

## FAMILY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Prepared for the September 8, 1999 VICC Meeting

The Family Support and Advocacy Committee has several exciting things planned for the upcoming year! We are most excited about the revision and mass redistribution of The Welcome Book. We are completing the revision and have begun to plan for the redistribution. We are also completing an orientation sheet for new committee members.

The committee will once again co-sponsor the annual Families Are Special Too Conference. We will have a much larger role in the planning and implementation of that conference this year.

The members of The Family Support and Advocacy Committee realize the importance of networking and information gathering opportunities for families of children receiving services in Virginia's Babies Can't Wait System. We realize there are numerous established conferences and gatherings across Virginia designed to meet these two important needs. However, too often these opportunities are geared toward parents of school age children. We would like to provide whatever supports we can to improve representation of the birth to three population in both content and participation in existing conferences and gatherings.

Wanda Pruett

Family Representative