



Uniting Parents' Newsletter



Director's Note

Summer 2007



Dear Families,

Here's our summer edition of our newsletter. I hope that you will take advantage of some of the workshops and our summer family networking events. I want to inform you of the changes we will be experiencing, this fall!

All Uniting Parents' families whose child receives Medicaid will be losing case management services provided by Uniting Parents beginning, September 1, 2007. Uniting Parents has always provided services to families of children with disabilities who have Medicaid. Almost two years ago, we were informed that we could no longer provide services to children once they were on Medicaid waiver programs-such as HCS (Home & Community Based Services), CLASS (Community Living & Support Services), or MDCP (Medically Dependant Children's Program) because this was considered a duplication of services, using federal and state dollars for case management services. We have never provided case management services to families in ECI (Early Childhood Intervention Services) or Head Start since those were federal programs and case management was provided.

The Department of State Health Services has a program called CPW (Children & Pregnant Women). The CPW program allows individ-

ual providers or social workers to bill for case management and receive federal dollars for case management services which alleviates the state's financial responsibility. Our program uses state dollars. The state office wants to use money wisely and draw down all federal dollars available before they use state dollars. Therefore, families that need case management should apply for CPW case management services. Our state dollars will help those families who do not have access to Medicaid.

We are mandated to take all of our Medicaid eligible children on our case load and transfer them to the Department of State Health Services or other CPW providers by the end of February 2008. We will begin this process in September. This is a painful process since we have developed relationships with many of our families and Medicaid-eligible families are our largest population of children. We will transfer a large quantity of cases to DSHS. DSHS can provide CPW services. If you have Medicaid, your file will be transferred and the social workers at that agency will provide you with case management services. The social workers are dedicated and have experience in providing services to children with disabilities.

Over the last 15 years, our priority population has always been children with disabilities who were not receiving case management from another source. Now, we must make necessary changes and meet state requirements. Plans are in place to make this transfer as

smooth as possible between DSHS and Uniting Parents. We have been partners for a long time and will continue to be partners. Families will continue to receive support and guidance if they have Medicaid; however, I can not make case management assignments since we are parents and not licensed to provide CPW services.

Please call me or your case manager with questions. Your support through the years has been very important to us at Uniting Parents and we want you to continue to take advantage of all of our events and workshops.

Currently, the Health and Human Service Commission is surveying families and providers about quality case management services. Please voice your opinion on how case management best meets your needs. Look for the number in this newsletter. Thanks again for your dedication and have a good summer! *Maria*

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This newsletter is dedicated in loving Memory to:

Alejandra Ramirez

November 27, 1993 to May 26, 2007

daughter of

Fernando and Olga Ramirez

Pampa, TX



Alejandra was a student at Fannin Middle School and was awaiting a liver transplant when she was struck by a vehicle on Memorial weekend. We will miss her presence and the joy she brought to the world and everyone around her. A young child teaches us so much and Alejandra brought great awareness to our community about the need for liver transplants and hearing impairments. Our most deepest sympathy to her family.

Uniting Parent's Staff

Web Sites of Interest to Parents and Professionals:

- The ARC of Texas: www.hearcoftexas.org/advocacy/training.asp
- Navigant Consulting: www.OptimizingCaseManagement.com
- Texas Project First: <http://www.texasprojectfirst.org>
- Coalition of Health Services Health Link: <http://www.cohs.net/healthlink.htm>
- National Center for Learning Disabilities: www.ld.org Mental health



New Medicaid Programs!

Chip Perinatal, Medicaid Buy-In, and Women's Health Program are all new to Medicaid. A Medicaid /CHIP counselor at the Coalition of Health Services may help you understand these programs and help you apply at (806) 337-1700 or (888) 892-2273. Ask for Connie.



Remember, your child's free TX Health Steps Check-ups.

View our newsletter on our web page. The Coalition of Health Service, Inc. / Uniting Parents' web address is www.cohs.net/up.htm. Find a link to our newsletter and photo gallery.

