



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**

February, 2009



Volume 3, Issue 1

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 <mailto:hic@ecacmail.org>

You will **LOVE** what we have going on!

Click on a heart below for more information on support groups and workshops in your area *and* view the flyer for information about an upcoming conference:



Previous Editions

Click on the

January 2009
December 2008
November 2008
October 2008
September 2008

The NC Family to Family Health Information Center

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Lifeline for Parents:

**INCLUSIVE
HEALTH**

More Help for North Carolinians that Need More Affordable Health Insurance

If you have had trouble in North Carolina finding health insurance due to having a high risk medical condition, your search may have just gotten a little easier. Inclusive Health, also known as the North Carolina Health Insurance Risk Pool (NCHIRP), provides affordable, individual health insurance coverage for North Carolinians who do not have access to an employer health plan and face higher premiums due to a pre-existing medical condition. Inclusive Health will also offer coverage to individuals in three categories:

- Individuals who have a high risk medical condition who may have been turned down by an insurance company or received a premium that is unaffordable;
- Individuals who are federally defined HIPAA eligible; or
- Individuals who qualify due to loss of employment due to the effects of international trade under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act.

Inclusive Health was created by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2007, and began accepting enrollment applications in the fall of 2008 for an effective date of January 2009. To be eligible for Inclusive Health, here are the eligibility requirements:

- You've received a notice of rejection or refusal to issue similar coverage for medical reasons.
- You've been offered coverage with conditional rider limiting coverage.
- You've been offered coverage at rates higher than Inclusive Health's rates, or you have similar non-group coverage at a rate higher than Inclusive Health's rate.
- You've been diagnosed with a condition from a list of high-risk conditions (for convenience – does not have to go through application/rejection).
- You are federally (HIPAA) eligible, or currently have HIPAA coverage.
- You are a resident eligible for federal Health Coverage Tax Credit (trade-displaced workers, PBGC recipients).

To find more information, get an application, apply on-line or check the rates, please refer to our website: www.inclusivehealth.org or call our Customer Service Center at (866) 665-2117.

**INCLUSIVE
HEALTH**

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>CaringBridge</u>
Transition	<u>Youth and Family Perspectives on Transition</u>
Monthly Health Topic: Dental Health	<u>Child Dental Health Month</u>
Disaster Preparedness/ Emergency Planning	<u>Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide</u>
Financial Concerns Insurance Issues	<u>Direct Express: Debit MasterCard, a safer, more convenient way to receive federal benefits</u>
Advocacy	<u>Health Coverage for all Children</u>
Cultural Awareness	<u>How to Develop an Awareness of Cultural Diversity</u>
Legal Information	<u>National Health Law Program</u>
Provider Issues	<u>Patients Bill of Rights</u>
Families as Leaders	<u>Developing Family-Service Provider Leadership</u>

Upcoming Events:



- February 7, 2009, 10:30am-12:00pm **SPANISH Care Notebook** Winston Salem, NC
- February 24, 2009, 6:00pm-8:00pm **How to be an Effective Health Care Advocate** West Jefferson, NC
- February 26, 2009 6:30pm-8:00pm **How to be an Effective Health Care Advocate** Durham, NC
- February 28, 2009 3:00pm-5:00pm **How to be an Effective Health Care Advocate** Charlotte, NC



- March 5, 2009, 6:00pm-8:00pm **How to be an Effective Health Care Advocate** Huntersville, NC
- March 7, 2009, 10:00am-1:00pm **Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care** Mooresville, NC
- March 10, 2009, 6:00pm-8:00pm **Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care** Conover, NC
- March 21, 2009, 9:00am-4:00pm **Family Leadership Institute, Parents as Leaders: Impacting Health Care Policy** Blowing Rock, NC
- March 23, 2009, 7:00pm-9:00pm **Navigating and Negotiating Developmental Disabilities** Mooresville, NC

Call us to schedule a workshop in your area!

(800) 962-6817 ext. 35



Parents of children and youth with special needs, please join us if you are interested in learning how to develop the skills necessary to become an effective leader in your community (state or nation!). Join us on March 21, 2009 from 9am-4pm in Blowing Rock, NC, for an all day leadership training. The **Family Leadership Institute, Parents as Leaders: Impacting Health Care Policy** will provide emerging leaders with:

- Advocacy skills for your child
- Information on how to serve effectively on boards and committees
- Resources to locate leadership opportunities on a local, state, and nationwide level
- Helpful tips to present and utilize your skills

Seating is limited so call now to make your reservation! (800) 962-6817 ext. 35. To view the complete flyer simply follow the link: [Family Leadership Institute](#)



Announcements

Merrill Lynch is presenting an interactive seminar on Special Needs Planning:

February 25, 2009

7:00-9:30pm EST

Join a Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor, a third party special needs trust attorney, and a representative from a third-party disability organization as they discuss the financial, legal and social challenges faced by families like your. (Please note that Merrill Lynch nor its personnel provide tax, accounting or legal advice.

Location: www.epliveonline.com in 2 convenient formats

- Live, one-way audio/video streamed with e-mail chat
- Archived (viewed online after the event)

There is no registration fee to participate!

Registration: ([click here to register](#))



Victory Junction Gang Camp

Victory Junction is still looking for a few great families for their February and March sessions; it's not too late! Please visit their website at www.victoryjunction.org for specific dates and to apply.

If you haven't been to Victory Junction before please know that it is an experience that you and your family will enjoy. The mission of Victory Junction is to enrich the lives of children with chronic medical conditions or serious illnesses by providing life-changing camping experiences that are exciting, fun and empowering, in a safe and medically sound environment.

Happy Birthday Beacon!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our readers and supporters, for making the second year of “**The Beacon**” a successful one! It is through your emails and calls that we have learned how important this type of information really is. Please let us know if you come across a web site or link that you would like to share or if you know of a support group that should be added to our list.

The staff here at the NC Family to Family Health Information Center looks forward to putting this monthly electronic newsletter together and we thank you for all your encouragement. Please be sure to tell other parents so our distribution list can continue to grow!



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:

- *The Personal Care Attendant Guide* by Katie R. Banister
- *Superparenting for ADD* by Edward M Hallowell, M.D. and Peter S. Jensen, M.D.

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.
