

Call for Presenters...

Families First –Imagine the Possibilities

A Conference for Families of Children and Young Adults
With Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs,

and

The Professionals Who Support Them

www.familiesfirstnv.org

October 2-3, 2009

University of Nevada, Reno

Joe Crowley Student Union Conference Center



At the 2007 “Families First” two-day conference in Las Vegas over 280 attendees came together to listen and learn from more than 64 concurrent sessions, two keynote presentations, two guest speakers, as well as hearing from Senator Dina Titus and Nevada’s First Lady, Dawn Gibbons. Presenters came from Nevada, California, Florida, Minnesota, Georgia, and Massachusetts.

The “Families First” Conference Planning Committee would like to extend to you, your staff, and other interested parties an invitation to submit a proposal to present at the **Families First – “Imagine the Possibilities”** conference, October 2-3, 2009. This conference will be held at UNR’s Joe Crowley Student Union Conference Center in Reno, Nevada.

The “Families First” event will include keynotes, guest speakers, concurrent sessions, business and non-profit resource tables. It will bring together a wide range of people from across the state and provide information useful to families, administrators, medical professionals, educators, advocates, caregivers, policymakers, and others providing support and care for children or youth with disabilities or special health care needs.

We encourage applications from all those with information and/or expertise in any or all of the topic areas listed on the application sheet. Applications will be welcomed from administrators, educators, service providers, other professionals, parents, family members, youth and adults with disabilities, advocates and volunteers. Presentations that model best practice, cooperation and collaboration are encouraged.

We value presentations that present current and best practices, including basic information as well as innovative approaches to inclusion, community leadership, advocacy, collaboration, assessment, health, intervention, and instruction. Also sought are sessions that present new ways to ensure successful outcomes, transition, utilize assistive technology, curriculum modification, provide a continuum of services, and foster a valued future. Of particular interest are hands-on practical techniques. It is expected that presentations will provide to both new and experienced conference attendees current information and opinion on both continuing and evolving topics of interest and concern. We encourage parents and/or providers as co-presenters; non-profit organizations and government programs, educators, youth or adults with disabilities and health care professionals. Keep in mind these are only suggestions of some collaborative and cooperative presentations; it is not a comprehensive list.

The **Nevada Families First conference** seeks to strengthen ties and enhance family support by bringing together **families** with children or young adults who have disabilities or other special health care needs and the **professionals** who support those families.

* Education Credit through the Nevada Department of Education and Child Care Training hours through the Nevada Registry will be available for this conference.

Tracks and "Suggested" Topic Areas:



1. Parents & Families

- a) Stress & Health
- b) Fathers
- c) Financial, Guardianship, & Life Planning
- d) Siblings
- e) Respite/Childcare

2. Advocacy, Leadership & Legal

- a) IDEA & ADA
- b) Laws, Policies & Parents Rights
- c) Advocacy & Leadership
- d) Education/Training
- e) Relationship Building

3. Early Childhood

- a) IFSP & Transition
- b) Early Childhood Growth and Development
- c) Guidance/Behavior
- d) Including children with special needs in childcare

4. Healthcare & Medical

- a) Medicaid
- b) Medical Home
- c) Feeding & Nutrition
- d) Supports at Home
- e) Financial

5. Community Inclusion & Educational

- a) Behavioral & Mental Health
- b) IFSP/IEP
- c) Community Inclusion
- d) Transition
- e) Recreational
- f) Assistive Technology

The conference is collaboratively supported by the following organizations: AMERIFACE, AUTISM COALITION OF NEVADA (ACON), CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT-SPECIAL EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES, CONSUMER DIRECT PERSONAL CARE, DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES - SIERRA REGIONAL CENTER (SRC), DOWN SYNDROME NETWORK OF NORTHERN NEVADA, DOWN SYNDROME ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, EASTER SEALS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, FAMILY TIES OF NEVADA, FOUNDATION FOR POSITIVELY KIDS, FRIENDS OF SPECIAL CHILDREN, GIVE ME A BREAK, INC., HIDDEN MIRACLES, THE LILI CLAIRE FOUNDATION, LITTLE HANDS BIG HANDS, MOORE INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM, NEVADA BLIND CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION, NEVADA'S CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PROGRAM, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NEVADA DISABILITY ADVOCACY & LAW CENTER (NDALC), NEVADA'S DIVISION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD (DEC) OF THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (CEC), NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (NEIS), NEVADA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, NEVADA INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) AND ICC FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE COMMITTEE, NEVADA PEP (PARENT TRAINING & INFORMATION CENTER), NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION OFFICE OF AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES, NEVADA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCED), NORTHERN NEVADA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (NNCIL), NORTHERN NEVADA RAVE FAMILY FOUNDATION, OFFICE OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION, RENO AUTISM INFORMATION NETWORK (RAIN), TOURO UNIVERSITY-NEVADA, UNLV DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, UNR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIALTIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT-SPECIAL EDUCATION & RELATED SERVICES.

