Albany Trip Reminder

We hope you can join us in Albany on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 as we speak to legislators on our youngest citizens behalf. Refer to flyer above for more details and information on how to register.

Meet Jahmiere

(as told by his mother Vialma)
From very early on, I noted that my son had severe developmental delays. Jahmiere was born prematurely at 36 weeks of gestation and suffered trauma in-utero as well as at birth. He required emergency surgery at one day old and spent one week in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. At a year old, he was still not meeting any developmental milestones. He had poor muscle tone in his torso and still could not sit up on his own. He could not crawl and showed no signs of getting ready to walk. He was a happy baby but did not provide any eye contact. He also seemed to have trouble processing and responding to stimuli around him.

I brought these concerns to my pediatrician’s attention and she encourage me to contact Early Intervention Services. After a thorough evaluation, he was considered to be severely developmentally delayed and he immediately began receiving services. The physical therapy allowed him to strengthen his muscles in his torso where he was able to sit up independently. His processing issues were addressed by the Special Education teacher. Occupational therapy assisted with his fine motor and safety concerns. Speech therapy assisted with teaching him sign language until his own voice came in when he was 3 ½ years.

I am grateful for the services and interventions Jahmiere received. I believe that these services greatly impacted his life and helped improve his overall development. I strongly believe that providing him the special education and other supports at a key developmental stage was instrumental in changing his developmental trajectory.
Left untreated and undiagnosed could have resulted in my son, now ten years old, attending special education classes instead of the regular classroom, dual language education program he has been in since Kindergarten.

How Parents Can Lodge A Complaint About Early Intervention

At a November 2019 meeting with the Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) we were informed that the data BEI has did not support the stories we relayed regarding the issues in Early Intervention (EI). According to BEI they don’t hear much from families who are having trouble obtaining services.

This information was shared with Parents Helping Parents Coalition of Monroe County who in turn spent some time trying to identify how parents can lodge a complaint with the BEI, as was suggested. After multiple efforts, they rec’d this response:

"Thank you for writing. The email address you used (beipub@health.ny.gov) is the best way for parents to contact the New York State Department of Health (Department) with concerns about the Early Intervention (EI) Program. This mailbox is monitored during business hours by the technical assistance team within the Department’s Bureau of Early Intervention. Please ask families you are working with to send an email to this address (beipub@health.ny.gov) with the subject line "Lodging Complaint About EI." Parents can include information they wish to share, such as the specific problem they are experiencing, their contact information, and the best way to reach them (email or telephone) to provide assistance.

We hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if you have further questions.

Thank you.

Bureau of Early Intervention"
What is NYSAC?

County officials established the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) in 1925. NYSAC’s mission is to represent, educate and advocate for New York’s counties and the thousands of elected and appointed county officials who serve the public.

NYSAC, governed by a non-partisan 15-member Board of Directors, composed of county officials representing New York's 12 Judicial Districts, communicates the needs and recommendations of the county officials to State lawmakers.

NYSAC's policy agenda is set through 12 standing committees, made up of county officials who are experts in their fields. One of the standing committees is Children with Special Needs, chaired by Lisa Chester of Niagara County.

The 2020 key priority for the Children with Special Needs Standing Committee is to preserve the county Medicaid cap by ensuring no new costs are shifted to counties as the state addresses the major funding shortfalls in the program.

Click here to read the Children with Special Needs Standing Committee’s 2020 legislative asks on pages 9-10.
We've been busy! Check out our latest happenings.