



The Deep South

Winter 2013

Volume 6, Issue 2

Opinions contained herein do not necessarily represent those of the funding source, and no endorsement should be inferred.

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Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to educate and empower individuals with disabilities, their families, professionals and communities by providing resources, training and family-to-family support. FHF of SELA envisions a region where people with disabilities live and are fully included in school, work and recreational activities.

The Prism Project of Greater NOLA:

Roux-Roux Productions

The Prism Project of Greater NOLA: Roux-Roux Productions (TPP of GNO) is a performing arts recreational activity for children with special needs ages 6—14 in Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes. The program originates from an already established and successful program in Muncie, Indiana at Ball State University. TPP of GNO will help children with disabilities engage and develop socially as well as learn performing arts skills in music, dance and theater. The program intends to close the gap in recreational activities for children with disabilities by providing children with special needs the opportunity to express themselves and engage with others. It is through this method that they will gain self-confidence, self-esteem, experiences and friendships.

The Prism Project of Greater NOLA: Roux-Roux Productions will be a partnership program between **Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana**, **New Orleans Recreational Development Commission**, the **University of New Orleans**, **The Ball State Prism Project** and **The Davis-Molony Foundation**.

Turn to **pages 5-9** to find out more about our new and exciting recreational program for children with special needs, to fill out an application and to see TPP of GNO's schedule!

Story Continued on Pages 5-9

Board of Directors

Hyacinth McKee
Board Chairman

Molly Sullivan
Board Vice Chair

Adranell Murray
Secretary

Jim Durbin
Treasurer

Board Members

Donnica Conway-Strawder

Everett Henderson

Kim Jones

Valerie Read

Brenda Valteau

Georgette Wallace

Mike Yazbeck

Claudia Smith (Board Liaison)
(ad hoc)

FHF of SELA Team

Carol Calix
Executive Director

Alex Abend
Family Advocate

Tina Haines
Family Advocate

Shay Hunter
Early Steps—Community
Outreach Specialist

Aisha Johnson
Transition Specialist
LaCAN Assistant

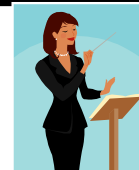
Tiecha Keiffer
Family Advocate

Tracy Jones
MHSD Office Assistant

Willie Martin
MHSD Office Assistant

Beth Anne Merida
Bookkeeper
Delery Rice
LaCAN Leader

**Stipends/
Financial Assistance**



Financial assistance is available to parents of children with developmental disabilities and to individuals with developmental disabilities who would like to attend workshops and conferences. Please visit the websites and/or call the agencies that are hosting the event if you are interested in attending or to see if this is something you would benefit from. If you want to attend and need help with the cost of the registration, hotel and/or mileage, please call us for a **Stipend Application**. Funds are limited so we ask that you notify us of your request as early as possible.



Call us at **504-943-0343** or
1-877-243-7352.

Are you a fan of social media?
Find us online!



Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
FHFofSELA](http://www.facebook.com/FHFofSELA)

We post articles of interest, links to other local advocacy organizations, information about upcoming trainings and more!

Twitter

@FHFofSELA



***The office will be closed in observance
of the following holidays***

Dec 17-Jan 1

Christmas and New Year

Jan 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb 11—12

Mardi Gras

March 29

Good Friday



VISION STATEMENT

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana envisions a region where people with disabilities live and are fully included in school, work, and recreational activities.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate and empower individuals with disabilities, their families, professionals and communities by providing resources, training, and family-to-family support.

As a non-profit doing business in Louisiana, board meetings are open to the public. Our meetings are typically scheduled bi-monthly, on the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm.

Board meetings for the rest of this fiscal year are scheduled on
February 14, April 11 and June 13, 2013.

If you are interested in information about being a board member or volunteering with FHF of SELA in any way, please call Carol at 504-943-0343.

Board meetings are held at the office at 7240 Crowder Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127 in the main conference room located on the third floor, unless otherwise stated.