Uniting Parents' Networking List:

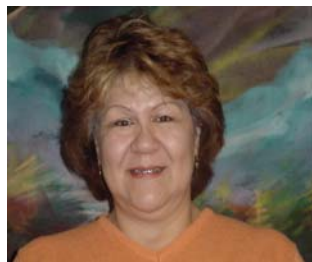


Amy Chapman / Asbergers	359-4009	Lucerzia Coats / RETT's Syndrome	940-937-6584
Alma Galvan / Leukemia**	935-9787	Lynette Mixon / Marden Walker & Dandy Walker	353-9599
Betty Allison / Down Syndrome	373-6363	Maria Garcia/Down Syndrome **	337-1700
Brenda & Robert Rodriguez / Cerebral Palsy	655-3300	Marilyn Williams/Hearing Impaired	352-4124
Dalia Ruiz/Mental Retardation / Seizure Disorder	535-1583	Neysa Spurrier / Autism / Aspergers / CD & NACD Curriculum	359-3833
Glendie & Roth Ferrar	355-0271	Norma Baeza / Spina Bifida	376-5104
ADHD / Tourett's	679-5709	Peggy Easley / Down Syndrome	249-5190
JoAnn Taylor /Spastic Deplegia	934-2402	Sherry Robinson /Autism	353-0229
Josephine Valadez / Prader Willie Syndrome**	935-8687	Stacey Campbell / Autism / Torticollis / Plagiocephaly	355-1198
Lisa & Ronnie Jr. Sasser / Muscular Dystrophy	372-3454 674-6463		

These parents are willing to support other parents whose child has similar disabilities. ****Families that speak Spanish****

Do you want to assist other parents ? Let us know . We will add your name and number on our networking list.

New Parent Case Manager:



Hi, my name is, Esperanza (Hope) Huerta. I am the new Parent Case Manager in the Dumas area. I have been married to Jose H. Huerta for 27 years and have three sons. My oldest son, Jose is 25 years old and married with three boys of his own! My middle son, Daniel is 20 years old. The youngest, Joel is an active 14 year old. Joel is my special needs child and has Type 1 Diabetes. All my children were born in Dumas. We have lived in Dumas for thirty years. I graduated from Dumas High School. I am very happy about working for Uniting Parents. This program is awesome and I am always learning. I hope to have a long and successful working relationship with all the families on my case load.

Workshops & Events:

- June 13- **“What Hath the Legislature Wrought? New Laws, New Challenges for Public Schools.”** A two hour audio conference at Region 17, Education Service Center on 1111 West Loop 289, Lubbock from 10-12pm. For more information, call Earlene Bustillos at (806) 785-5818.
- Jun. 21 - **Texas Council for Exceptional Children** - “Solving the Puzzle: TCEC Has Ideas!” is a three day conference in Houston, Texas. For more information, call (940) 898-2186.
- Jun. 25- **“Anchoring Academic & Behavior Success”** is a three day conference at Region 17 Education Service Center on 1111 West Loop 289, Lubbock, Texas from 8am - 4pm. For more information, call Barbara Stephens at (806) 281-5715.
- Jul. 9 - **2007 Annual Conference on Independent Living:** “Celebrating Accomplishments & Forging New Leaders” is a three day conference in Washington, DC. For more information, call (202) 207-0334.
- Jul. 16 - **Association for Persons in Supported Employment:** “Employment for All - Show Me the Future - It's Bigger Than You Think!” a three day conference in Kansas City , MO. For more information, call (804) 278-9187.
- Jul. 25 - **“Ahead of the Curve:** Understanding New Issues and Avoiding Legal Problems in Student Discipline” a two hour video conference at Region 17, Education Service Center on 1111 West Loop 289, Lubbock from 10-12pm. For more information, call Earlene Bustillos at (806) 785-5818.
- Jul. 27 - **32nd Annual Convention** - Texas Association on Mental Retardation presents a three day convention in Galveston, Texas. For more information, call (512) 349-7470.
- Jul. 27 - **“2007 Texas Advocates Annual Conference”** a three day conference in The Woodlands, Texas. For more information, call (800) 292-9729.
- Aug. 03- **National Down Syndrome Congress’s 35th Annual Convention** - “Show me the Possibilities in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information, call (800) 232-6372.
- Aug. 18- **“Texas Tech Back to School Fiesta”** will be held at the Student Union Building on campus in Lubbock from 10-1pm. **Free school supplies.** For more information, call Earlene Bustillos at (806) 785-5818.
- Aug. 22- **“14th Annual Area At-Risk Conference”** at Region 16 ESC in Amarillo from 8am - 3pm. For more information, call Susan Booth at (806) 677-5206.
- Sept. 06- **“Texas State Conference on Autism”** a three day conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. For more information, call (361) 561-8400.
- Sept. 18- **Path to Partnerships meeting** will be held at the Coalition of Health Services, Inc. at 301 S. Polk, Suite 740 in Amarillo from 11:30-1:00 pm. For more information, call Alma at (806) 337-1700 ext. 214.
- Sept. 27- **“Fifth Annual Conference on Brain Injury”** a three day conference in San Antonio, Texas. For more information, call (703) 960-6500.

