



The State Chapter of the Federation of Families

The Ally

A Families As Allies Newsletter

November 2014

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.

Community Partnership Celebration



Families as Allies' first Community Partnership Celebration on October 27 was a great success. Over seventy people attended and we raised 3,000 dollars. What a joy it was to be surrounded by people who are committed to all children having the opportunity to be successful and reach their potential. That vision can and will change our state. We want to express our gratitude to the generous sponsors who made the evening possible: Southern Poverty Law Center; Howard Roffwarg and Joy Hogge; Tessie and Jack Schweitzer; Fisher Brown Brottrell Insurance; Matthews Cutrer and Lindsay, P.A.; Mississippi Psychiatric Association; ProfitSmart, PLLC; and The Wade Law Firm, PLLC. Let them know you appreciate their support of children's mental health.

Happenings



National Federation of Families Annual Conference



Support Groups



Outreach

Popular on Facebook

Top 10 Most Ridiculous Statements Heard at an IEP

What to Know About Adopting a Baby with FAS

If Physical Diseases were Treated Like Mental Illness

Quick Links

www.faams.org

Kroger



It was a pleasure to honor Linda West, Dr. Grayson Norquist, Saint James Episcopal Church and Mandy Rogers for exemplifying our core values in their partnerships with us. Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of our new partnership with the City of Jackson to serve young children with mental health needs.



Please know that every dollar we raise makes a difference to families. The cost of one event ticket allows a parent to attend school advocacy training. The cost of two tickets insures that a family in the emergency room with a child threatening suicide can be supported by a parent who has been through the same thing. That kind of very real, parent-to-parent support is not only cost-effective, it WORKS - children stay in their homes and schools, families have less stress (and fewer job losses) and communities have more citizens who can give back. We also find that families who participate in our services go on to help others who are in their same shoes. That means every dollar you give gives over and over again.





Families as Allies and Mississippi Families for Kids Partners with the City of Jackson to Expand Services for Young Children



Families as Allies, in partnership with Mississippi Families for Kids and the City of Jackson, announced today that the city has received a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that will allow the City to expand its services for young children. The grant, one of only 22 awarded nationwide in 2014, provides funding to the city and to the organizations to improve behavioral health outcomes for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

Dr. Joy Hogge, the executive director of Families as Allies, said she thinks the funding can significantly improve outcomes for young children in the city. "Families have told us over and over again that there are substantial barriers and roadblocks that they face in getting help for their young children. With this funding we will be able to work in partnership with families to develop services and supports that actually work."

The city will collaborate with Families as Allies (FAA) and Mississippi Families for Kids (MFFK) to develop a pilot program for very young children that is intended to serve as a demonstration project and ultimately a template for other communities in the state to follow. The partnering organizations plan to build upon existing services and practices for young children that are already in place, and to use the pilot program to inform further planning as the model is rolled out in other parts of the state.

The intent of the SAMHSA funding is to support the expansion and integration of services by using the system of care approach for delivery of those services. Integration of all services related to children's health, and working in partnership with the parents and other caregivers has become the preferred national model. The annual funding, which totals \$848,162, can be renewed for up to three additional years.



The project will partner with other organizations, both public and private, who are already working on children's behavioral health, physical health and education issues, including Excel by 5, Head Start, the Hinds County MAP team, and others.

The grant application has been supported and encouraged by the City's past three mayors. The late Mayor Lumumba expressed his full support and his staff worked closely with FAA to gather the information needed for the application. Interim Mayor Charles Tillman made sure the application was completed in a timely manner during a difficult time in the city's history. Mayor Tony Yarber, a former JPS school administrator, has pledged his full support for the program. He believes this is an opportunity for the city to add to its efforts to support families, particularly young children.

Families as Allies is the only family-run statewide organization for parents and caregivers of children with mental health challenges in Mississippi. Last year the non-profit was the recipient of the prestigious "Making A Difference Award" from the National Federation of Families For Children's Mental Health.

Mississippi Families For Kids is a statewide, private 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure that every child in foster care and in the child welfare system finds a permanent home. Established in 1994 through a grant from the Kellogg Foundation and incorporated in 1998, Mississippi Families for Kids was initiated to implement child focused, solution based, permanency-planning programs for the State of Mississippi.

Ways to Support Families As Allies



**Every Child
& Family**

- **First and foremost, tear down the stigma and shame that surround mental illness.** Let others know that mental illness is real, common and treatable. Offer a supportive ear and hand to families faced with it, and don't judge them.
- **Follow us on Facebook**
- **Tell others about us.** Talk to them, ask them to follow us on Facebook, refer them to our website and forward our emails.
- **Volunteer to help us with fundraising, outreach and event planning**
- **We need additional board members** with expertise in

finance, long range planning, fundraising, and law (especially employment, education and civil rights).

- **Link your Kroger Card to Families as Allies** It costs you nothing and generates quarterly donations that allow us to reach more families. Our NGO number is **64030**.
- **Plan to attend** our Open House over the Holiday Season and our Dinner and Movie Night in conjunction with Children's Mental Health Awareness month in May - more details to follow.
- **Donate** Every dollar you give helps families. I am always happy to speak with anyone about donation options, including planned giving. It is also easy to donate through our **website**.