



**Federation of Families**  
For Children's Mental Health  
Hillsborough County Chapter

# Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Inc. Hillsborough County, Florida Chapter

## NEWS

December 2010



*"Not Just Following Paths, Making New Roads!"*

### Our Vision

To be the premier family organization in the Tampa Bay region for promoting the emotional well-being of all families and children and to provide community leadership to influence policy, funding, and services for children who have mental health, emotional, and/or behavioral needs.

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#### Contact Information

13301 Bruce B Downs Blvd

Suite 2514, Box #2

Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 813-974-7930

Fax: 813-974-7712

HOTLINE: 396-9213

[www.federationoffamilies.org](http://www.federationoffamilies.org)

Join our Facebook :  
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On December 17th we will celebrate our Holiday Event – *Time Flies and Families Soar 2011!* This wonderful evening will kick off the Federation of Families 10 year anniversary with a slide show covering events of the Federation. We will have a motivational speaker and other entertainment.

This year the FOF/HC will give back to the community by asking all families that attend to bring either a new or slightly used pair of shoes for our Holiday Shoe Drive, or some school supplies for our adopted charter school.

Date: **December 17th**

Time: **7 - 9 pm**

Where: **USF's Westside Conference Center**

*Holiday Event*

Look for your invitation in the mail for our Annual General Meeting and Holiday Event!

## On the Calendar

### Parent Empowerment Circles

Join our monthly parent support groups now meeting at **Brandon - Fourth, Saturday of month** from 10 am to 12 pm at the Brandon Family and Resource Center, 1277 Kingsway Road, Brandon, FL 33510.

### Youth & Parent HOTLINE

On the 1st and 3rd MONDAY and on 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAY every from 6 to 8 pm we assist families by providing proactive outreach, support and listening ears for feedback on services rendered through education, advocacy, systems of navigation, resources and empowerment circles. **Call us at: 813-396-9213**

### Parent On A Mission

Feb 19, 2011 is the next scheduled P.O.A.M. Family Education Advocacy Training for families. This all day training costs only \$10, space is limited so, call to register!



*10 years Anniversary Gala*

**"Celebrating Progress on Hope & Recovery for Families & Youth"**

Celebrate with us on Friday, January 28th, 2011 at the Lion's Eye Institute from 7 to 11 pm. Enjoy a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing with live entertainment, a silent auction, open-bar and much more... Get your tickets now for individual it's \$50 or \$90 per couple.



"A program funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County "Dreams Worth Growing"

# EMPOWERMENT NEWS

## Response to Intervention FLORIDA STATUTES & STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE ON RTI

As for the R.T.I. (Response to Intervention) it should not delay the evaluation. F.A.C. Rule 6A-6.0331 states: Nothing in this section should be construed to either limit or create a right to FAPE (free appropriate public education) or to delay appropriate evaluation of a student suspected of having a disability.



In a recent Article titled Response to Intervention by a Child with Severe Reading Disability from the *Council for Exceptional Children* dated Sept/Oct 2010 they highlight some case studies. Here are some highlights RTI is both a model used to identify students whose reading problems are the result of an LD and an innovative approach to service delivery (Barnes & Harlacher, 2008). As an LD initiative, RTI replaces the discrepancy approach used to determine special education eligibility for a learning disability. Struggling readers who do not respond to high-quality research-based interventions after an appropriate amount of time are eligible to qualify for special education services (Torgesen, 2000). As an approach to Service delivery, RTI seeks to prevent reading problems from occurring and to intervene when these problems persist. RTI potentially represents a shift in how schools allocate instructional time and human resources. From a general education perspective, students who find reading difficult receive the assistance that they need when they need it. From a special education perspective, educators have an opportunity to work with Students with disabilities (and other non-responders) in an

acutely focused manner. Some final thoughts, the RTI model described in this article advocates flexible, simultaneous use of support at various tiers and capitalizes on available supports within the school. It embodies a problem-solving orientation and includes professionals from various disciplines, thereby reducing the division between general and special education and providing targeted high-quality intervention that is responsive to changes in learning for student who struggle.

## There are 16 Effective Practices for Universal Education.

**The Practices describe those things that are done in a learning community in order to support Universal Education. Brief descriptions of each practice are:**

1. There is Administrative Leadership. Administrators provide leadership to create the vision for system change, and to sustain reform initiatives.
2. Supports are found in the general education classroom. Support from specialists, par-educators, student assistants, physical therapists, occupation therapists etc. Is provided within the general education classroom community.
3. There is peer support and interaction. Mutually supportive social and learning relationships are encouraged. Benevolent "helper" model is minimized.
4. Classroom composition is based on natural proportions. Students with disabilities are members of general education classrooms and placement is based on natural proportions (10-15% ).
5. Differentiated instruction is practiced. Instruction is differentiated for all students based on learning styles, multiple intelligences, interests and skills.
6. Authentic learning experiences are the norm. Learning takes place in authentic, real-world settings or connections are made to real-world examples and experiences.
7. Physical environments facilitate learning and are accessible for all. The physical environment and provisioning of the classroom and school invites and facilitates learning for all.
8. There is a focus on reduction of dependence on 1-1 adult support.

Individualized instruction is implemented in ways that reduces dependence on 1-1 adult support. Interdependence, and natural supports are emphasized.

9. Students are educated in age-appropriate placements and heterogeneous grouping. All students are included in age appropriate, general education classrooms and grouped heterogeneously for most instruction (i.e. Limited use of needs-based grouping within the classroom.)

10. Community building is fostered among students (i.e., cooperative versus competitive practices are encouraged).

11. Students have access to accommodations and up-to-date technology.

12. All students participate in all activities. All students participate in the same learning and extra-curricular activities although some students may have modified goals.

13. A collaborative culture is fostered. The school climate is one that fosters a collaborative culture which supports the meaning involvement of all stakeholders: the student, the family, and professionals. (Based on "Principles of Family/Professional Collaboration," Bishop, Woll and Arango 1993).

14. Transition planning occurs at all levels. It is recognized that transition planning must occur to prepare students for transitions from grade to grade, level to level, from preschool through post-secondary school.

15. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) strategies are implemented. PBS strategies and plans are implemented school-wide, in the classroom, and for individuals. PBS plans are based on functional assessments and interventions that focus on ecological changes and the learning of new skills. Bribes and threats of punishment are to be avoided.

16. Meaningful evaluation of progress is made. It is timely and continuous and addresses individual student progress, school-wide achievement, and overall program effectiveness.



## GREAT Resourceful Gift!

Hot off the presses our new *Federation of Families, CMH Resource Notebook* is ready for purchase. We selected our top 30 Hillsborough County resources and made a up-to-date, simply and very useful resource guide!

You can purchase a DVD or hard copy for only \$10. Please call today to place your orders. 813-974-7930