



The State Chapter of the Federation of Families

The Ally

A Families As Allies Newsletter

December 2015

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 throughout the state.

UPCOMING

Open House

Families as Allies Office
January 14, 2016
4:30 to 7:30 PM

FAA Board Meeting

Thursday
January 21, 2016

BREAKING NEWS



Yesterday Families as Allies was notified that the settlement negotiations between the US Department of Justice, the Southern Poverty Law Center, (the plaintiffs) and the State of Mississippi (Defendants Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi; David J. Dzielak, Executive Director of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid; Diana Mikula, Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, and the Mississippi Board of Mental Health) had failed and were terminated. This ended 4 years of negotiation between those parties. Click [here](#) to view the notice filed by Plaintiffs in *Troupe v. Barbour, et al.*

6:00 PM

Open to the public
Public Comments are
encouraged

fax or email questions
info@faams.org
601-955-0919

MONTHLY SNAP SHOT

11 Presentations by Staff

145 Audience Members
Reached

2 Workshops/Training's
Attended by Staff

105 Calls Assisting
Families

12 New Families
Requesting Assistance

38 Face to Face Meetings
with Families

190 Brochures Given to
the Public

QUICK LINKS

HELP US REACH
500 LIKES!!



www.faams.org

Kroger

As the only statewide network in Mississippi run by and for families of children with mental health challenges, we are extremely disappointed, but not surprised, that after all these years there is no resolution to this matter. On a daily basis, our children bear the consequences of the State's irreparably broken mental health system. These parties and their lengthy and costly negotiations have brought us no closer to a solution.

Over the past 4 years we have continually informed all of these parties that without meaningful participation from organizations such as ours and input from the very families receiving services, they would not be able to achieve a meaningful and constructive settlement. We take no pleasure in being proven right.

In August of this year we sent a [letter](#) to all of the parties involved in the negotiations as well as to other elected officials outlining what we believe to be the essential elements of a meaningful and constructive settlement. We would like to know why these elements were not agreed to by the parties, and particularly who objected to any or all of them, and what their objections were.

[Today](#), we invited General Hood to finally meet with families and learn from them what is needed to develop services and supports that will actually help our children. We look forward to his response and hope other policy makers will join this effort.

We have always known, as evidenced by the Olivia Y lawsuit, that the reform of the children's mental health system in our state will be a long and arduous task. It is not for those who lack the courage, will, and determination to make that system effectively serve the families and children of our state. True reform will be possible only when families are partners in that reform and policy makers listen to, value, and act upon their input.

The families of our organization will

continue to be a loud voice advocating for our children. We are united.

We will not rest until our children have the services and supports they need. We will not rest until our State is transparent and accountable to all of us. And we will not rest until we and our children are treated with honesty, compassion and fairness.

Staff, Families attend 26th Annual National Federation Conference



The 26th Annual Conference of the National Federation of Families took place this past November in Washington, DC. Families as Allies staff attended and took some families along for the ride.



The National Federations' annual conference is a place where families, children, and professionals come together in a safe, stigma free environment to discuss current issues, policy, and trends in children's mental health

from the perspective of family-driven youth-guided approach. This year's conference agenda included over 20 exhibitors, a visit to capital hill, a 50/50 raffle, and key note addresses from some of the most highly respected professionals and advocates in children's mental health.



We learned a lot, enjoyed each other's company, and had a rewarding time visiting lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Congratulations to Laura Smith on her exceptional presentation on Mississippi Buds.

SAVE THE DATE
NEW YEAR'S OPEN HOUSE



Thursday, January 14, 2016
4:30 to 7:30
840 East River Place
Suite 500
Jackson, MS 39202

**Great Opportunity for Families and
Policy Makers to visit and share ideas**

**Refreshments
Activities for Children & Teens**

**for more information:
601-355-0915**

Infant & Early Childhood Initiative Wrapped Up The Last Session 2015



More than 40 members of the 2015-2016 Cohort of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health trainees attended the third of a twelve-workshop series in Jackson on November 12 and 13. The workshop series is designed to provide participants an introduction and overview to the major content and theory of early childhood mental health. Day 1 of the workshop provided an in-depth look at Reflective Supervision, a cardinal principal of Infant Mental Health. The participants also were introduced to the concept of mindfulness in practice. Day 2 provided an experiential introduction to the Diversity Informed Mental Tenets, and attendees were provided opportunities to engage with these tenets around clinical cases, considering how they might incorporate them into their daily work. The Faculty for the training were: Karen Frankel, Ph.D.; Rebecca Shamoan Shanok, LCSW, Ph.D.; Tonia M. Spence, LCSW, MEd; and Kandace Thomas, MPP.

