



Hope & Courage

United Advocates for Children and Families



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Recent Events: CMHACY

Family Voice Advocate of the Year

Pamela J. Hawkins, Senior Associate, California Institute for Mental Health, received the UACF 'Family Voice Advocate of the Year' award from Earl Kelly, President of the UACF Board of Directors. Over the years, Ms. Hawkins has emerged as a pioneer, visionary and champion for the mental well-being of families, children and youth in California and across the nation.



Earl Kelly presenting the Family Voice Advocate of the Year award to Pamela Hawkins.

2nd Annual UACF Parent Partner Coalition Breakfast

May 7, 2010

The UACF Institute for Family and Youth Leadership hosted the 2nd annual UACF Parent Partner Coalition Breakfast held at the CMHACY Conference. Together with UACF's Institute Director Vickie Mendoza and Deputy Director Cindy Claflin, Parent Partners enjoyed an exchange of information and



Cindy Robbins Roth

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support from across the state, and the opportunity to learn what was new with those organizations that are supportive of Parent Partners.

They also received an overview of the Emily Q TBS Settlement team and the effects that the loss of TBS services could have on children and families by Cindy Robins Roth who sits as a family voice on the TBS Settlement team and works at Edge Wood Center as a Parent/Family Partner in the Turning Point Program.

Public Policy

Keep an Eye on Katie A.

**by Raphael Metzger,
Director of Policy and Research**



Capitol, Sacramento,
CA

This coming July 18th, 2010 will be eight years since a class action lawsuit was filed against the state of California and Los Angeles County for having failed to provide mental health services to children in the foster care system. The lawsuit, filed by a group of advocacy and interest organizations, asked the U.S. District Court to issue an order to force the California Department of Health Services (DHS), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to comply with legal requirements to provide mental health services to children in California's foster care system, as needed.

The basis for the lawsuit is California's participation in Medicaid, a federal program aimed at serving low income persons. States that choose to participate in the Medicaid program receive federal funding, but in return must promise to comply with Medicaid rules. One of these is that states provide Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and treatment Services (EPSDT) for eligible children under 21 years of age, and then provide treatment to correct or ameliorate conditions found.

[Read more](#)

Recommended Read: Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew. by Ellen Notbohm

Every parent, teacher, social worker, therapist, and physician should have this succinct and informative book in his/her back pocket. Framed with both humor and compassion, the book defines the top ten characteristics that illuminate the minds and hearts of children with autism. Ellen's personal experiences as a parent, and autism columnist, and a contributor to numerous parenting magazines coalesce to create a guide for all who come in contact with a child on autism spectrum. Don't buy just one of this book- but one for everyone who interacts with your child! Give the gift of understanding.



Interested in this Recommended read? Go to [Amazon](#) to purchase this book. Amazon donates a portion of the purchase price to AYNF so we can continue working with Alaskan families!

ADHD Symptoms May Decline From One Grade to Next, Duke Study Finds

Annual reevaluations important for children diagnosed with attention disorders



Monday, March 22, 2010

DURHAM, N.C. - Many elementary- aged children with clinically elevated attention problems in one grade no longer demonstrate these problems the following year in their new classroom, according to a study led by researchers at Duke University.

The findings underscore the importance of annually reevaluating children with attention disorders such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to avoid treating them for problems at school that may no longer be evident, said David Rabiner, lead author of the study and a faculty member in Duke's Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and Center for Children and Family Policy.

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