PEOPLE FIRST OF NOLA:

- Is a self advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities.
- Where people learn to speak up for themselves about decisions they make.
- Members can connect with others in their community, across the nation and around the world.
- Members learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America.

People First of NOLA meets every third
Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm.

Upcoming meeting dates are:

January 15, 2013

February 19, 2013

March 19, 2013

April 16, 2013

May 21, 2013

June 18, 2013

Meetings are held at:

Goodwill Headquarters
3400 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119



CAROL'S CORNER:

***A Message from the
Executive Director***



Well, 2012 has been an action packed year. Although FHF of SELA has gone through some growing pains it has been a good thing. We outgrew our little cottage on Franklin Avenue and moved to New Orleans East in September. FHF of SELA went from having six employees during the summer to now having nine.

So much has happened in the disability world this year also. Families continue to wait for services and are fearful their wait will even be longer due to the financial crisis in Louisiana. The state fully implemented Resource Allocation to help cut the cost of providing waiver services and to alleviate some funding to provide services for more individuals. However, changes have been made to the Flexible Family Fund (Cash Subsidy) and 55 individuals in Louisiana lost this service due to these changes.

Bayou Health now administers Medicaid services (except for individuals on waivers). Magellan now oversees medical care for Behavioral Health. And the state and OCDD is embarking on a system transformation, which we at FHF of SELA will tell you more about in the coming months.

FHF of SELA held their first official fundraising event, the *Turkey Bowl*, in November and we were very pleased with the turnout. We plan to make this an annual event but next year we will plan it for a Sunday when the Saints are out of town, on their bye week or when they play during the week, because we want to have all of the *Who Dat* fans join us for food and fun at Rock 'N' Bowl! We are also planning an event for the spring, so keep an eye out for the time, date and place in our next newsletter. It will be a wonderful opportunity for families to meet other families and have a good time.

We are VERY excited about our newest endeavor, The Prism Project of GNO. A great deal of this newsletter is dedicated to the program and we invite anyone who has children between the ages of 6 and 14, with AND without disabilities, to consider being a part of this wonderful opportunity.

FHF of SELA is also seeking funding to hold a comprehensive Career Symposium for our youth ages 16 – 22 that are transitioning out of high school. This will be a two day event and is designed to prepare a student who will be exiting high school and entering the real world – and a job. We will have more information for you in future newsletters.

Changes are taking place in Social Security and there are now over 200 disabilities that will be “fast-tracked” in order to provide individuals with disabilities the assistance they need.

There is also a new government act in the midst of all the changes, The Family Opportunity Act. This will play out in the coming year and we will continue to advocate for the best possible services that can be provided to individuals with disabilities.

Please go through the entire newsletter and see what we have planned for the next three months. We have education workshops, both in person and online, the annual LaCAN/LaTEACH roundtable (ANYONE that is waiting for any type of service should attend this to meet with and talk to the legislators who make the decisions that affect their lives), a workshop on caregiver stress, a workshop on parents' rights and responsibilities who are receiving waiver services or respite services through MHSD.

Another year comes to an end. I send my best wishes to everyone for a joyful and blessed holiday season. And all of us at FHF of SELA look forward to serving you and your family in 2013!



The Prism Project of Greater NOLA: Roux-Roux Productions

The Prism Project of Greater NOLA: Roux-Roux Productions (TPP of GNO) is a performing arts recreational activity for children with special needs ages 6—14 in Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes. The program originates from an already established and successful program in Muncie, Indiana at Ball State University. TPP of GNO will help children with disabilities engage and develop socially as well as learn performing arts skills. The program intends to close the gap in recreational activities for children with disabilities by providing children with special needs the opportunity to express themselves and engage with others. It is through this method that they will gain self-confidence, self-esteem, experiences and friendships.

TPP of GNO will focus on teaching children with special needs dance, music and theater with the goal of producing a performance at the end of the program. This program will be inspired and written by the participants, with the help of a highly-skilled Scriptwriter.

