

**Family Resource
Center for
Disabilities &
Special Needs**

The Coalition

**Parent Training
& Resource
Center (PTRC)**

March 2014

Coming Soon To a Computer Near You!

The FRC is pleased to announce that we are updating our website - more than updating - we are doing a complete makeover. While the old website served us as best it could, we were unable to interface with the content in a way that kept it current and interesting. Those days will be over soon & what you'll find in its place when you visit will be amazing. Resources like our *Parent's Manual for Special Education Services*, the *Project Rest: Manual for Recommended Practice on Restraint & Seclusion*, and our *Transition Toolkit for Parents & Students* will still be available and easier to locate on the new site. Our newsletters and workshop handouts will continue to be archived with even more resources added to the new site. You may have noticed how outdated our "Resource" page has been, you can expect that will be one of the first things that gets updated. We'll even be posting more pictures! In fact, you can even support our work by making a donation to the Family Resource Center directly from the website. The site is being professionally re-designed and if it isn't up by the time you are reading this newsletter, keep checking over the next few weeks - it's guaranteed that you'll like what you see. So be sure to visit the new & improved Family Resource Center/Parent Training & Resource Center website: www.frdsn.org

While you're at it - like us on Facebook!

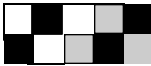


You're Invited to Help Us Build Our New Website

We want our new website to reflect the work we have been doing with families since 1999.

Since that time, we have provided direct, 1:1 Peer Parent Mentoring to well over 2100 parents of children with disabilities in the tri-county area. During these years, someone from the PTRC has accompanied parents to over 4,600 education planning meetings for their children. We are told that the support we have provided is extremely helpful and parents have shared their gratitude for "being there" when they needed us. So we're asking for a little help now. We'd like to share your stories with those who visit our website. We are looking for testimonials (and pictures) from the families who have benefited from the services provided by the PTRC. If, over the years, you have worked with one of our Peer Parent Mentors or PTRC staff and would like to share your experience, we'd like to hear from you. If you would like to share a "testimonial" or a picture of you and/or your child, please submit it to us for consideration. If your testimonial or pictures are chosen to be added to the website, you will be asked to sign a permission form before anything submitted is shared with others. Submissions may be faxed (843-266-1941), emailed (bevmccarty@frcdsn.org) or snail mailed (FRC, 1575 Savannah Hwy, Ste 6, Charleston, SC 29407)

Let us hear from you - your stories matter.



**Edwin McCain
In concert to benefit
Family Connection of
South Carolina**

**The Hall at
Senate's End**

320 Senate St. - Columbia, SC

April 6, 2014 - 6 - 9 PM



**South Carolina Youth
Leadership Forum**

The South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum is scheduled for July 9-11 at Newberry College. Application deadline is April 8, 2014.

There is no charge to students who participate but each student must provide his/her own transportation. Students who will be a junior or a senior during the 2014-2015 school year, or, students who are graduating in June 2014 are eligible to participate.

The goal of the leadership forum is to help youth with disabilities develop leadership skills that can help them in challenges they may face as part of a community.

If you or someone you know is interested, contact Laura Spears at the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department. Her number is 803-896-6574 or you may email her at Lspears@scvrd.state.sc.us.

To download an application go to <http://scvrd.net/individuals/ylyf.php#application>.

For the second year in a row, South Carolina's own singer/songwriter and Grammy nominated artist, Edwin McCain has volunteered to support Family Connections with a benefit performance. McCain is known for his hits "I'll Be" and "I Could Not Ask For More." In addition to great music, guests attending the event also will enjoy a silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. General admission tickets are \$75; special pricing for parents of children with disabilities is \$50 per ticket with a limit of 2 tickets at that price. Tickets can be purchased on line at:

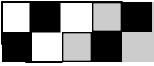
<http://www.familyconnectionsc.org/edwin.html>

Funding for Tracking Devices for Kids with Autism

The US Justice Department will make funding available immediately to provide free electronic tracking devices for kids with autism who are at risk of wandering. Recently, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder confirmed that his department has existing grant money that can be used for the technology; as he told a US Senate Panel, "Byrne grant money can be made and will be made available for the purchase of these devices."

