

Family Support & Advocacy Committee Update September 13, 2000

Cori Hill and Wanda Pruett both end their reigns as Co-Chairs today and pass their torches to Pam Johnson (Staff Attorney with the Dept. for the Rights of Virginian's with Disabilities) and Dana Yarbrough (parent). We are sad to see them step down, but know Pam and Dana, will continue their tradition of excellence. We are especially thankful to Cori for 8 years of leadership and we wish Wanda Pruett a speedy recovery from recent surgery.

The FS&A met in July to brainstorm on the 2000-2001 workplan (attached). Membership is down for parents and providers for the first time and will be a key initiative on our workplan this year.

The Welcome Book (it is hard to stop calling it that), now titled, "Early Intervention in Virginia: A Family Guide," is done!!! We send a big thanks to Dana Yarbrough for her tireless efforts to take this two year project over in March and get it to the printers by August. FS&A members will meet with Babies Can't Wait staff to discuss the books release this month. Distribution will be small as it cost \$14,500 to produce 1500 copies. We plan on making the Guide available to LICC's on CD and diskette this year. PEATC's "Beginning with Families" booklet is now updated as well (special thanks to Carmen Sanchez) but needs printing before it can be sent to LICCs for inclusion in the Welcome Book.

On a sad note, Ra'Gene Myrick, daughter of Bob and Regina Myrick, passed away in August. Regina has been a member of the FS&A for over three years and the Tidewater Regional Family Representative for two years. We will inform the VICC and its subcommittees of where to send donations once a fund has been established.

We are sorry to see Emily Dreyfus step down as the Valley Regional Family Representative and we wish her well in her new pursuits at Legal Aid. Any parents interested in the Valley position should contact Wanda Pruett.