We at FHF of SELA are incredibly excited to offer a recreational program for children with special needs in the Greater New Orleans area. TPP of GNO is a partnership with the University of New Orleans, Ball State University and the New Orleans Recreational Development Commission (NORDC). NORDC will be providing us with the space for the rehearsals, which will take place at the Behrman Center: 2529 General Meyer Ave, New Orleans, LA. The staff will consist of a program coordinator, three directors (one for Music, one for Dance and one for Theater), a Scriptwriter, two Behaviorists, and volunteers studying special education, music, theater and/or dance.

Finally, TPP of GNO would not be in existence without the generous support and financial donation from The Davis-Molony Foundation as well as private donors, and to them we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In this newsletter (on the following pages) you will find an application and schedule for TPP of GNO. If your child would like to participate please fill out the forms in its entirety (it is **3 pages long**). Since this is our first year and space is limited, we are running on a first-come first-serve basis. Therefore, although the application deadline is **January 11**, feel free to send in the application as soon as possible. Also, if your child with special needs has siblings who fall in the same age group or would like to volunteer, please note that on your child's application. Please cut out the attached application and mail it to Alexandra Abend, Program Coordinator, 7240 Crowder Blvd, Suite 202, New Orleans, LA 70127 with an enclosed check of \$30 for the application fee.

Thank you and we look forward to enjoying The Prism Project of Greater NOLA: Roux-Roux Productions with you and your family this year!

Alexandra Abend (Program Coordinator)
Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana



The Prism Project of Greater NOLA:
Roux-Roux Productions
Performer Application

Name (Performer): _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone number: _____ Alternative Phone: _____

(A Prism Project Staff Member *MUST* be able to contact you at this number during sessions in case of an emergency)

Please provide an additional contact person and phone number in case of an emergency:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Please explain why you believe your child would enjoy being part of the Prism Project:

Please look over the attached schedule and list any conflicts that you may have:

Please list any health or safety concerns that we should be aware of.

Video Release: Students may be videotaped periodically for educational purposes. If this video is shared with another party, your child's name will not be used.

I have read the above statement and will allow my child to be videotaped

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

APPLICATION DUE ON JANUARY 11TH , 2013. We will be operating on a first-come-first serve basis as we have limited space.

Cost is \$30. Make checks out to Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana. Please mail application to:

Alex Abend, C/O Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana, 7240 Crowder Blvd., Suite 202, New Orleans, LA 70127. Also, please e-mail Ms. Abend at aabend@fhfsela.org or call 504-943-0343 to let us know you are coming. SEE YOU ON February 2, 2013!

Performer Information

In order to help our staff get to know your child as quickly as possible, and in order for us to attempt to design the best possible experience for your child, please take a few minutes to fill out the following questions.

Name: _____ (Performer) Age: _____

Things I like (people, places, things, activities that create excitement, happiness, and engagement):

This is how I show I am happy:

Things I do not like (people, places, things and situations that cause upset, anger, sadness, and / or frustration):

This is how I show I am angry:

If I'm scared, this is how I react:

When I am scared or angry, or frustrated, or overstimulated, I need you to:

I communicate best when (gesturing, speaking, behaving in a certain way, using a communication device, using sign language):

I understand best when (shown, shown and told how, using hand-over-hand techniques):

I need help with:

Tell us about your child's unique talents and / or interests.

Is there anything else you think might be helpful for us to know about your child?

The Prism Project of Greater NOLA:
Roux-Roux Production Schedule
January—May 2013

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 28 through Feb. 1, 2013 Time: TBA	Volunteer and Staff	TBA
Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Parent and Performer	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, March 2, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Week of March 4 through March 8, 2013 Time: TBA	Rehearsal with the Ball State University PP team	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, March 9, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday March 16, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, March 23, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, March 30, 2013	No Rehearsal	
Saturday, April 6, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Saturday, April 20, 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Rehearsal	Behrman Center 2529 General Meyer Ave.
Week of April 22 to April 28, 2013 Time: TBA	Dress Rehearsal	TBA
Week of April 22 to April 28, 2013 Time: TBA	The Prism Project of Greater New Orleans Performance	TBA

What's Up at FHF of SELA?