Thank You!!

Uniting Parents wants to **extend their gratitude** to everyone who helped with donations to the “**LiTE Scholarship Luncheon’s Silent Auction.**” This was a successful event in raising funds for people with disabilities to attend Amarillo College. We thank you in helping us provide scholarships for our college bound students.

Winnie the Pooh Bassinet
filled with lots of
New Parent & Infant Needs

Donated by:
Community Services Program
of the 69th Judicial District

&
Melia Crain & Lupe Pollard

Coffee Lovers Basket
Donated by:
Hastings’ Hardback Café **StarBucks**
Market Street **Ms. Piggy’s**
Bagel Place **Donut Stop**
Belmar Bakery **Dumas Wal-Mart**
Melia Crain

UniFlame Outdoor
Gas Grill

Donated by:
Plainview Wal-Mart
Distribution Center

We would also like to thank **Barns & Noble** for allowing the Uniting Parents Lubbock office to have a fundraiser and public awareness opportunity at their store.

Thanks to all of YOU!!



Take this Survey by Phone or Internet!



Department of State Health Services

DO YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER USE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES?
Your Opinion Is Important!

- Will you tell us about the case management you or a member of your family receive?
- What are your ideas on how to improve case management?

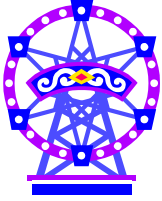
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has hired Navigant Consulting to recommend ways to improve case management in Texas. You are invited to take an on-line survey about your experience with case management.

***Your input is very important!** Please take the survey and make your voice count.*

To take this survey, please go to: www.OptimizingCaseManagement.com

Your thoughts will help us develop recommendations to improve case management in Texas.

If you want to take the survey over the telephone instead, call **1-800-852-1193** to give your name and phone number. We will have someone call you to take the survey. This survey is confidential. We will not ask for your name. You will not be identified in any reports.



Wonderland Family Fun Day!!



Where: Amarillo's Thompson Park - Area 12

When: Saturday, July 14, 2007

Schedule: 4-5pm Registration, Networking, & Hand Stamps

5-10pm Entry to park, Wonderland Rides, & Putt-Putt Golf

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Please join us at Thompson Park in Area 12 for refreshments and networking. Please RSVP the number in your group to Anna Shores at (806) 337-1700 or (888) 892-2273 ext. 210.

Department of State Health Services
and
Uniting Parents

You are invited: Summer Swimming Party

Date: Thursday, August 2nd, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Montelongo Pool, 3200 Bates Street, Lubbock, TX

IMPORTANT: Limited to first 100 people. You must RSVP for your spot by Thursday, July 26th, 2007 to your Case Manager:

DSSH - Judy Lara (806) 767-0491
or Rebecca Williams (806)767-0468

Uniting Parents-Earlene Bustillos (806) 785-5818

Olga Ybarra (806) 293-5667,
or Belia Alvarez (806) 288-9068



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Congratulation 2007 Graduates:

David Medrano
18 years old
Canadian High School



David said he wants to study to be an actor. It seems as if he is getting off to a great start because in this picture he already is portraying an 1940's icon. May David's next steps in life lead him down the path of his dreams. Good Luck and Congratulation, David!!

Brittany Gilbreath
17 years old
Palo Duro High School



Brittany wants to work in cosmetology while in college studying to be a nurse. Brittany wants to attend West Texas A&M University for two years, then she wants to continue her nursing classes at the University of Texas at Arlington. Brittany has proven that she can do anything she wants to by surviving cancer and not allowing diabetic neuropathy hold her back. Keep going Brittany!

