



The State Chapter of the Federation of Families

Special Event!

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

The Story of the Door



Our Youth M.O.V.E Chapter painted this door several years ago, and it became our focal piece of artwork as well as our inspiration.

Every day it reminds us to open the door to each new opportunity that awaits us.

Those opportunities bring us great joy, especially when we greet them hand-in-hand with families

Civil Rights Lawyer Michael Sussman Coming to Jackson in August to Meet with Families, Stakeholders and Attorneys



[Michael Sussman](#), a civil rights attorney who has argued many special education cases on behalf of families in New York, will be visiting Mississippi and Jackson August 5-8. Mr. Sussman accepted an invitation from FAA executive director Joy Hogge to come to Mississippi to learn more about the challenges that Mississippi families and children face.

On Wednesday, August 5th, from 4:30-7:30, Sussman and the FAA staff will host a group meeting with families of children with mental health challenges to hear about their experiences. Families who participated in the independent assessment conducted by the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) as part of last fall's Department of Justice investigation of the state's mental health system are especially encouraged to attend. Any other families who are in this population

throughout the state.

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are also welcome to attend. However, this meeting is limited to parents and caregivers (non-parents who are raising children) of children with mental health challenges.

A light supper and childcare will be provided. Please contact Iris Brown at ibrown@faams.org if you are planning to attend. Or you may [click here to register](#).

On Thursday, August 6th, from 9 am to 12 noon, he will meet with stakeholders interested in the challenges families of children with disabilities face in the education system, with a particular focus on the difficulty in finding the same type of legal representation that school districts have for both IDEA and non-IDEA disputes.

Advocates, families and attorneys are all strongly encouraged to attend. Contact ibrown@faams.org if you are planning to participate, or [click here to register](#).

Finally, on Saturday, August 8, from 9 am to 12 noon, Sussman will meet with attorneys who are interested in learning more about representing families in education disputes as a part of their practice. Families, parents and caregivers of children with mental health challenges are invited to this session as well.

Mr. Sussman's firm has represented many families over the past 25 years in New York in these kinds of cases. He is particularly interested in speaking to Mississippi attorneys to learn more about the barriers to effective family representation and how they can be addressed.

We are excited that Michael is coming and hope that many of you attend, and that you will take a moment to join our statewide family network. Let's work together to make our system of care for children with mental health challenges the best in the nation!

All meetings will be held at the FAA offices unless otherwise noted.