



News & Views

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2016

The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families.

The vision is that all children, adults and families in our service area have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Darrell Newvine
Family Enrichment Network
Executive Director

It's hard to believe the new school year is here, it seems like we were just getting ready for summer. It continues to be an exciting time at the Agency. The Family Enrichment Network continues to grow and change.

Locally, the economy is picking up, but families continue to struggle. We do not see that trend changing any time in the near future. We continue to be active in our grant writing and program development to meet community needs based on our Community Assessment and Strategic Plan. We appreciate everyone's effort, input and support.

There are grants and other opportunities available to meet our community's needs. One area in particular that we continue to watch for financial resources to develop is to support teen programs. The need

is clearly documented. We will keep everyone apprised of our progress.

While the economy may be picking up, I have said before, we can no longer assume that our currently funded programs will continue. Quality and accountability are expected. Are customers happy with the service we are providing? We need to know. I have in the past and will continue to preach customer service.

Last year we expanded our Special Education Services program in Chenango County from a 2.5 hour program to a 3.5 hour program and the program is doing very

well we are fully staffed and fully enrolled. Early Intervention continues to be an issue everywhere in the state. While services are available, but funding and providers continue to be an issue. When we look at the financial viability of this program it is very difficult if not impossible to provide those services. We will continue our advocacy in this area to support those services.

We will continue to develop services for people with disabilities. Last year we started providing service coordination. This year we will start providing waiver services to include community habilitation and other services.

I would like to thank the staff, our Governing Board and the community for their continued support to our Agency and the people we support. We look forward to the coming year.

Teaching Kids about Thoughts,



It's natural for a child to act out when they do not quite understand what they are feeling. Their thoughts and feelings naturally contribute to their behavior. Therefore, teaching a child about his thoughts, feelings and behavior is the key to his development and self-awareness.

Teaching children about feelings is extremely important. If they're sensitive to others' feelings and their own when they are younger, this trait will stay with them as they grow older. Using real examples and activities to educate children about their own mind will help them to connect with their friends, family and peers in a variety of social situations.

Use Real Examples

Using real examples that the children have experienced or demonstrated will allow them to relate to the topic of feelings and thoughts. For example, when a 6-year-old wanted the last slice of pizza, he chose to give it to his 4-year-old brother instead. This is an opportunity to teach a lesson, by explaining that we treat people how we want to be treated. The mom asked her 4-year-old how it felt when his brother made a sacrifice for him, and he said it felt good. By telling the 6-year-old what his brother did, made everyone feel good.

Show Understanding

One primary method of teaching a child about his thoughts and feelings is to show that you understand and empathize. Being sensitive to a child's feelings allows for better communication. For example, if the child gets in trouble for something, try and understand why he did it and speak to his emotions before getting upset. This creates a calmer atmosphere for everyone and lets them feel that you are not talking down to them, but rather understanding things from their point of view.

Consider using phrases such as this: "Mommy is not happy with your behavior. I understand that its fun to wrestle and I love seeing you guys laughing and playing; however, it's not fun if someone gets hurt."

Communicate your thoughts and feelings toward the child's behavior to model your understanding, but also your own feelings and thoughts. This takes a lot of patience and practice, but it is well worth it once you get the hang of it.

*Shape
children's
brains
with
responsive
and
nurturing
caregiving.*

"Your beliefs become your thoughts, Your thoughts become your words, Your words become your actions, Your actions become your habits, Your habits become your values, Your values become your destiny."

Social and Emotional Development

New York State Pyramid Model Partnership

Supporting Social-Emotional Competence in New York State's Young Children



The New York State Pyramid Model Partnership is promoting the state-wide use of the Pyramid Model, an evidence-based framework proven to be an effective approach to building social and emotional competence in early childhood programs.

With the Pyramid Model, programs will focus on promoting social-emotional development, providing support for children's appropriate behavior, and preventing challenging behavior. This pyramid framework includes four levels of practice to address the needs of all children, including children with persistent challenging behavior.

Building Positive Relationships

The foundation of an effective early education program must be positive, supportive relationships between teachers and children as well as with

families and other professionals. Good relationships are key to effective teaching and guidance in social, emotional, and behavioral development.

Implementing Classroom Preventative Practices

Includes: specific adult-child interactions and classroom design, to support development and use of appropriate behavior.

Using social-emotional teaching strategies

Skills taught include being able to identify feelings in self and others and act upon feelings in appropriate ways.

Planning intensive individualized interventions

When challenging behavior is still displayed, work on identifying the environmental events, circumstances, and interactions that trigger problem behavior, the purpose of problem behavior, and the development of support strategies for preventing problem behavior and teaching new skills

For more information on The Pyramid Model, visit: <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>



It's Not Too Early to Prepare for Flu Season

Flu Season in the US is typically between October and April, so the vaccine should be available by the beginning of October. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get an annual flu vaccine as soon as it is available. Those who are especially vulnerable to complications are:

Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old

Adults 65 years of age and older

Pregnant women

People with chronic illness such as Asthma, Heart disease, Diabetes

People with extreme obesity

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year. Pregnant women should be immunized because, while their babies cannot receive the vaccine right after they are born, the mother's immunization will transfer to the baby in the womb to provide protection from the flu after birth.



Getting Geared-Up for a Great "Head Start"

Head Start teachers, advocates, food service, and transportation staff returned to the Agency in August and September to begin preparing for the 2016-2017 program year. They spend pre-service participating in educational instruction, team building, and program start-up activities.