**TURKEY BOWL
AND
OPEN HOUSE AND
RIBBON CUTTING
CEREMONY**





Thank You To Everyone Who Came Out For Our Two Big Events!

Our Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony And

Our First Annual Turkey Bowl Party!

These events could not have been successful without the generous donations
of our corporate sponsors:

For Our Open House and Ribbon Cutting

Ceremony:

Kupcake Factory

Deanie's on Hayne

Salads Galore and More

USA Neighborhood Grocery

LSU AgCenter

Office Depot

And a special thank you to the

New Orleans 7th District Fire Department

New Orleans 7th District Police Department

Representative Wesley Bishop

Minister Michelle Keiffer

For Our 1st Annual Turkey Bowl Party:

Poeyfarre Market

Rooba's Crescent Spoon Café

Parkway Bakery & Tavern

The Camp Family

Jim Durbin, Jr., CPA

Magnolia Enterprises

Reliable Community Alternatives, Inc.

FHF of SELA Board of Directors

FHF of SELA Board Liaison Claudia Smith

And a special thank you to everyone who donated or came
out to Rock 'N' Bowl for our fundraiser! It was a great
success and we hope to see you all next year at our annual
family-fun fundraiser!

And a big thank you to donors who so graciously assisted.

Finally, we would like to thank **Magnolia Enterprises** for donating Thanksgiving Food

Baskets and Christmas Presents for our families in Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.



If you or someone you know would like to make a donation to support Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana please contact Beth Anne Merida at 504-943-0343 ext. 206 or by email at bamerida@fhfsela.org for more details or simply make a donation through our website at www.fhfsela.org. **All donations are tax-deductible.**



End of the Year Update from the La Family to Family Health Information Center

*By Karen Scallan
Program Director, La F2FHIC*

Season's Greetings from the La Family to Family Health Information Center, your resource for health, health care financing, Medicaid and insurance questions for families of children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities (CYSHCN), ages 0-26.

Bayou Health and Waiver Recipients

To date, Medicaid Waiver Recipients are NOT included in the Bayou Health, Managed Care program. This could change sometime in the future; however, we have no indication if or when it could change from the State. For now, Waiver recipients will remain on "Legacy" Medicaid.

Prescription Limits through Legacy Medicaid

There is a 4 prescription limit through Legacy Medicaid, HOWEVER, that limit can be overridden by the pharmacy if the doctor correctly indicates for an override on the prescription. If you are denied a prescription, you and/or your pharmacist should call the physician to discuss if an override is appropriate.

Pharmacy Benefits and Bayou Health

Three of the 5 Bayou Health Plans began providing pharmacy benefits. Louisiana Healthcare Connections, LaCare and Amerigroup plan members began getting their prescriptions through their plans on November 1st. If you have Medicaid through Community Health Solutions or United Health Care you will still receive their prescriptions through "Legacy" Medicaid. For more info on how these changes will affect your prescription drug coverage, visit <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1328/n/362>.

Medicaid Managed Care and Children with Special Health Care Needs

Do you have a child with complex medical needs and need to choose a Bayou Health Plan? You may want to check out the DHH Informational Bulletins which give more information critical to families of CYSHCN than the brochures being sent out. These bulletins explain the differences in plans on things like referral and pre-authorization policies, and EPSDT. You can find out more by visiting: <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1198/n/311>.

How Will Changes to the DSM-5 Effect Diagnosis of CYSHCN?

The new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is almost complete and new criteria change the way doctors diagnose things like Autism, Asperger's and other disorders. The following article in Forbes magazine discusses some of the changes. http://www.forbes.com/sites/alicegwalton/2012/12/03/what-effect-will-changes-to-the-dsm-5-have-on-people-with-and-without-mental-health-issues/DSM_V. For more information on the DSM-5 which will be issued in May 2013, visit the American Psychiatric Association at <http://www.dsm5.org/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Social Security Administration Announces 200 New Diagnoses which Qualify for Fast Track Disability Approval

SSA allows for certain disability diagnoses to be "fast track" diagnoses for disability benefits approval. They are called "Compassionate Allowance Conditions." By definition, these conditions are so severe that SSA does not need to fully develop the applicant's work history to make a decision. For more information on the New Compassionate Allowances added, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from all of us at the
La F2FHIC!