Adam Moore
18 years old
Tascosa High School



Adam is a proud graduate from Tascosa not allowing his Dyslexia and ADHD to get in his way. He plans on going to Amarillo College to continue his studies. He will start with his basics before he decides what he wants to major in. Good Luck on your future!

Andrew Marquez
19 years old
Petersburg High School



Andrew has plans on attending Wayland Baptist University. Andrew would like to help young people by becoming a Youth Minister. He would also like to be a writer. Good Luck, Andrew!

Derick Molina
19 years old
Hale Center High School



Derick hopes to attend West Texas A&M University or South Plains College. He would like to get certified in Heating & Air Conditioning. Good Luck, Derick. We believe that you can succeed in anything you put your mind to!

JB Brockman
18 years old
Plainview High School



JB would like to attend Wayland Baptist University. His dream is to be a sports announcer on the radio. Who knows maybe JB will be the next John Madden. Dreams do come true!

Kids' Corner:

Jason Johnson

8 years old

Autism - ADHD

Bayless Elementary School

Lubbock

Jason is a Boy Scout and on April 28, 2007 at the Boy Scout Show he had a lot of fun climbing the rock wall all by himself. This goes to show that if you can not go through it just climb over it. Jason is just starting his climb to the top of where ever he wants to go. Look out, Mom, Mount Everest may be next on his list of things to do!



Respite - Night O.W.L.S:

Night O.W.L.S. is a respite program in Lubbock for families who face emotional or physical challenges in raising a child with special needs sponsored by The Somehow Here Again Foundation. Once a month, trained volunteers provide an evening of care and fun for children with special needs and their siblings. The volunteers provide individual care for each child and participate in exciting activities and events according to each child's interest area. Medical professionals are present to assist with any medical needs. This respite program is free to families with special needs children ages birth to 13 years of age and their siblings under the age of 13.

For more information and an application contact, Susan Mitchell, Executive Director at (806) 785-5711 or (806) 733-4103 or Holly Alexander at (806) 785-2649 or (806) 773-4105.

Summer Camp Scholarship Donation:

La Salud de la Mujer-Women's Health Foundation provided Uniting Parents with scholarship funds to assist Hispanic children in becoming involved in summer camps and recreational activities this year. 17 children have taken advantage of these funds and will be or have enjoyed activities such as camps, karate, softball, clinics, training, baseball, etc. If your child would like to participate, call your case manager at Uniting Parents to learn more about our Hispanic scholarship program! Thank You to the **Women's Health Foundation** for their generosity and their interest in including our children with disabilities in summer programs within the 32 county area!!!!

Volunteers needed!! Uniting Parents is in need of volunteers for clerical assistance in all the offices. Call Maria and she will provide you with further information on how you can make a difference in the life a child!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Uniting Parents
 a program of the
 Coalition of Health Services, Inc.
 301 South Polk, Suite 740
 Amarillo, Texas 79101
 www.cohs.net/up.htm



**Wonderland
 Family Fun Day
 7/14/07**

Administrative Office :
Coalition of Health Services, Inc.
301 S. Polk, Suite 740
Amarillo, TX. 79101

Amarillo Office:	
Program Director:	ext.
Maria Garcia, M. Ed.	212
Administrative Assistant:	
Anna Shores	210
Parent Case Managers:	
Juanita Keadle	215
Alma Benavides	214
Isabel Camarillo	213
CSHCN Respite Assistant:	
Vanessa Santos	211

Amarillo Office Numbers:	
Office Number:	1-806-337-1700
Fax Number:	1-806-337-1702
Toll Free Number:	1-888-892-2273
Web Address::	www.cohs.net/up.htm

Dumas Office:	
Parent Case Manager:	Hope Huerta
Ph: 806-935-8687	Fax: 806-935-8687
Toll Free: 800-442-7893	

Lubbock Office:	
Parent Case Manager:	Earlene Bustillos
Ph.: 806-785-5818	Fax: 806-687-0249

Plainview Office:	
Parent Case Manager:	Olga Ybarra
Ph.: 806-293-5667	Fax: 806-293-3213
Parent Case Manager:	Belia Alvarez
Ph: 806-288-9068	Fax: 806-288-9069