Research suggests that about half of individuals with autism are prone to wandering, research suggests. Tracking devices can be worn as a bracelet, attached to a child's shoe or belt loop, or even sewn into clothing. In the event that an individual goes missing, a caregiver can contact the monitoring company for the device to pinpoint the person's location. The plan is modeled after an existing federal program that provides tracking devices for those with Alzheimer's disease.

Police departments nationwide will be able to make the tracking devices available to children in their communities who are at risk of wandering using money available through the Justice Department's Byrne grant program, officials at the federal agency said. Byrne is an existing program that law enforcement agencies routinely tap to pay for everything from crime prevention programs to officer training and equipment like police radios and lights for emergency vehicles. Police should go through the same process they typically utilize to seek funding from the federal Byrne program. Law



More Than “Just a Bump on the Head”

Has your child had a recent head injury? Have you noticed changes in behavior, learning or social skills? Do you know that even a mild concussion is considered a traumatic brain injury? Do you know a head injury can be considered a “concussion” even if the individual does not lose consciousness.

ANY concussion is considered a brain injury even if it is mild and consciousness was lost only briefly. Children and adolescents may “look” as if nothing is wrong but any difficulty that arises after the accident in learning, behavior, or social function needs to be considered when the child returns to school. Changes may need to be made to an IEP or 504 plan to reflect new accommodations.

If you need help to decide what changes might be needed, brainline.org has information regarding behavior, learning issues, independent functioning and social issues which can continue long after the head injury seems resolved.

There are tips for educators, school accommodations, positive behavior supports, expressive language concerns, self regulation and many other concerns which may arise after a brain injury. In addition, information regarding psychological testing to identify additional learning difficulties and suggestions for talking with your child and your child’s teachers about issues such as irritability, fatigue, and other behavior concerns is available.

Brainline.org has many other tips and articles including, tests required to determine a brain injury, recovery time from a concussion and the effects of multiple concussions.

Educational & Training Vouchers for Current & Former Foster Care Youth

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program helps current and former foster care youth through the Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program with post-secondary education costs. ETVs are grants, funded by the federal government and administered by the states, are awarded to eligible current and former foster youth to help pay for college, career school, or training. The ETV Program is intended to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18, youth who were adopted or under kinship guardianship at age 16 or older, and

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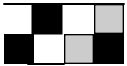
Tracking Devices

Continued

enforcement agencies can request grant money to pay for tracking devices and to provide education and training related to the issue of wandering. Police departments that receive money through the federal grant will be responsible for designing and administering their local program and determining how tracking devices are distributed. All applications must go through law enforcement agencies. The Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance approved nearly \$280 million in funding through the Byrne program in 2013. It’s unclear how much money could go toward tracking devices.

In order to assure available funding for this important technology, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., intends to introduce legislation that would allocate \$10 million to the Justice Department to create a grant program to provide tracking devices to families wishing to monitor their kids with autism and other developmental disabilities due to wandering concerns.

To learn more about accessing tracking devices, contact your local police department. If, while speaking with local law enforcement, you find they are interested in obtaining training related to issues with wandering in the developmental disability population, the Family Resource Center/PTRC can provide free training on this topic to law enforcement and parents. If they wish more info, share our number: 843-266-1318. However, it is important to note that agencies and organizations do not have access to Byrne funds.



Support Groups Can Help Lift You Up When You Feel Low Check These Out:

Trident Head Injury Support Group: meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 8:00-8:30 PM at Westwood Plaza (intersection of Hwys 7 & 61), Suite 6, next to Hancock Fabrics. For more info: Debbie Schneider at 852-5550 ext 226. Follow on Facebook.

