

2007 Partners In Care Conference:



Common Bonds



**Thursday,
December 6,
2007**

**at the
Sheraton Hotel &
Conference Center,
Burlington**

16th Annual Partners In Care Conference

**Partnering Families,
Professionals,
Caregivers & Policy
Makers on behalf of
Children with Special
Health Care Needs**

**Keep posted on our
website for updates
and to print out
registration, scholar-
ship, and Partners In
Care Award forms:
[partoparvt.org/
PIC2007.html](http://partoparvt.org/PIC2007.html)**

Keynote:

“Together, We Can Move Mountains”

Too often, families must seek out information and support from multiple agencies that don't seem to speak to each other and that aren't aware of each other's resources. By joining efforts, child and family-serving agencies can meet families' needs more effectively and without duplication of effort. *Together, we can move mountains; alone, we can't move at all.*

Diana Autin is the Executive Co-Director for Health and Special Education of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), New Jersey's "one-stop" for families of children with special needs. SPAN works to educate, empower and engage families and concerned professionals on issues affecting children from birth to age 21. SPAN's primary commitment is to children at greatest risk due to disability, poverty, discrimination, immigrant or language status, or other special circumstances. SPAN is NJ's Parent Training and Information Center and Family to Family Health Information Resource Center, and houses Family Voices-NJ, NJ Statewide Parent to Parent, and a chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Nationally, Autin is a member of the National Center for Cultural Competence Workgroup on Assessing Cultural and Linguistic Competency in Family Organizations, the Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health Consultant Pool, and the Board of Family Voices. She co-directs the Region I Parent Technical Assistance Center. In New Jersey, she serves on numerous committees and task forces regarding early childhood, education, child care, health, and human services. In her spare time, Autin is the Health & Wellness Liaison to the Montclair Council of PTAs and Co-Chair of its Health and Wellness Advisory Committee and Healthy Adolescent Partnership and Parent Training & Newsletter Coordinator for the Special Education Parent Advisory Council. She is the mother of multiracial adopted children ranging in age from 15-31, two of whom have special needs.

General Session:

Our General Session will be a performance from the Awareness Theater Company, comprising individuals with and without disabilities, including our own staff member Edward Burke! The mission of the theater is to create theatrical pieces that highlight the skills and challenges of the members of their company.

After lunch, we will present the Partners In Care Awards (see page 11). Lunch time will also include a special reading of *The Adventures of Super Max*, by the author, Ash Brittenham. Ten-year-old Ash, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, wrote and illustrated the book about his dog. The book earned him a Reading Rainbow Award from Vermont Public Television and a Deborah Lisi-Baker Leader of Tomorrow Award from the Vermont Center for Independent Living. His book will be available for sale and Ash will conduct a book signing at the conference.



Schedule

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Partners in Care

8:00 - 9:00Registration, Continental Breakfast,
Coffee/Tea & Exhibits

9:00 - 10:15**Welcome & Morning Keynote**
Diana Autin, Co-Director, SPAN

10:15 - 10:45 Refreshments & Exhibits

10:45 - 12:15**Morning Workshops**

12:30 - 1:45Awards, Lunch & Exhibits

1:45 - 2:30**General Session**
The Awareness Theater Company

2:30 - 2:45Refreshments & Exhibits

2:45 - 4:15**Afternoon Workshops**

4:15Conference Adjourns

Co-Presented by:

Parent to Parent of Vermont & Vermont Parent Information Center



Heartfelt Thanks to our Sponsors:

As of September 27, 2007



Platinum Sponsor

Vermont Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs

Gold Sponsors

Vermont Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen
Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Silver Sponsors

National Life Group Charitable Foundation
Vermont Assistive Technology Project
Vermont Department of Aging and Independent Living

Bronze Sponsor

RehabGym

Registration Form

Please detach and mail with payment
before **November 9, 2007** for \$75 early discount

Name: _____

MAILING ADDRESS IS: HOME BUSINESS

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Check all that apply:

- Educator Nurse MD OT/PT
 Parent/Guardian Parent of child 0 to 3 years
 Social Worker Birth to 3 Professional
 Student Childcare Provider Other

Place of Employment: _____

Morning Workshops: 10:45 - 12:15 (CHOOSE ONE)

- 1 2 3 4

Afternoon Workshops: 2:45 - 4:15 (CHOOSE ONE)

- 5 6 7 8

- Nursing Contact Hours Social Work Cont. Ed
 Attendance Certificate Mental Health Certificate

Conference Fee (includes lunch)

- \$85 - Between Nov 9 - Dec 5, 2007
 \$75 - Early Registration; before Nov 9th
 \$40 - Parent/Guardian/Family
(SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE; PLEASE CALL
PARENT TO PARENT: 1-800-800-4005)
 \$40 - Student

- \$0 - Sponsor (LIMIT 1 COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH)
 \$22 - Exhibitor/Sponsor additional lunch fee

SEND CHECK (NON-REFUNDABLE) PAYABLE TO:

**Parent to Parent of Vermont
Partners In Care Conference
600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240
Williston, VT 05495-7549**

A participants list (name & contact info) will be in each
conference packet. Would you like to be on it? YES NO

Please detach:

- include check
- insert in envelope
- stamp & mail.



Morning Workshops:

#1 Taking a Medical Diagnosis to School

How do parents, school and healthcare professionals, and service providers address a child's physical disability in the school environment? The panel will address distinctions between an IEP, 504, Health Plan, and EST; challenges of integrating children's medical needs with requirements for educational relevancy; transmission of information among team members; and creative suggestions for meeting a child's educational needs when medical/health conditions exist.

