

Family Support News

Issue # 28

February 2002

**Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services of Strafford County, Inc.**

Annual Camperships Issue—Apply Now!

Now is the time to start planning for summer activities for your son or daughter, especially if you are looking at sending your son or daughter to a residential camp. Places fill up quickly. Again this year, the Family Support Program has scholarships available for summer but the program will not be able to cover the full cost of summer camp. Some families have had success in the past in getting their school district to help with some of the cost. Also, some camps offer their own scholarships, so check with your summer camp. If you would like summer financial assistance from the Family Support Program, please return your request (form inside) to Family Support by Monday April 1. Recreation Guides are available, call us at 749-4015

The Harry Allen Gregg Foundation has grants available for summer camp. Applications need to reach the foundation by April 1 2002 and a doctor's note needs to accompany the application. More information and applications can be received by calling the Gregg Foundation at 547-3311. We also have applications for the Gregg Foundation at the Family Support Program. Please call Gerry at 749-4015. Remember the closing date for Gregg Foundation grants is April 1.



2002 Family Support Conference

The annual statewide Family Support Conference will be from Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5 in Bartlett NH. The conference provides a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, share information, relax and learn more about available resources for your son or daughter. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ruth Ryan who is a psychiatrist from Colorado. Look for conference

brochures in the mail at the end of February. The Family Support Council has set aside some funds to assist families in attending the conference. Please contact Deirdre or Gerry at 749-4015 when you receive your conference brochure as both conference spaces and scholarships disappear quickly.

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Special points of interest:

- Know your rights
- Free Girls Bicycle, Table and Child's Car
- Recreational opportunities

Adaptive Skiing at Mt. Sunapee

If you think your child might be interested in learning how to ski with some adaptive equipment and the help of volunteers from New England Handicapped Sportsmen's Association, call and sign up to go on Wednesday, February 20 from 9-3. Mt Sunapee is located off Route 89 - Exit 9.

Space is limited to 5 students that day, so please call to confirm as soon as you can. Family members are welcome and someone will need to be at the mountain for the duration of the lesson. Your child must be at least 6 years old and have a physical and/or cognitive disability in order to qualify for NEHSA's program. No Fee for your child with a disability. Please call Betsy at 749-4015 for further information and to sign up



Recreation/Camp Information Night - March 6

Family Support will be hosting an evening for parents and children to come and obtain further information on local camps from representatives. There will be an opportunity to ask questions plus pick up brochures so they you can learn about what's out there for your child. Save the date of Wednesday, March 6! Details will be forthcoming

Human Race Walk for Families

May 18 will be the date this year for this annual fund raising event for Rochester area non-profit organizations. Walkers are needed who can collect pledges, volunteers may be needed to help with water or at street crossings but most of all we just need the support of families who are aware of how important some of these services are and who can get out there and help! Raffle tickets will be available for sale soon and there are some good sized monetary prizes!

Watch for further information in the newspapers or call us at BH&DSSC about the walk.

Children's Museum of Portsmouth

Family Support still has Day Passes for the museum located on Marcy St. in Portsmouth. This is a great place to take the kids and have them explore the fun and educational experiences available. Each year, the museum generously donates these to Family Support so that we can pass them on to families who are able to take advantage of this great place. Please call Betsy at 749-4015 for further information and to obtain the passes.

2002 Legislative News

SB161 — This bill is meant to provide funding for services to adults who are offenders and are court ordered to be served through the Area Agency system. In 1996, a bill referred to as 171-B was passed to address this situation but with only \$1 in new money attached). There is a concern that the legislature will want to pass the bill but with no additional money which might create another 171-B situation where the legislature requires something to be done but provides no funding. When 171-B was passed by the legislature in 1996, it required the developmental services system to provide services to individuals who are found incompetent to stand trial but have committed a criminal offense. Some families felt it unfairly punished families who had children who have not committed an offense but were waiting for services. What could happen is that if a criminal offender is ordered to be served, the family could wait longer. Many of these families felt, when the parents are elderly and their own health is failing, that they are "Priority 1" and will be served as soon as waiting list money is available.

HB1144 - Establishes a committee to study access to the polls by disabled persons and the use of new technology to accommodate disabled voters. Briefly, there is federal \$ available to provide new equipment to voting places that would help people with disabilities vote. The "equipment" is a machine that looks like an ATM. It has a large screen, large button, and a telephone. For those with visual impairments, the screen font can be increased and voter reads the screen and votes by pushing large button; the phone assists persons who are blind; the large buttons are also helpful for those with physically disabilities. Some of the machines can even be used in libraries for other purposes when not at the voting places. The feds will only release the millions of dollars they have for these machines to states that have demonstrated a commitment to making voting more accessible.

For Contact Info on your Legislators, visit our Website: www.dssc9.org and look for Legislative Updates.

