

## Family Support & Advocacy Committee Update

### Committee:

- ▶ Shelly Walker, a service provider, has resigned from the Committee - she will be entering graduate school in the fall.
- ▶ Cori Hill, former FS&A chair, has resigned from the Committee – as part of her new job at VIDD she will be moving to the VICC Personnel Committee.
- ▶ A July planning meeting will be scheduled in June to discuss the Committee's workplan for 2002-2003.

### Membership:

- ▶ Calling Cards are available for FS&A members to assist with Committee work.
- ▶ Cori Hill will be working with the FS&A Committee to collect parent representative applications for VICC nominations.

### Conference Committee:

- ▶ The FS&A Committee provided funding for parents to attend the Southwest New Horizons Conference in May.
- ▶ The FS&A Respite Tool Kits have been sent to the 40 local ICCs.

### Publications:

- ▶ Work continues on publishing the monthly *Family Matters Newsletter* currently available on the ITCofVA website, and included in hard copy with the Arc of Virginia's Family Involvement Project newsletters. As always, submission of family stories and articles are encouraged.
- ▶ The "Beginning with Families" publication has been translated into Spanish. We anticipate a final copy to be presented at the June meeting.
- ▶ Efforts are under way to gather information from medical facilities in Virginia and neighboring states. A specialty hospital guide will be published in the fall of 2002. The guide will include information such as directions, visitor rules, accommodations, parking, typical meal rates, social worker contact information, etc. in an effort to decrease families stress when traveling to a specialty hospital for the first time.
- ▶ The Family Guide (formerly known as the Welcome Book) will be updated in June and copies printed by the Part C office.
- ▶ A subcommittee of the FS&A is exploring alternate stipend formats in light of the tax issues.

Submitted by Dana Yarbrough