Presenters:

Penny Bessom, Parent from East St. Johnsbury

Kim Brittenham, Parent from Montpelier

Arthur Green, JD, Parent

Cari Kelly, Parent from Grand Isle

Jill Rinehart, MD

Peggy Owen Sands, PT, MS

Moderator: Deb O'Rourke, PhD, PT, UVM Dept. of Rehabilitation and Movement Science

#2 The 411 on Disability Disclosure

Disclosing a disability is a very personal decision, a decision that takes both thought and practice. Come and learn information about making informed choices about when, where, and how to disclose your disability, an important decision that can affect your education, employment, and social life. Young people with hidden disabilities (those not readily apparent to others), as well as those with disabilities that are visible, will benefit from information shared in this workshop.

Presenters:

Marsha Camp, ACCESS Director, UVM

Sarah Hobart, Associate Director of Admissions, UVM

Shannon Kilpatrick, Full-time college student

Cindy Seguin, VOC/Rehab

#3 Piloting a New Social Skills Program

In response to the rising number of students with social thinking/social communication challenges, Williston's special education department embraced the "I LAUGH" model of social skills training created by speech-language pathologist Michelle Garcia Winner. Her practical strategies and interactive exercises are ideally suited for students in the 2nd grade and older who exhibit social cognitive delays, including those with autism spectrum disorders and ADD/ADHD. You'll be introduced to the curriculum and language of "I LAUGH" and hear about successful outcomes. There will be tips to take home and ideas on how to introduce "I LAUGH" in your school district.

Presenter:

Tori Cleiland, Special Educator, Williston School District

#4 From Institution to Community:

Robert's Life Story

Robert entered the Brandon Training School, Vermont's last state institution for individuals with developmental disabilities, when he was two years old and he remained until he was nearly twenty. The next twenty years he lived in a community based program where he had much difficulty and ended up in jail. Finally, the last nearly ten years, he has been in a program where he has flourished and now has many friends and relationships, a job he enjoys, money in the bank, regular vacations, and also takes good care of his health. Robert will explain and contrast these experiences.

Presenters:

Robert Brace, Self Advocate

Al Vecchione, Francis Foundation & Upper Valley Services

Mail registration form with payment to:

Parent to Parent of Vermont

ATTN: Angela Smith

600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240

Williston, VT 05495-7549

1-800-800-4005, 1-802-764-5290

FAX 1-802-764-5297

Angela.Smith@partoparvt.org

www.partoparvt.org

Help us spread the word; we will not be mailing out a separate Partners In Care brochure this year.

Nursing Contact Hours, Mental Health and Social Work Continuing Education Certificates have been applied for.

Accommodations: If you need a sign language interpreter, have dietary restrictions, or require other accommodations, please contact the Parent to Parent office at

1-800-800-4005, (802)764-5290,

FAX: (802)764-5297, or email

Angela.Smith@partoparvt.org. We may not be able to arrange accommodations if we are not notified before November 9, 2007.

Afternoon Workshops:

#5 Advocacy for Systems Change

Attendees will learn about the legislative process in Vermont from four different angles: a legislator, a parent who has testified before committees, a parent who has helped put an Act into law, and an experienced consultant/policy analyst. We hope participants will gain a better understanding of how the legislative process works, and the roles they can play in effecting change.

Presenters:

Una Connelly, Parent, Spectrum Youth and Family Services

Mary Kay Hill, Parent, VT Food Allergy Organization

Ginny Lyons, Vermont State Senator

Moderator: Kay Van Woert, Consultant, Policy Analyst and Family Voices Coordinator

#6 Basics of Attachment

Attachment is a way of relating to others that is learned through positive patterns of interaction between a child and primary caregiver during the first three years of life. Attachment can be impacted by many things, including: prolonged separation from the primary caregiver, including hospitalizations; undiagnosed or painful illness; and traumatic experiences. The presenter will offer tips and strategies to foster secure attachment patterns that will last a lifetime.

Presenter:

Elizabeth West, MA; Family Center of Northwestern Vermont

#7 Relationship Building and Cultural Competency

Designed for professionals, this workshop will review types of outreach to connect with diverse populations, including those with language, cultural, and learning differences. We will discuss "Cultural Brokering" as a new framework for reaching out to a variety of populations, including families with special needs.

Presenters:

Hal Colston, Neighborkeepers

Phelippa Marriner, Parent, Vermont Parent Information Center

Moderator: Al Robinson, Executive Director of Imani Center

#8 Yoga and Meditation for Parents and Children

Parents will learn a short yoga posture sequence they can practice on their own. The postures will focus on back care and core strength. We will also practice a simple meditation technique, encouraging relaxation and living in the present moment. In addition, we will discuss and demonstrate yoga posture adaptations for children with special needs.

Presenter:

Julie Peoples-Clark, Certified Yoga Instructor, Parent

Partners In Care Award:

We will be presenting 4 awards to those who exemplify and promote the ideals of family-centered care:

- 1) Parent/Caregiver,
- 2) Child/Youth/Sibling
(who has made a difference),
- 3) Professional, and
- 4) Organization.

For a Nomination Form, call Angela at 1-800-800-4005 ext. 34 or print it out from website: www.partoparvt.org/PICNominationForm2007.pdf
We are accepting nominations from **now** until November 15th.

Scholarships:

Scholarships (full and partial) are available to family members.

Form available to print out online:

www.partoparvt.org/PIC2007ScholarshipApplication.pdf

or

Contact Angela at 1-800-800-4005 x 34

Directions to the conference:

Sheraton Burlington Conference Center

Williston Rd., So. Burlington, Vermont

Immediately off Interstate 89, Exit 14W

Phone: 802-865-6600

We will not be mailing out a separate brochure this year.

**Print out extra forms on website:
www.partoparvt.org/PIC2007.html**