The Pre-Service Calendar is comprised of early childhood, special services, family partnership, health, nutrition, and program operations professional development opportunities. This year's calendars include: Child Abuse Reporting, Understanding the Importance of Confidentiality, Special Services in Head Start, Health and Safety Monitoring, Understanding OCFS Licensing Regulations, Medication Administration Training, CPR, AED and First Aid Certification, Yoga for Children, CACFP, and the Implementation of Conscious Discipline in Classroom Settings. Bus Drivers, Bus Monitors, and Food Service Workers return in August /September to begin their specialized pre-service training.

Pre-Service is an exciting time for staff, parents, and children; for more information about this year's pre-service or for a complete calendar of events, contact us at (607) 723-8313 or visit us at 24 Cherry Street in Johnson City.



Employee Spotlight



Hello everyone!

My name is Karen Kovacs, and I have worked at Family Enrichment Network for five years as an Occupational Therapist. Some people may think that Occupational Therapy is only for adults; children, after all, do not have

“occupations.” However, a child’s main occupation is to play and to learn, and that’s what we do in therapy!

Aside from working at FEN, I have a great husband who is very supportive and two wonderful children, who are twelve and seven years

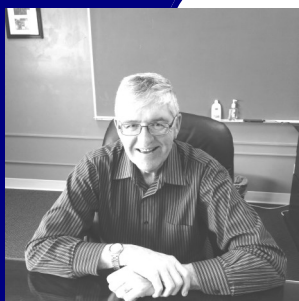
old. They keep us moving with all of their extracurricular activities. Besides playing chauffeur to my kids, I love doing Crossfit, reading, and spending time on my family’s dairy farm.

FEN staff consistently display

Humility - Empathy - Ambition - Respect - Teamwork



FEN STAFF - FUN FACTS



- Did you know that our Executive Director, Darrell Newvine, is a Vietnam Veteran? He spent twenty years serving and retired as a senior military officer. He has his Masters in Counseling Psychology and lectures in addition to his duties here at FEN. When he’s not humbly leading a complex organization, in an even more complex society, he’s doing similar chores at home... regularly shoveling horse manure. Joking aside, Darrell is sincerely dedicated to providing quality services for our community’s families and children.



- Did you know that Mary DiFulvio, our Human Resource Director hates having her picture taken? Can you tell? Mary loves sports, so much so that she coached basketball at SUNY Utica for three years... and was even inducted into the hall of fame for her basketball skills. It’s like we have our very own Michael Jordan right here at FEN! Mary is hilarious in her own way, more importantly she is genuinely invested in those she works with and for.

Medicaid Service Coordination

- Community Habilitation -

We are pleased to announce that the Family Enrichment Network has received approval to provide several services to people with developmental disabilities through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). OPWDD is a New York State agency responsible for coordinating services to 126,000+ individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The first service we will provide is "Community Habilitation". Essentially, this service will assist individuals with developmental disabilities in cultivating the daily life skills needed to maintain themselves in the community, in the least restrictive environment possible.

Each client will receive services commensurate with their needs. Service hours could vary from 2-3 hours per week, up to 20 hours or more per week. Services may be provided during the day, evening, or weekend; in the home or in the community. Services and hours are driven by individual assessments and needs.

FEN will be phasing in other services over the next several months as well. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available. If you have any questions please contact Jamie LaPlante at 723-8313 ext. 1662.

Child Care Resource & Referral

- Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance
- Legally Exempt Enrollment
- Professional Development Training
- Child Care Referral Specialist
- Child and Adult Care Food Program

Community Services

- Caring Homes Program
- Clinic Plus Program
- Housing
- Medicaid Services Coordination

Family Support Services

- Courthouse Children's Center
- Kinship Care Programs
- Nutritional Outreach Education Program

Head Start/Early Head Start

- Adult Education/GED/ESL
- Early Head Start (Broome & Tioga)
- Head Start (Broome & Tioga)
- Literacy Programs
- New Pathways for Fatherhood Program
- Parent Workshops
- Parenting Education Group
- Policy Council
- Site Committees
- Summer Meal Program
- UPK Program

Special Education Services

- Evaluation Services
- Related Services
- Special Education Itinerant Services (SEIT)
- Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS)
- Behavioral Support for Autism Spectrum Disorder

For more information, visit us at:
www.familyenrichment.org

News & Views has gone paperless!

Going paperless is an environmentally friendly step towards reducing waste and participating in green living. Please visit our website and “Connect with FEN” by entering your e-mail to sign up for our newsletter. You may also enjoy following us on Facebook where you will be informed of our latest events and happenings!

www.familyenrichment.org



COATS for KIDS

Keep our community's children and families warm this winter by dropping off new or gently used coats at one of the following locations from October 27, 2016 - November 23, 2016:

The Partners Insurance - All Broome & Tioga Locations

Raymour & Flannigan Furniture

Hatala Orthodontics

Taylor Garbage

Free coats of all sizes will be available to the public from November 7, 2016 - November 30, 2016 at



24 Cherry Street

Johnson City, NY

Visit our website and Facebook page for updates on drop-off locations



24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY
13790



We are a proud sponsor of
Family Enrichment Network,
and the positive changes
they make in our community

*Thank you
for all you do!*

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Advertising Space Available

Space is now available to send your valuable message to OVER 1,000 community members.

“Blocks” approximately 2 1/2” x 3 1/2” are now available, become an advertising partner of Family Enrichment Network for \$15 per year, and receive 3 issues of “free” advertising.

For more information on available space or to set up your ad,

please call Laura at (607) 723-8313 Ext. 815.