SB347 - establishes a study committee on "public building access and the disabled" was heard in Senate Public Institutions, Health & Human Services on Jan. 15 and has been voted Ought to Pass. It will head to House Commerce where it will need our support. In brief the bill would create a committee to study "family bathrooms" which are needed when personal care is necessary in the community but it would be awkward for a female caregiver to be in a men's bathroom and vice versa.

If you would like additional information, contact Hugh at DSSC or your local legislator.

Renewing the Vision

Read the state's plan to eliminate the waiting list for essential services for individuals with disabilities. Essential services are defined as Day/Vocational, Case management, and Family Support. It is available to download from our website www.dssc9.org or it can be mailed to you by calling Hugh Philbrick at 749-4015.

Nine-Voces: a new e-group

This group is formed so that parents/family members/friends/staff people/interested people of persons with developmental disabilities may have a free and open place to "shoot the breeze" and/or get acquainted with each other, swap information, etc. The only ground rules are you must respect the views/issues and concerns of others. This group was started by a parent of a child with a disability who is served by the Region 9 area agency, and he is the group moderator. You need not be from region 9 to join. Contact Pete Eldredge through his email to learn more about this new e-group: phixr@concentric.net

Know Your Rights

Did you know that Developmental Services has a Quality Assurance and Consumer Rights Department. The Department works with all BH&DSSC programs to ensure quality services to consumers and their families. Quality Assurance also conducts regular consumer satisfaction and outcome surveys. If you have any complaints about services that you receive through BH&DSSC, including Family Support, please give a call to Lee White at 749-4015

Free to a Good Home.....

We have received a donation of a girl's pink 24-inch bicycle with training wheels. This would be suitable for a child aged 5-8. It is in excellent condition.. We also have a toddler's activity table and a Little Tikes car that a child can ride upon. Please give Deirdre Watson a call at 749-4015 if you would like any of these toys.

Partners In Health Pool Passes

The Partners In Health program has purchased two pool passes. The passes are for the Dover Indoor Pool and each pass will admit a family of up to five. If you are interested in using a family pool pass, please give a call to Cheryl Goscinski-Drew at 749-4015, ext. 211.

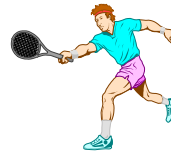
Partners In Health News

The Partners In Health and the Family Support team met on January 23, 2002 to complete the second phase of the visioning goals. The group sent out information to health providers, school officials and nurses, and other community family outreach programs to encourage them to refer families to Partners In Health. Partners In Health provides support to families of children with chronic health conditions. For more information please contact Cheryl Goscinski-Drew at 749-4015, ext. 211.

After School and Weekend Recreation

UNH is a great resource for us in Strafford County and there are students who may want to facilitate the inclusion of your child in their activity of choice. Please think about what your child may want to be involved in after school or on weekends. Feel free to call and we can brainstorm some ideas and then we'll see how some of these active young people might be able to help out. Keep in mind that all students have a set schedule. Call Betsy at 749-4015.

Summer Programs—Financial Assistance



Dear Families,

It is that time of year to start planning summer recreational activities. Again this year the Family Support Council and the Partners in Health program have set aside funds to help pay for summer programs such as day and residential camps, family trips or other summer activities.

In order to determine how many people we can assist, we need to know how many families are interested in financial or other assistance. **This will be the only notice to apply for funds for summer 2002.**

In past years, many families received additional help with camperships from other organizations or their school districts. If your child is at school, now is the time to talk with your team about summer programming. If you need assistance in finding a summer program, please contact Deirdre or Betsy at Family Support.

If you are applying for a Family Support Scholarship, please return the form below to:

Gerry Riecks

Behavioral Health and Developmental Services of Strafford County

Forum Court Suite #1

113 Crosby Road, Dover, NH 03820



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Name of Recreation Program: _____

Total Cost of Program: _____

Amount requested from Family Support/Partners in Health: _____

Scholarships awarded will depend on number of requests and availability of funding.

RETURN TO FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM BY MONDAY APRIL 1, 2002

It's about the mission.



February 2002 Family Support Raffle

Got the Mid Winter Blahs?

Win Dinner Out (\$50.00) at Pizzeria Uno's!

Return this form to:

Gerry Riecks, Prize Patrol

DSSC

113 Crosby Rd Ste. 1

Dover, NH 03820

Entry

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

**Behavioral Health and
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Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services of
Strafford County, Inc.
113 Crosby Road - Suite 1
Dover, NH 03820

Phone:603-749-4015
Fax:603-743-3244

Email:
dwatson@dssc9.org
hphilbrick@dssc9.org
bcarroll@dssc9.org
erondina@dssc9.org
cgoscinski-drew@dssc9.org
kjuckett@dssc9.org
swendell@dssc9.org