Down Syndrome Association of the Low Country: sponsors four Information Programs and four Social Events each year - in addition to Mothers Night Out. Check their website at: www.dsalowcountry.org for a complete calendar of events or email Glenda Crain at: crainclan@comcast.net and check out their Facebook page for additional information.

Parent & Guardian Association of the Coastal Center: This group supports those with a family member residing at the Coastal Center. General meetings are held four times a year. For more information contact Linda Bodiford at 821-5809 or Suzanne at 276-1001.

Rett's Syndrome Support: Families in need of a contact person to access support services for girls with Rett's Syndrome may call Nancy Banov at 556-4632 after 3 PM.

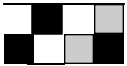
Trident Spinal Cord Injury Peer Support Group: This group is open to any person with a spinal cord injury or other mobility difficulties. The meetings provide a forum for the members to discuss issues and concerns and receive immediate feedback. Some members use the meetings to brainstorm possible solutions to ongoing problems. In addition, the group provides members with opportunities to develop a social network. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of every month (6:00-8:00 PM). *Meetings are no longer held at the Golden Corral.* For more information and to confirm the location for the next meeting, contact Barb Delia at 843-572-8600.

Grief Support Group for Children - Bereavement group for children ages 8-12 (1 group) and 13-15 (2nd group) sponsored by Heartland Hospice, 1064 Gardner Rd, Suite 204, West Ashley, Charleston. For more information contact Kimberly at Heartland Hospice, 766-7646.

Sickle Cell Sisters (for teenage girls with sickle cell disease) is a therapeutic support group for teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 18. The group meets every other month at MUSC Children's Hospital and focuses on psychosocial aspects of living with sickle cell disease. For more information about this group call Melissa Hale or Lauren Stump at 843-792-1968.

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of the Charleston area offers support group meetings for individuals who suffer from a brain disorder and for family members and caregivers of those who have severe and persistent mental illness. The meetings are 6-7:15 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Jewish Community Center, 1645 Wallenberg Blvd. in West Ashley. Client member support group will meet in the senior lounge. Family member groups will meet in the JCC program directors conference room. On the Third Monday of each month the group meets at Bethany United Methodist Church, 118 West Third South Street Summerville. The fourth Monday of each month the group meets at The Church of the Holy cross, 299 Seven Farms drive, Daniel Island. Education meetings will begin again September 10th. For more information, call Yancey wise at 884-7547 or yanceyk2@aol.com. or visit www.namicharlestonarea.org.

Summerville Autism Support - This group meets frequently, but irregularly, for a night out. Please call Jodi Hortman (870-3485) for information on the next get together.



We Are Here: A group for families and caregivers of individuals with all types of disability or special need. The “sharing & caring” group meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Baum Temple AME Zion Church, 943 W 1st N St, Summerville, SC (843) 873-2475. Participants are encouraged to bring refreshments (but NOT required.) For more information or if you wish to share specific information, plan an activity, or teach a craft or skill please contact Shawnetta at 843-695-8262 or 843-801-7421.

Epilepsy Support Group for families of children with epilepsy meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Veterans Administration Hospital at 109 Bee Street in Charleston. Parking is free. For more information contact Karen St. Marie at 843-991-7144 or at Karen@scepilepsy.org. Additional information about epilepsy is available on the South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy website at www.scepilepsy.org.

These Groups No Longer Meet:

Lean on Mean Respite Support

A Place for Me

HIPS (Head Injury Support Group for Survivors)

Can Teen (for teen agers with cancer)

Faith & Light Community (spiritual organization for persons with ID, their families and caregivers)

Support Group for Spanish Speaking Families: 4th Friday of each month from 6-8 PM at the MUSC Northwoods Clinic, 2070 Northbrook Blvd., Suite A-16, N. Charleston. For more info call Martha at 843-876-2505.

