

The F2F is a critical project of Stone Soup Group (SSG), a statewide nonprofit organization created in 1992 by parents of children and youth with disabilities, health care providers, and social workers who shared a common vision for interconnected, collaborative, family-driven assistance for other families of children and youth with special needs. "Stone Soup Group" is a nod to the children's fable, in which a village of people contributes to feed a hungry stranger and one another. This spirit of collaboration and input of varied experience and knowledge is the philosophy behind the work SSG does. Services are available statewide to help families with medical, disability, mental health, and special education issues and most are at no cost to families.

2016 IMPACT on FAMILY

David, a 25 year old student who experiences bi-polar disorder and ADHD describes how he and his brother, diagnosed with autism, have grown over the last 8 years with SSG services and youth programs:

"...After all we had been through, we both graduated. I started college; my brother started participating in Wii Club. He seemed to become more outgoing and it helped restore our friendship to what it was before. Today my brother thrives at his job, his paperclip artwork, and paintings. I completed my associate's degree. We would not have made it as far as we did today if it were not for the friends and family that supported us. If not for individuals willing to make a difference in the lives of those with special needs or who just need a friend, many would be lost. I am thankful for my mom for standing by us and helping us by getting us into programs and I thank the stars for Stone Soup Group who has provided for my family in more ways than one."

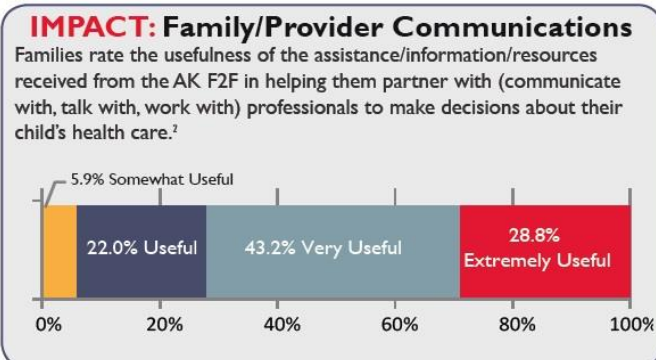
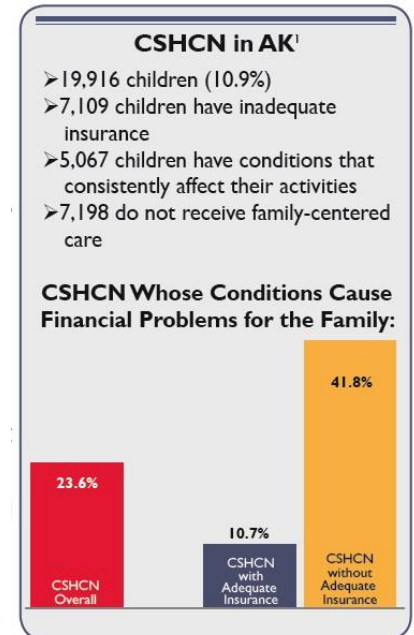
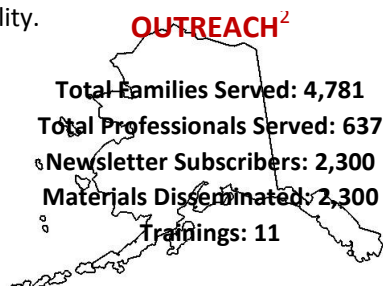
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2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Public Health Crisis Impact Recently, Alaska's only Neurodevelopmental pediatrician retired. The practice has been unable to find a replacement. In an effort to mitigate the impacts, F2F Alaska worked with psychologists to determine which were willing to complete neuropsychological evaluations, as well as the insurances and age ranges accepted. Although there has been a long wait list, F2F wrote referrals for families, decreasing the need to see another provider and expediting the process.

Youth and Training Impact In partnership with a local organization providing leadership and support to pediatric care, the F2F assisted in convening a panel of parents to speak about the transition of youth with special needs from pediatric to adult healthcare in an effort to educate and support pediatric providers in this process.

Family Impact As part of the intake process, F2F staff inquires about health insurance status for families, opening up a great discussion about the challenges of accessing necessary care. The F2F listens to the families' stories and offers options for insurance coverage and other financial resources, and guides them through the overall process of receiving health care services. This is an everyday occurrence. Because the focus of the F2F is the family, SSG also assists with housing, employment, and other basic needs, such as food, to enable the family to stabilize and receive the supports necessary to maintain stability.



CONTACT

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¹National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs. NS-CSHCN 2009/10. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved 04/03/2014 from www.childhealthdata.org.
²FY2016 F2F data represents families and professionals served through one-to-one contact, training, and broader outreach from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.

This report was developed by Family Voices National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships (www.fv-nccpp.org) under grant number U40MC00149, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.