Conference GOALS:

- Build new and positive relationships at home, in schools and in communities;
- Increase family and provider effectiveness through new skills, strategies and ideas for providing high quality services;
- Enhance understanding of the unique strengths and needs of family;
- Foster partnerships across families, disciplines, agencies and funders to provide coordinated services in communities;
- Educate policymakers and other about family support needs and services;
- Promote networking and coalition building around childhood, young adults and transition issues;
- Provide access to practical, research-based information about children with disabilities or special health care needs and their families; and
- Promote the mutual understanding of the contributions families and providers bring to the lives of children and young adults with disabilities or special health care needs.

Applications should be: **Submitted/Postmarked by March 2, 2009**

How will presentations be selected?

Presentation Selection Criteria

Proposals that miss the submission deadline of **March 2nd**, or do not provide the requested information may not get the requested day to present or risk being eliminated from consideration. Each application will then be evaluated according to the following criteria in priority order:

1. **Relevance to Goals and Tracks or Topic Areas** - See Conference Goals and the Track/Topic list
2. **Evidence of partnerships/collaborations** - Providers or professionals working together with parents or individuals with disabilities.
3. **New Ideas** or **demonstration of creative thinking** - Topics and presenters that have new twists on topics.
4. **Sharing best practices** - current research, models, and strategies
5. **Clearly stated learning objectives** - Includes two to four learning goals for the presentations - what will participants take away from this presentation? Findings or lessons learned?
6. **Practical Information/Materials** to be distributed during presentation - Tips for professionals or parents, useful guides, resource lists, and other practical information. **Be sure to include mention of this information in your Presentation description.**

Important information and responsibilities for presenters (read carefully!):

- **Notification** of presenters selected for participation in these conferences will be sent: **April 21, 2009.**
- The **discounted** conference registration fee for presenter/co-presenters (up to three/3), will be **due July 1st**. You will need to fill out a registration form which will come with the letter of acceptance, and more information. (*last minute replacement of presenters can be made-please provide new name and bio information in advance if possible)
- Presenters are responsible for preparing and bringing their own handouts.
- A screen, or TV/VCR/DVD combo may be provided if requested. All other equipment will need to be provided by the presenter. **Some equipment can be ordered by paying an extra fee.**
- Please keep a copy of this application for your information.
- Presenters who wish to participate in the conference(s) will be responsible for any costs associated with their own travel expenses (hotel rooms, gas, meals, etc.).
- Sessions on Friday will be 75 minutes long and Sessions on Saturday will be 60 minutes long.
- Please allow for a few minutes of discussion and feedback at the end of your presentations.
- **NO SOLICITATIONS** allowed during presentations. You may elect to also apply for an exhibitor's table to offer services or goods.

You may go on-line for more information or to register at www.familiesfirstnv.org

If you have any questions, please contact the **Project ASSIST** office toll free at **(800) 522-0066**.

Send the presentation proposal form, filled out to:

[*Preferred] Email: ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov

Mail: IDEA Part C Office
Attn: Daniel Dinnell
70 Linden St., Suite 1, Reno, NV 89502

FAX: 775-829-1872... Attn: Daniel Dinnell

Hotels near UNR

Super 8 Motel (0.3 miles from the Joe Crowley Student Union)

1651 North Virginia St., Reno, NV 89503

Toll Free: (800) 800-8000 Bus. Ph: 775-329-3464 Fax: 775-329-9007

Rooms: 71 – General facilities/handicap facilities, ice/vending machines, **non-smoking rooms**, parking facilities - **free parking**. All rooms have queen and king beds, TV-basic extended cable with hbo and espn. Coffee pots, microwaves and fridges available upon request, contact property directly, pet policy in limited rooms.

Circus Circus Hotel & Casino (0.9 miles from the Joe Crowley Student Union)

500 North Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503

Toll Free: (800) 648-5010 or Phone: 775-329-0711

Rooms: 1572 – Circus Circus Reno is located in downtown Reno, approximately five miles from Reno Airport. Hotel amenities include the casino and premier show room. There are always aerialists, jugglers, musicians, acrobats, clowns, and tumblers under the Big Top. Carnival and video game arcades surround the Big Top stage area. Diners can choose from numerous fine restaurants or the deli and ice cream shop. All rooms feature air-conditioning, cable TV with pay channels, hairdryers, wireless Internet access, and video checkout. The hotel also offers five retail shops, laundry and dry cleaning, **airport shuttle service**, and free parking. * Free **RTC Sierra Spirit bus** to the University (subject to change).

Right next door to Circus Circus are ***the Silver Legacy, the Eldorado***, and other Hotels/Casinos.

* **FREE BUS** Service!!! (subject to change) **RTC Sierra Spirit** will connect you with the University of Nevada, all around downtown and back — **FREE!** The service operates every 10 minutes, every day, from 7 am to 9 pm. These bright yellow buses take you round-trip from the University to the Nevada Museum of Art as well as to the burgeoning shopping districts along the Riverwalk and on California Avenue. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) provides public transportation in Reno. Visit rtcwashoe.com for routes, schedules and fare information. **Call (775) 348-RIDE to speak with RTC Passenger Services.**
7 days a week, 7 am to 7 pm.

RTC Access provides door-to-door “prescheduled” paratransit services for people whose disabilities prevent them from using RTC Ride independently some or all of the time.