For more info on any of the above topics or other assistance, contact the
Louisiana Family to Family Health Information Center at 1-800-331-5570.



It's APPtastic!!

Staff members at FHF of SELA research apps and podcasts for the iPad and iPad2 that are user friendly, informative, yet entertaining for the families that we serve.

This edition spotlights:

Proloquo2Go

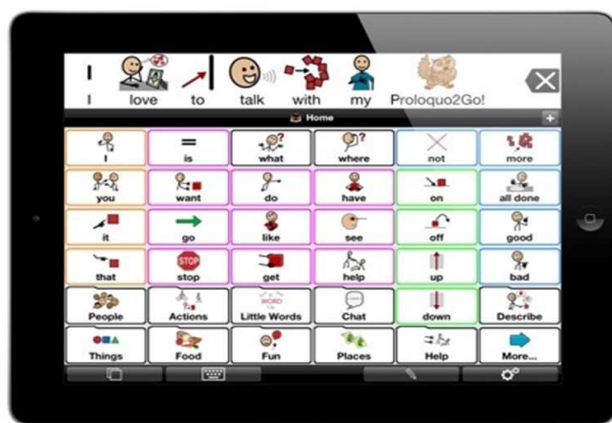


Proloquo2Go can be adapted to suit the needs of a wide range of users with varying literacy levels. Featuring natural-sounding voices, speech can be generated by tapping buttons with symbols or typing using the on-screen keyboard with word prediction. Proloquo2Go continues to revolutionize the world of mobile AAC, allowing individuals to communicate at home, in school, at work, in the community, anywhere, anytime. The cost of Proloquo2go is \$189.99.

Want to check it out before you buy it?

Call our office to make an appointment Monday—Friday 9:00a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Families, professionals and educators can make an appointment to come to our office and test out these and many other apps on one of our iPads. Call the office at 943-0343 for more information or to make an appointment.



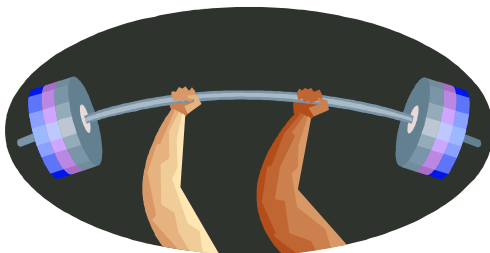
GRANTS FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

Do you need assistance for medical services not fully covered by private insurance? Do you need assistance for medical equipment or therapy?

If so then there are services that can help!

[United Health Care Children's Foundation](http://www.uhccf.org) and [Disabled Children's Relief Fund](http://www.dcrf.org) both have Grants for Medical Services. Their websites are http://www.uhccf.org/apply_applicant.html and www.dcrf.org, respectively. Please log onto their websites to determine eligibility.

If you need help writing and applying for these grants, please contact our FHF of SELA Family Advocate:
Alex Abend at 504-943-0343 / 1-877-243-7352.



IEPs should be based on Strengths

The belief is based on the philosophy that:

1. All children have strengths
2. A child can be motivated by how teachers and parents respond to them
3. Channeling a child's strengths leads to positive engagement in the implementation of the IEP
4. Strength based IEPs teach children to use their talents to achieve their IEP goals



People are Talking about our Webinars and here's what they're saying.

"I enjoyed the meeting and felt that it was very informative."

"Thank you for offering such a wonderful course. Sometimes there is just not enough time in the day to do everything we want and this is a great alternative. Aisha was wonderful."

