The Maine Parent Federation (MPF), in existence since 1984, administers the F2F Center in Maine through Project REACH (REsponsive Advocacy for Children’s Health). The goal of the program is to assure that Maine’s families of children with special health care needs partner in decision-making at all levels and are satisfied with the services they receive. Families receive a wide variety of information, education, referral, training, advocacy and a range of family supports. The program builds upon the partnership between MPF and Maine’s Maternal and Child Health Title V CSHCN Program.

**Family Impact**

The F2F Family Support Navigator program continues to grow. It provides one-to-one assistance for families needing support to navigate the various systems of care and supports and teaches the skills and knowledge that families need to be partners in their child’s programming. Families are more able to find services, access health care, and advocate more effectively for their family. In the past year, because crucial MaineCare services were cut for people with disabilities, the F2F responded with increased assistance to families appealing MaineCare decisions and also educating them about the Katie Beckett insurance option.

**2016 HIGHLIGHT: Early Intervention Impact** The F2Fs community involvement has helped, as members of a state committee, to bring the Help Me Grow initiative to ME. This initiative targets the improvement of developmental screening of children at young ages to ensure their health, growth and development as they age. The F2F attended the Help Me Grow conference at the end of April 2016 and will serve as the parent voice during the entire process.

**Transition Crises and Impact** Transition planning for youth with disabilities is not being implemented effectively. Youth are still leaving school without a plan for the future. They have no jobs, no vocational training, no housing, no supports and face long wait lists for services. The F2F represented the parent voice on the Community Housing Committee and was able to shift focus to the assessment being used to determine eligibility to access adult services. The F2F persuaded the Committee to discontinue the inefficient and inaccurate assessment tool and work to develop a replacement that more accurately reflects the needs of adults with special healthcare needs and/or disabilities.

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**CSHCN in ME:**
- 53,122 children (19.4%)
- 13,720 children have inadequate insurance
- 14,086 children have conditions that consistently affect their activities
- 14,469 do not receive family-centered care

**CSHCN Whose Conditions Cause Financial Problems for the Family:**
- 8.6%
- 12.6%
- 34.4%

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**IMPACT on Family Confidence**

100% of families rate the usefulness of the support, information, and/or resources they received from the ME F2F in helping them feel more confident about getting their child the health care and services that s/he needs as useful to extremely useful.

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**CONTACT**

Maine Parent Federation, Inc.
PO Box 2067, Augusta, ME 04338
Phone: (800) 870-7746
Email: parentconnect@mpf.org
Website: http://www.mpf.org
Contact: Robin Levesque, rlevesque@mpf.org