



The State Chapter of the Federation of Families

The Ally

A Families As Allies Newsletter

September 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

Growing Pains

Mental Health & Mississippi's Children

Airs 09/25/15
7:30 PM on MPB

FAA Board Meeting

Saturday 09/26/15

Famed Civil Rights Attorney, Michael Sussman, Visits Families as Allies



FAA board, staff, and families welcomed attorney Michael Sussman to Mississippi and Jackson this past August. Mr. Sussman, a civil rights attorney who has argued many special education cases on behalf of families in New York, visited our state to learn more about the challenges Mississippi families and children—particularly those with mental and physical disabilities—are facing on a daily basis.

During his visit, Families as Allies hosted three sessions where Sussman met with families, stakeholders, and attorneys to discuss these challenges and how best to address them. These sessions included discussions focused on the experiences of families of children with mental and physical health challenges, difficulties with finding equal legal representation as school districts, and the barriers to effective family representation in Mississippi.

If you attended any of the Sussman meeting, please

Open to the public
Public Comments are
encouraged

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

**Restraint &
Seclusion
Oral Proceedings**
Wednesday 09/30/15
10 AM
Schools for Blind & Deaf
For more information visit
www.faams.org

MONTHLY SNAP SHOT

41 Presentations by Staff

**1,326 Audience Members
Reached**

**5 Workshops/Training's
Attended by Staff**

**105 Calls Assisting
Families**

**11 New Families
Requesting Assistance**

**40 Face to Face Meetings
with Families**

**1,279 Brochures Given to
the Public**

QUICK LINKS

**HELP US REACH
500 LIKES!!**



www.faams.org

take a minute to tell us what you [think](#).

Click [here](#) to read [Sussman's Recommendations](#).

Let's Do It Again!!



Families as Allies has had a wonderful year. Because of everyone working together in support of our mission, we've partnered with more families, coordinated a large children's mental health awareness event, launched our early childhood initiative in partnership with Mississippi Families for Kids and the City of Jackson, helped bring about changes in State policies, and developed a number of strategic alliances to help make sure families are partners in their children's care.

Our Honorees

**Valuing Every Child & Family: Helen Johnson
(In Memoriam)**

Excellence: Rusty Turner (In Memoriam)

Partnership: Chane

Accountability: Leonard Van Slyke, Esq.

Our 2nd Annual Community Partnership Celebration will be Monday, October 26 from 5:30 to 8 PM at Bravo! Italian Restaurant.

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#) or [BECOME A SPONSOR](#)

FAA Staff Attends

Undoing Racism Workshop



Jackson 2000, a non-profit corporation dedicated to fostering racial understanding and harmony, recently hosted a thought provoking and innovative workshop on racism. As part of their ongoing efforts to erase racism, Jackson 2000 played host to the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) out of New Orleans. PISAB is a national and international collective of community organizers and educators dedicated to building an effective movement for social transformation. During the workshop, staff learned the history of race in America, and took an in depth look at the causes and systems of racism.



The experience was different for each staff member. This is how Henry Moore, a family partner and youth coordinator for FAA, summed up his: "The color of my skin is very relevant to the way I'm treated by

others of a different race. In the workshop, I learned that race was created to give power to Whites. Therefore oppression has taken the form of fewer opportunities, limited access, lower salaries, and endless worry."

Executive Director, Joy Hogge, says she's not afraid to face this issue anymore and to have the difficult and uncomfortable conversations about because this training opened her up to the history, heartache, and burden race has put on all Americans. She believes this experience has given her the language to help begin to undo what has been done and to better serve families in the process.

GOT BAIL?



Our Executive Director has been arrested and we need your help to bail her out. Due to her extensive rap sheet and long history of big heartedness (it's a legal term) Joy is going behind bars for good. This morning, September 23, 2015 Dr. Hogge is making her way to the pokey, leaving her husband, son, and staff to their own devices. Who knows what may come of us.

For our sake, help Joy get home as soon as possible.

All you need to do is make a donation towards Joy's bail. The money she raises will help MDA support adults and children in Mississippi living with muscle disease.

[DONATE](#)

Infant & Early Childhood Initiative In Full Swing



Our early childhood initiative is well on its way to becoming a force for change in the way children's mental health is handled in our state. Laura Smith, the director of this

project, has designed a 12 workshop series to give participants an introduction and overview to the major content and theory of early childhood mental health practice. Participants will gain both theoretical and fact-based intervention as well as some concrete skills to begin working clinically with children, birth through five, and their parents. This is a follow-up to the DC:0-3R training and will include workshops, readings, and regular telephone and/or video reflective supervision groups. The content and process will be delivered to meet practitioners at various levels of experience and interest, with large group, small group, and individual learning activities.

The first session, Development Birth to Three, was held August 27-28. In this session, the 30 plus cohort, learned to describe the context for development during infancy and early childhood, to understand development and milestones during this early stage, to identify relationship and environment factors that contribute to development of babies and young children, and to observe and document early childhood development in community settings.

2015 JFP Chick Ball

The 11th Annual JFP Chick Ball was a huge success. We had a great time; laughing, hanging with friends, eating great food, and dancing the night away. But more importantly, we had a great time honoring the women who make Mississippi great. This year's Ball benefited the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV). To learn more about this organization and the work they do throughout the state, visit their at www.mcadv.org.