



Ways Of Nurturing Development through Enhancing Relationships
July 2010 Newsletter

Welcome!

Welcome to the July 2010 WONDERbabies Newsletter. Summertime provides time for us all to rest and rejuvenate, as well as to reflect and reset our minds and daily practices. Summertime is therefore a perfect opportunity to focus on those that need our support the most: babies, young children, and families. WONDERbabies is a collaborative of organizations and programs that work together to improve the system of care for babies and young children with special health care and developmental needs. This Newsletter provides information not only for WONDERbabies Partners, but also for people in the community who share the vision of an integrated system of care that supports the health and development for Colorado's children.

WONDERpartners



Partners, Save the Date!

The next WONDERbabies Quarterly Partnership Meeting will be:

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

8:30am-10:30am

Location: Kempe Center, Gary Pavilion
Brandt-Steele Conference Room, 2nd Floor
13123 East 16th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80045

Updates from WONDERbabies Partners

Grupo Vida, the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Legal Center for people with Disabilities and Older People announce a **FREE Denver Regional Forum for people with disabilities and their family members** on Saturday, **August 14th**, from 10am to 2pm, at the Cross Community Coalition Family Resource Center, 2501 E. 48th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80216. The Forum is an opportunity to let the Council and Legal Center know about important issues and concerns for people with disabilities in Colorado. Contact Maria Cabral (303.885.3735, mcabral@tchd.org) for more details.

The Center for Family and Infant Interaction is happy to announce that the **Fragile Infant Feeding Institute (FIFI)** will be held this year in Westminster, Colorado, on **August 18 through August 22**. This intensive study of feeding and nutrition for infants with special needs emphasizes the neurodevelopmental aspects of infant feeding, support for the infant-parent relationship, and the development of systems to support best practice. For more information, please visit the Center's website at <http://www.cfiicolorado.org/FIFI.php>.



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Paul Teske, the Dean of the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver, acknowledges the hard work of **Dr. Danielle Varda** in the memo below. Dr. Varda has been helping WONDERbabies conduct and analyze our statewide social network analysis project that looks at relationships within Colorado's system of care for babies and young children with special health care and developmental needs. Congratulations, Danielle!

“SPA Assistant Professor Danielle Varda continues to receive national recognition, and financial support, for her work on network analysis. She has just been awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Program in Public Health Ad-Hoc Award to sustain and increase the capacity of her PARTNER network tool. Specifically, this funding will provide resources to hire a Postdoc to work on the PARTNER project and funding to expand capabilities of the PARTNER tool. This is the second round of funding from RWJF for PARTNER, recognizing the important impact of the PARTNER tool on public health systems and services research. Fabulous work!”

The Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health (CoAIMH) has posted **professional opportunities** for a Family Programs Director and Early Childhood Director on their website, <http://coaimh.org/>.

WONDERbabies is sad to report the passing of Polly (Mary Elizabeth Egan) Arango, who died on June 26, 2010. Polly was a co-founder of **Family Voices**, which was formed by family advocates to improve access and quality of health care for

children with special needs. She served as the first Executive Director of Family Voices, which now has active chapters in every state. To read the long list of her accomplishments for children with special needs and their families, and to read the rest of her obituary, please visit:

<http://obits.abqjournal.com/obits/show/207083>.

Other News and Events

A new working paper released by Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child offers a summary of recent scientific evidence and confirms **the importance of early experiences in shaping the developing brains of infants and babies**, as well as illustrates the gap between the scientific research and policy decisions, suggesting the need for public policies to be informed by science in order to adequately address the needs of young children and generate long-term benefits to society. The paper, *Early Experiences Can Alter Gene Expression and Affect Long-Term Development*, is available on the WONDERbabies website at www.wonderbabiesco.org.

More Information

If you have a resource you think would be useful for Colorado's babies and young children with special health care and developmental needs and their families, or if you would like more information about WONDERbabies, please visit the WONDERbabies website at www.wonderbabiesco.org or email us at info@wonderbabiesco.org.