"Good afternoon. Once again, I would like to thank you for a positive workshop. The host was gracious and did a great job in getting out the information and making everyone feel at ease with the new technology. Aisha and last nights host said they would email the power point to us; I look forward to getting these."

iPossibilities: iPads and Special Education A Lunch and Learn Webinar

The iPad is a mobile device that goes beyond e-book reading, listening to music, watching movies, playing games, browsing the internet, etc. The iPad has many apps that can help students with disabilities be successful at home and at school. It can be used as a tool for education, creation, and discovery in the classroom setting. It can also help with various daily home skills. In all, the iPad can transform home, teaching and learning experiences. Have lunch with us!

WEBINAR

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

12:00pm—1:00pm

Click the Link

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/248378792/2421187>

TIPS FOR TEENS:

USING YOUR IEP MEETINGS TO LEARN HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF

*Self-advocacy is a key step in becoming an adult. It means looking out for yourself, telling people what you need, and knowing how to take responsibility. No one is born knowing these skills. Everyone has to learn them.
Ready to begin learning?*

WEBINAR

Parents and Teachers are welcome too!

Thursday, January 10, 2013

7:00 P.M.-8:00 PM

Click the Link

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/456692024/2421187>



These workshops are supported under a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education with funds under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act



BUILDING FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Is the atmosphere of your school/classroom inviting and family friendly?

What does your school do to promote communication and partnerships with their families?

This workshop will help you to understand how to improve your school involvement And how to effectively communicate with school staff and administrators.

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.

**Location: St. Bernard Parish Library
2600 Palmisano Blvd, Chalmette, LA**



Scan
this to
register
online

**or call
504-943-0343
or 1-877-243-7352.**

**You will be given
instructions on
how to join this
workshop online,
wherever you may
be.**

ADA AND TRANSITION Q&A

Parents and advocates agree that high school students with disabilities should learn about civil rights laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, that protect them from discrimination.

It is often hard, however, to interest teenagers in learning about these laws. One way to show students the relevance of disability rights is to look at how these laws affect activities in which students have a genuine interest.

Individualized Transition Plans (ITPs) and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are required by law to help students with disabilities prepare for school, work and adult life after high school. Transition Plans identify key categories of life activities such as "Jobs and Job Training," "Post Secondary Education & Training," "Community Participation," "Recreation and Leisure," and "Home Living." Students focus on building skills that they need in these areas. Learning about the ADA by applying it to real-life situations can help make the ADA more understandable, show its relevance, and help students to develop self advocacy skills they will need.

Wednesday, February 21, 2013

10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

**Location: Belle Chase Library
8442 Louisiana Hwy 23
Belle Chase, LA**

COMING SOON TO A PARISH NEAR YOU!

FHF of SELA will host a Career Symposium where individuals (16+) with disabilities and their families learn about job preparedness and training. There will be different events focusing on a variety of topics related to individuals with developmental disabilities and employment. Listed below are a few workshops and events that will be held for the FHF of SELA Career Symposium

Job Coaches and Career Counselors Tell All (How to Dress for Success; How to Nail the Interview; What Can You Expect From Your New Job?)

Transition and ADA

Working with a Developmental Disability

The 2013 Job Fair (Part 1: Hands-on Careers - This day will be devoted to testing out the different careers. It will take the form of mini-internships, allowing participants to experience what happens at different jobs. Participants will spend about an hour at their top five stations and experience what it would be like to work at that business. *Part 2: Putting Your New Skills to the Test!* -

Different organizations, corporations, businesses and companies will be invited to attend this job fair for individuals with disabilities and their families. The individuals with disabilities will be able to show off their new interviewing skills as they scan for new careers and jobs).

The FHF of SELA Career Symposium will be a 2 day event .

Dates, Times and Locations are TBA.

Stay Tuned for More Information!



The Guidance Center, Inc.

Presents:
“Healing the Wounded Caregiver”

When:

Thursday, January 23, 2013

Where:

7240 Crowder Blvd.

Conference Room – 3rd Floor

Time:

10:00am to 12:00pm

Presenter:

Michael McNeal

CEO & Founder

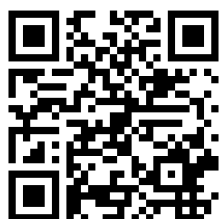
Target Audience:

**Parents/Caregivers and Provider Agency Caregivers (Direct Support Workers),
Administrative Professionals**

To register you can contact us at 504-943-0343

or register online at <http://www.fhfsela.org/calendar-events/event-signups/>

or scan the bar code with your smartphone.