Un grupo de soporte para familias de habla Hispana se reúne el cuarto Viernes de cada mes de las 6 a las 8 en la Clínica MUSC Northwoods 2070 Northbrook Blvd, Suite A-16, North Charleston. Para mayor información llame a Martha al (843) 876-2505

Take a Break !! Local Respite Opportunities

Breathe Respite: The Summerville Branch of Seacoast Church has a respite program for families of special needs children. Respite is provided the second Friday of every month from 6:00-9:00 PM. For more information contact Seacoast Church in Summerville at 843-881-2100

Parents Night Out: Crowfield Baptist Church, 100 Hunters Lane, Goose Creek, provides respite at 6 PM on the 3rd Friday of every month foU.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday that his department has existing grant money that can be used for the technology. r parents of children with disabilities. Advance registration is required. To get more info contact Crowfield Baptist at 843-569-6745.

We try our best to keep this list current. If your group is listed here and no longer meets or if you have a group that should be listed but isn't, please call us: 843-266-1318

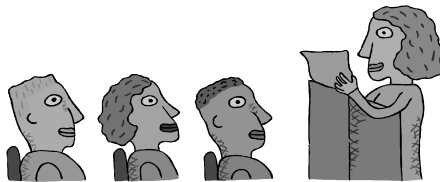


Summer's Coming!!

Despite the ice and snow and cold we have had for the past two months, spring is coming rapidly to the Lowcountry which means summer is not far behind. Summer camp applications are being taken NOW by many programs in the area. If you have not yet registered your child for camp and are hoping to enroll him/her in any summer activity time is running short.

Previously Carolina Children's Charity has been able to assist families with the cost of summer programs however they have indicated they may not be able to provide any funding assistance this year. Parents may wish to check with their local disability board to see if any summer funding is available.

Berkeley County School District



Presents Parent University

Attend BCSD's Parent University to hear more about the ways they are meeting the needs of students with disabilities or special learning needs. The next session scheduled will be: EDU 103: Common Core State Standards Refresher, scheduled for March 18th. You have two options to attend with a 9-10:30 AM session at Berkeley Middle School in Moncks Corner or at 6-7:30 PM at Westview Middle School in Goose Creek. Child care is offered during the evening session but you must reserve by calling: 843-899-8890.



April is Autism Awareness Month and April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day. To celebrate hundreds of thousands of people are coming

together to Light It Up Blue. Join Autism Speaks to help shine a light on autism!

Story Time for Children with Autism

The John's Island Regional Library is offering a story time specifically for children, ages 4-8 with an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis.

"Drowsy Dragons," meets alternate Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:45 at the John's Island branch of the Charleston Public Library located at 3531 Maybank Highway, John's Island. The program is free and open to any child with an autism spectrum disorder. Participation is not limited to residents of John's Island however advance registration is required. *Parents or caregivers are required to remain in the room at all times.*

The story hour is held in the auditorium which is a separate room, with plenty of space to spread out for children with sensory concerns. Lights are lowered and colorful "stars" twinkle on the ceiling. Activities include short songs and stories with a visual schedule to aid with transitions. Children are given a "bed time routine" chart to take home and can return the completed one at the next story time for a prize. Children may sit in chairs or relax on the floor with comfy pillows. They are welcome to bring their own pillow from home, a blanket, or other bed-time comfort item. Someone from the Family Resource Center/Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC) will be available to provide resource materials and talk with parents about IEP concerns. If they'd like, parents may bring their child's IEP to be reviewed by PTRC staff.

If you or someone you know would like additional information, or to register contact the Library's Children's Department at 559-1945. The next story session will be held on March 20th. Then the program will break for a few weeks and begin another six week session if enough interest is shown. If there is not enough interest, the program will not be continued. If you are interested in participating in the March session - and want to see future sessions planned - contact the library.



