



Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. WASHINGTON, DC FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER (F2F) 2016 DATA REPORT

Since 1996, Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. (AJE), has endeavored to empower youth and parents to be effective advocates to ensure that children with disabilities receive appropriate services to meet their needs. The F2F at AJE, in partnership with Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, provides training and workshops to families of CSHCN, trains parents and caregivers to be Family Navigators to provide emotional support to other families, produces resources and publications on best practices and programs affecting CSHCN, educates professionals working with CSHCN, and partners with stakeholders in the medical and health care fields.

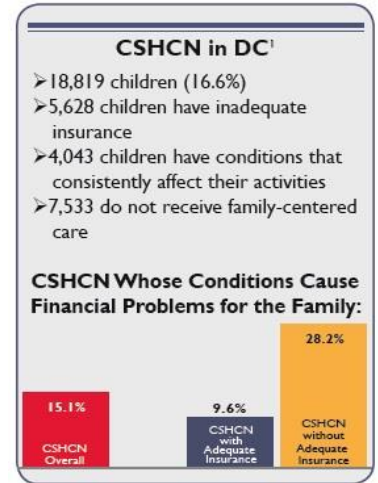
IMPACT on a FAMILY

"A parent sought assistance from AJE with obtaining educational, medical, and community-based supports after her daughter had recently been diagnosed with epilepsy. AJE helped the parent to obtain Supplemental Security Income and to access a local support group for teens with epilepsy. The youth was able to effectively communicate with her teachers, school administrators, and medical providers about the accommodations she desired during her Individualized Educational Planning (IEP) meeting, resulting in a modified Individualized Health Plan (IHP). Following the IEP meeting, the youth informed AJE that she felt empowered and prepared to advocate for herself when needed."

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

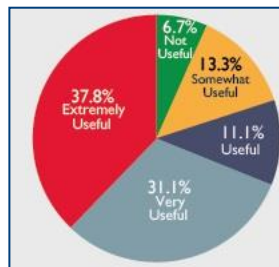
Public Health Crisis- Mental Health Impact The F2F began a new initiative to bring families, professionals and community members together to discuss and educate on available resources, how to access them and policy changes that need to take place to improve mental health outcomes for D.C.'s Children. The F2F developed and made available a tool kit on "Kids Mental Health Services in D.C.: A Handbook for Parents and Guardians." The F2F also provide individual advocacy and support to families of children with mental health needs to access appropriate services in the community and at school. The F2F advocated before our local city council on the need for additional resources in schools to appropriately support children with mental health needs and to stop suspending and expelling children from school.

Legislative Impact The F2F has testified before DC city council and met with city council officials to provide stories, data and proposals on legislative changes to help constituents with problems regularly. For example, the F2F partnered with a number of other organizations to host town hall meetings and to discuss the needs of families and children with disabilities and special health care needs with regard to special education supports and services. We presented council members with a list of legislative changes to protect the rights of and to improve outcomes for children. As a result, new legislation was implemented to expand the rights of children beyond what was already in place or what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) currently provides (e.g., shortened time to complete evaluations and to implement services, parental access to evaluations and draft IEPs prior to any meetings, and beginning transition of youth 2 years earlier than what IDEA currently requires, to name a few). We continue now to advocate for sufficient funding to implement certain provisions of the new legislation that has not been implemented to date.



OUTREACH²

Total Families Served: 6,242
Total Professionals Served: 5,376
Newsletter Subscribers: 2,670
Materials Disseminated: 4,550
Trainings: 170



IMPACT on Family/Provider Communications

Families rate the usefulness of the support, information, and/or resources they received from the DC F2F in helping them partner with (communicate with, talk with, work with) professionals to make decisions about their child's health care.²

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.

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