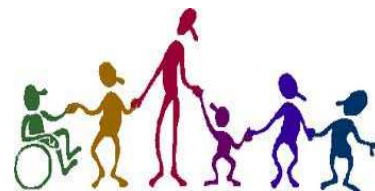
Scan this
to
register
online...

**If you would like to receive
future announcements via
email please**

[click on this link](#)



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SERVICES



YOUR RIGHTS, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE!

Metropolitan Human Services District and Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana
are proud to present our 3rd Quarter Event:

Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

This incredible workshop for families in Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes will be held in March. If you have a loved one with a disability or you yourself are a person with a disability, then this Workshop is for you! We will be discussing important information regarding provider agencies and waivers so that parents and consumers can be made aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Some topics to be covered are:

Case Management Services

Your Relationship with Service Providers and

Direct Support Workers

"What's So Important About the Home Binder?"

Knowing What Questions to Ask: Confidentiality,

Safety and Experience



If you would like to attend this event please contact **Tina Haines, MHSD Advocate**, at 504-943-0343 or email her at thaines@fhfsela.org with the subject heading: *Rights and Responsibilities Registration*.

Since we do not currently have the time, place and date, please register for our e-mail blasts at

<http://www.fhfsela.org/calendar-events/event-signups/>

or scan the bar code with your smartphone.



Scan
this to
register
online

This will be an exciting and informative event that no
parent or consumer should miss!

So don't forget to stay connected with FHF of SELA and register today!

LaCAN/LaTEACH Regional Round Table



Thursday, January 17, 2013

New Orleans East Library

5641 Read Blvd.

New Orleans, LA 70127

10:30AM to 2:30 PM

Check-in for this event will begin a half hour before the event.

*Do you want to learn more about this year's
LaCAN and LaTEACH legislative initiatives?*

*Do you want to learn more about how to meet with your
legislators and tell your story?*

Come meet your legislators, hear their thoughts, and voice your concerns regarding you. Take advantage of this opportunity to connect and become involved in the process that affects us all.

For additional information, please contact Delery Rice, LaCAN Team Leader, at deleryrice@cox.net or 504-722-8600

Donnica Conway-Strawder, LaTEACH Area Coordinator, at donnicaj@hotmail.com/504-943-0343. **To register for this event contact the FHF office at 504-943-0343.** This event is free but registration is strongly recommended to ensure lunch availability.



www.lacanadvocates.org



www.lateach.org



www.laddc.org



www.fhfsela.org



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Still Waiting for Waiver Services?

Join LaCAN NOW!

LaCAN (Louisiana Citizens for Action Now) is a statewide grassroots network of individuals and families who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a system that supports individuals to live in their own homes rather than having to move to a facility to receive needed services.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! JOIN LACAN!

WWW.LACANADVOCATES.ORG

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

JOIN LACAN!



Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) is a grass root network of individuals that believe all children should have the opportunity to be educated with their typical peers in a typical classroom.

LaTEACH has made great strides this year but they still need **YOU** to help make a difference in improving education for our children with disabilities.

Donnica Conway-Strawder
LaTEACH Region 1 Area Coordinator
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children
7240 Crowder Blvd, Suite 202
New Orleans, LA 70127
504-943-0343
1-877-243-7352



A Statewide Talk List

What is LaDisAbility Talk?

It's an e-mail talk list from Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center/Families Helping Families of Jefferson to help families of people with disabilities and their advocates in Louisiana share information, resources, and support.

What's a talk list? It is a way for e-mail users to be in a group with others who have similar interests.

Who should join? Parents of children with disabilities, self-advocates, and advocates for people with disabilities in Louisiana.

How do I join? Just send an e-mail to:
fhfprompter@yahoo.com or
LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

FREE—FREE—FREE