



March 2016

Our Voices Were Heard!



During this short legislative session, we worked together to inform legislators that Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education were in danger of needing to decrease service levels again due to

higher than expected increases in case loads.

Legislators have voted to increase the budget for EI/ECSE by \$5.4 million to serve eligible children and prevent reductions of current service levels.

If you contacted your legislator during this session, thank you!

Remember to follow up and thank them for responding to our need for additional funding for this session. You can also thank the Ways and Means Subcommittee members listed below. This is the time to really begin to create a relationship with your legislator.

During the 2017 session we will continue our conversation regarding our need for increased funding to bring service levels up to the level recommended by research and best practices.

Look for additional information in upcoming newsletters of how you can get involved. We are putting together our steering committee and determining the best plan of action for this next legislative session.

Education Subcommittee Member Email List:

Rep.BettyKomp@state.or.us	Sen.RodMonroe@state.or.us
Rep.JohnHuffman@state.or.us	Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us
Rep.BarbaraSmithWarner@state.or.us	Sen.ChuckThomsen@state.or.us
Rep.KathleenTaylor@state.or.us	
Rep.SherrieSprenger@state.or.us	

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month!



Governor Kate Brown signed a proclamation declaring March Developmental Disability Awareness Month. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, The Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and National Disability Rights Network have come together to create a "Side-by-Side" Calendar Campaign that has lots of resources, tool-kits, and links to interesting information regarding inclusion. You can access the calendar here:

[Click Here for Calendar](#)

My Journey Through Early Intervention



Gloria is one of those one in a million kids, as the tongue and cheek joke of parents of children with Rare Diseases goes. She is a happy challenge of a kid. Like many of these special kiddos she has done lots things we were told that she would probably not be able to do. She was born in

September of 2013 and soon after she was born we knew something was wrong. After a misdiagnosis and many months of uncertainty,

Gloria was finally given the diagnosis of Cardio Facio Cutaneous Syndrome. This syndrome triggered a rare seizure condition called infantile spasms that caused her to regress and lose her vision as well as the ability to feed. We have had extensive supports from Early Intervention, Outpatient Therapies, K-Plan and local Family Networks to help her stay in our home. Without these supports we would not have had the resources we needed to keep Gloria here with us where she belongs. We are excited to now have her in a preschool part time to help her get ready for Kindergarten in a few short years.



Addresses Shortened School Days

Shortened school days have become a frustrating and common experience for many of Oregon's families with children experiencing disability. Some families have reported students receiving as little as 2 hours of instructional time each day. In January of 2016, Oregon's Department of Education issued a memorandum addressing these concerns and describing appropriate and ineffective practices. You can read the full memorandum here:

[Click Here for Full Memorandum](#)

Oregon Consortium of Family Networks

The Oregon Consortium of Family Networks is a formal partnership between family led community focused organizations around Oregon. Each organization is unique and is responsive to its own community and the strengths of the families who live there. Family Networks share the belief that peer support celebrates families as the tremendous resource they are. Sometimes the support we need is simply connection with someone else who shares common experience. Sometimes what we need most is another mom or dad, another sibling or grandparent, another neighbor or friend. That is the role of Family Networks - help connect families with each other, and help those families connect with their community.

Click the icon of the Family network working in your county to learn more about upcoming events close to you!



<http://www.factoregon.org>
Clackamas, Multnomah,



<http://www.roccosfamilynetwork.org>
Union, Baker, Grant,

<http://www.codsn.org>
Deschutes, Crook, and
Jefferson Counties

Washington, Hood River,
Wasco, Columbia, Clatsop,
Tillamook, and Lincoln
County

Wheeler, Malheur and
Harney County



<http://www.featt.org>

Douglas County, OR

<http://www.familiesforcommunity.org>

Josephine and Jackson
Counties

<http://www.creatingops.org>

Polk, Yamhill, and
Marion Counties

<http://www.arclane.org/families-connected.html>
Lane County



<http://www.oregonaei.org>

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