Shots with A Spin

Saturday, June 21

9 AM - 4 PM

Deas Hall - The Citadel



The class of 2015 MUSC doctorate of physical therapy program is currently planning the third annual "Shots with a Spin" wheelchair basketball tournament. Teams of able-bodied individuals will compete in a wheelchair basketball tournament to raise funds for the non-profit organization ACHIEVING WHEELCHAIR EQUALITY (AWE). The mission of AWE is to help wheelchair users and others with mobility problems overcome the unique obstacles they face with employment, community interactions, and recreation.

In addition, there will be a silent auction, raffles, auto/adaptive equipment show, a kids area, and concessions. An information area with tables/booths will be set up featuring groups & organizations such as the Miracle League, Easter Seals, PAALS, Access to the Garden, Healing Farms, Charleston Therapeutic Riding, and the Family Resource Center. There is a \$5 admission for this event which benefits AWE. Don't miss the fun!

South Carolina Autism Society Names Kim Thomas as New CEO.

For the past year, Ms. Thomas has been serving as the Interim CEO. She has been with the SCAS since 2007 serving first as director of service coordination and later vice president. To learn more about SCAS services visit the website: scautism.org or call 803-750-6988

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ETV Program

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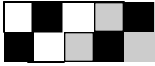
young adults ages 18–21 who have aged out of the foster care system. Students can get up to \$5,000 per academic year based on cost of attendance and available funds. To apply for vouchers and to learn more about the ETV Program, Contact the SC State Foster Care Manager, Kathleen Mclean-Titus at (803) 898-7637 or Email: kathleen.mclean-titus@dss.sc.gov For additional information on ETV visit the website: <http://www.fc2sprograms.org> For general information, help, and resources for foster care youth, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau at : www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth

Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) What Does That Mean???

Maybe you've heard that phrase before. Maybe you've attended one when your child's behavior led to a series of out of school suspensions. Maybe your child has been recommended for expulsion and the MDR is the first of the meetings you will attend.

Perhaps one of the most subjective of the due process steps that addresses problematic behaviors in children with disabilities, a MDR is held to determine if a behavior in question is a manifestation - or a result - of the student's disability.

There are rules & regulations that must be followed when an MDR is held. We want you to know what those are. In August, the FRC will be conducting a comprehensive training session to explain the process. To assure the accuracy of the workshop content, the FRC will consult with Barbra Drayton, General Counsel with the Office of Exceptional Children at the State Department of Education. It is important that parents understand the process and have available the validated practices that will assure the MDR Team conducts a fair review. Plan now to attend this important training; look for more information (when & where) in our Summer Newsletter.



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family resource center
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Walk for Autism - Charleston is a 501(c)(3) agency that values the educational needs of children with autism. Their mission is to develop and implement strategies which cultivate community partnerships, while fostering financial support for the treatment and interventions for autism. Walk for Autism-Charleston raises funds to help many special children struggling with autism. The Walk is held during the month of April to celebrate Autism Awareness month. Walk for Autism is a family friendly stroll through historic Hampton Park, with free refreshments, live music, jump castles, silent auction, autism merchandise, haircuts by Great Clips, and therapy dogs. Sponsors will be there with information about autism and activities for the entire family. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. For more information call Erin (843) 345-4417. Applications for *Walk for Autism* scholarships are due by April 28

La caminata para el Autismo de Charleston es una agencia 501(c)(3) que valora las necesidades educativas de los niños con autismo. La misión es desarrollar e implementar estrategias que cultivan las asociaciones comunitarias, fomentando la ayuda financiera para el tratamiento y la intervención del autismo a través de programas de desarrollo conductual y relacional. La caminata para el Autismo es un evento familiar en el histórico Parque Hampton, con refrescos gratis, música en vivo, castillos inflables, subasta silenciosa, productos con el logo del autismo, cortes de pelo por Great Clips y perros de terapia. Los patrocinadores estarán allí con información sobre autismo y actividades para toda la familia. El registro comienza a las 9:00 y la caminata a las 10:00 Para más información llame a Erin (843) 345-4417. El plazo para enviar la solicitud de becas vence el 28 de abril de 2014.

