The MS F2F is a collaboration of The University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disability Studies, the Title V Children’s Medical Program (CMP) of the Mississippi State Department of Health, and Living Independence for Everyone of Mississippi, Inc. Located in the Jackson office of the Institute for Disability Studies, the F2F is managed by the parent of a child with special health care needs (CSHCN). Through project activities, the MS F2F works to enable families to be knowledgeable, comfortable and competent in navigating the health care system with regard to their child’s unique health care needs, and to advocate for ongoing and continuous quality improvement in health care.

2016 IMPACT on a FAMILY

The MS F2F assisted a single mother of three boys; one had epilepsy from a traumatic brain injury. He was in the 4th grade and doing well in school. After not having seizures for three years, he started having them again, causing him to miss school and his mom to miss work. The MS F2F parent consultant was able to help the mom apply for short-term leave. Further conversations with her employer revealed they had funds to help in situations like this one. The parent consultant assisted with getting time to make up for missed school and connected the family with another organization that assisted the mom in getting extended school year services for her son. Mom was also connected with the Brain Injury Association for assistance with paying bills that were overdue because she missed work when her son was in the hospital.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Early Transition Impact The MS F2F works in collaboration with Head Start to help parents and their children transition into kindergarten. The F2F trains parents in becoming better advocates for their CSHCN, addressing subjects like parent involvement and participation, the medical home, effective communication, and the six key measures of quality health care. This F2F-Head Start partnership helps parents get the right start from the beginning of their child’s matriculation in school. This partnership has led to another wonderful relationship with the MS Head Start Association, which gives MS F2F the opportunity to train Head Start parents, educators and administrators around the state on the six key measures of quality health care.

System Impact The MS F2F is assisting the Children’s Medical Program (CMP) with its current Systems Integration Grant. The MS F2F, CMP, and the state’s Medicaid providers are working on a way to integrate systems of care to be more beneficial to our community, create a better system of oversight, help reduce replicated services, and promote better communication between parents/patients, providers, and community resources.