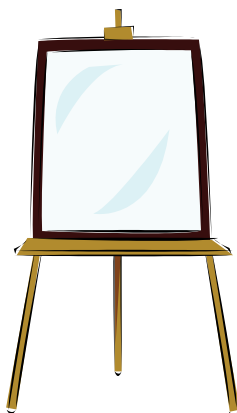
Upcoming Events:



- April 2, 2009, 6:00pm-7:30pm Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care Hendersonville, NC
- April 7, 2009, 6:00pm -8:00pm Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care and Mentorship Training, Jacksonville, NC
- April 18, 2009, 11:00am-1:00pm How to be an Effective Health Care Advocate Sanford, NC
- April 21, 2009, Navigating And Negotiating The Developmental Disabilities System
- April 28, 2009, 6:30pm-8:30pm Medical Record Keeping with a Care Notebook Selma, NC

Call us to schedule a workshop in your area!

(800) 962-6817 ext. 35





Announcements:

Family Council Seeks Members

It is time once again to seek applicants for membership on the NC Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section's Family Council for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. The Family Council is a statewide council that:

- advises and promotes services to improve the health and well-being of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and their families
- have firsthand knowledge of issues and concerns facing the families of children and youth with special health care needs
- through the work of council and its committees, work to improve services across North Carolina

The Membership Committee of the Family Council is looking for family members; parents, grandparents, foster parents of children and youth of all ages who have special health care needs. Of particular interest as possible members are young adults with special health care needs and families who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

Applications are available in both English and Spanish and are due April 27th, 2009. Please contact us at (800) 962-6817 ext. 35 to have the application emailed you. Send applications to:

Marlyn Wells, Family Liaison Specialist

Children and Youth Branch

1928 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1928

or by fax to:

919-870-4880

attn: Marlyn Wells

For more information, please contact the Children with Special Health Care Needs Help Line at 1-800-7373028

SafeLink Wireless Phone Service

Lifeline Assistance is part of a program that was created by the government to provide **discounted** or **free** telephone service to income-eligible consumers. To help bring you this important benefit, SafeLink Wireless is proud to offer Lifeline Service. Through our Lifeline Service you will receive *FREE cellular service, a FREE cell phone, and FREE Minutes every month!* SafeLink Wireless Service does not cost anything – there are no contracts, no recurring fees and no monthly charges. Any minutes you do not use will roll-over. Features such as caller ID, call waiting and voicemail are all also included with your service. For more information please visit their website:

[Lifeline Service](#)





Visit us online!

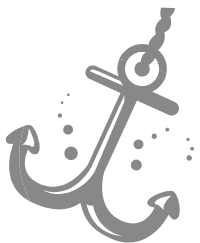
www.ecac-parentcenter.org

Lending Library

The NC Family to Family Health Information Center is adding health and disability specific books to the lending library at The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center. Our library has over 2,000 books which are available to NC parents at no charge. To borrow a book or other library item, please call Shandra Umazar, ECAC's librarian at **(800) 962-6817 ext. 13**.

Health Related Books Added This Month:

- *Optimizing Care For Young Children With Special Health Care Needs: Knowledge And Strategies For Navigating The System* By Elisa J. Sobo and Paul S. Kurtin
- *Extreme Parenting: Parenting Your Child With A Chronic Illness* By Sharon Dempsey and Hilton Davis



The purpose of the e-letter is to assist families and the professionals working with them to better understand issues and resources related to health care for children and youth with special needs so that they may make informed choices. Funding comes in part from grants from CMS and HRSA. The views and opinions herein do not necessarily reflect views or policies of CMS, HRSA, The NC Family to Family Health Information Center, or The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center.
