Kids Can't Wait Advocacy Toolkit

Resources to use to advocate on behalf of NYS kids in need of developmental services and to encourage others to join you!

Current materials (check back regularly for new & revised items):

1) Welcome Letter
2) Early Intervention Fact Sheet
3) Preschool Special Education Fact Sheet
4) Legislative Visits & Communication Tips
5) Social Media Resources

https://thechildrensagenda.salsalabs.org/KidsCantWaitJuly20190
Outreach Happenings

The Children's Agenda recognizes that Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education provider shortages are an ongoing issue across the state. Thus, we have been traveling throughout Western & Central NY to speak about this important issue and learn about the impact of these shortages in various areas.

Our current outreach has involved:

- LEICC (Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council) meetings
- EI officers and CPSE chairs
- Providers, provider agencies, Headstart and Early Headstart programs
- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Niagara, NY

Here's what we're learning:

- The provider shortage is a major concern throughout Western and Central NY though, there hasn't currently been any active advocacy in most counties
- 6 out of the 8 Early Intervention Officers who responded to our data questionnaire reported that their county has a waitlist
- 11 out of the 16 CPSE chairs who responded to our questionnaire reported that their school district has a waitlist
- IFSP's & IEP's aren't reflecting the services the child actually needs but instead reflect
We've been busy! Check out our latest happenings.

what services are available

- Agencies have an issue finding and retaining providers because they are unable to offer a competitive wage
- Providers feel that the multiple billing systems & paperwork between the state, counties, and school districts makes for an administrative nightmare

UPCOMING OUTREACH:

TCA will be tabling at the Gospel Jubilee in Rochester, NY on 7/28/19 from 4-730 pm @ the Public Market (280 N Union Street)

Victories for children!

Through the hard work of many parents, providers and advocates, young children with developmental needs will now have more access to the help they deserve.

In April we learned that New York State reimbursement rates for the Early Intervention program were increased by 5% for OT, PT and Speech Pathology services!

In March, Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo announced a 15% increase in rates for Preschool Special Education Related Services, e.g. PT, OT, SLP. When the changes turned out to be less than comprehensive, once again we successfully pushed for needed changes in that proposal. The final policy includes an increase in rates in all service settings.
Let's continue speaking out to make our elected officials aware of the need for even more progress to help our kids grow and thrive!

Children's Interfaith Weekend!

Are you involved in a faith community? Would your friends and colleagues there want to help advocate for the changes that are needed to better serve young children with special needs? Consider participating in the TCA Children's Interfaith Weekend! Click here to learn more.

We Need Your Stories

Legislators and policymakers sometimes don't understand what life is like for families who have children with developmental needs. Legislators with no experience with Early Intervention or Preschool Special Education don't realize how important these programs are to families. They need to hear about your struggles, your celebrations.
We've been busy! Check out our latest happenings.

Thus, we are seeking stories from the community regarding their experience with Early Intervention and/or Preschool Special Education Services. If you are a parent or know of a parent who might be interested in sharing their story, please email a completed story form to The Children’s Agenda.

To access the form click here and select the Click to Share button under ‘We Need Your Stories’. Select open file. Fill in form, save it, and then email to Kristen@thechildrensagenda.org

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