



Networker

visit us online at www.ripin.org

RIPIN says *Dare to Dream!*

Adolescence is challenging, but data shows it can be twice as difficult for young people with special needs. In a school culture that honors the best and the brightest, the strongest and the prettiest, many youth with special needs struggle to connect. Student with special needs and disabilities are more likely to report 'sad' or 'hopeless' feelings and to consider and attempt suicide. Research supports that both youth development and leadership programs positively shape the growth of young people. Unfortunately, youth with special needs and disabilities are often isolated from mainstream youth development programs. Rhode Islands special needs youth require programming that is safe, empowering and ultimately inclusive so that they may realize their dreams. They all have a voice that must be heard to connect them with their peers, communities, and society. The mission of the *Dare to Dream* (D2D) initiative promotes the power of positive peer pressure to influence the health, well-being, and future aspirations of the 39,000+ Rhode Island students with disabilities and special health care needs (includes at risk youth).

The D2D youth initiative, now in its fourth year, sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) is a youth development and leadership collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), RIPIN, the Rhode Island Transition Centers, middle and high schools, in addition to, youth serving agencies and organizations from across Rhode Island.

Last year the annual D2D conference drew 700+ students, teachers, youth groups, adult allies, and young adults sharing a day of motivation and leadership. The conference has grown into much more than a one-day event. In response to student and teacher evaluations the D2D initiative now offers year-round opportunities to engage students, parents, and educators in targeted positive youth development and leadership activities. **Steve Kidd, Education Director for Rhode Island's Gamm Theatre**, has been instrumental in developing innovative approaches

to enable special needs students to find their voice through his work with the "initiative". A youth group leader had this to say about observing the positive outcome of a student's experience, *"Following the first meeting he wouldn't stop talking to his parents about the group and how much he liked it and wanted to be a part of it."*



On May 23rd, D2D will host internationally recognized youth communication specialist **Javier A. Sanchez from REACH Communications, Inc.** He will help parents, providers, and professionals move youth and adults from inspiration to action!

Javier Sanchez states that, *"As adults working with teens we have a responsibility to awaken them to chances they have for success and be an ally, guiding them through the tough choices they make every day."*

Participants in his workshop, **Becoming an Effective Youth Advocate**, will walk away with a new or renewed passion for youth development as well as practical tools to maintain youth-centered programming that is applicable, engaging, relevant, and fun.

To register for **Becoming an Effective Youth Advocate** workshop please contact Deb Golding at 401-222-5954 or deb.golding@health.ri.gov



for more information
about *Dare to Dream*



Dare to Dream is a leadership and empowerment opportunity for middle & high school students

RIPIN Networker

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Become a Family Leader with FLDI!

Family is defined as two or more people who share goals and values and have long-term commitments to one another.

The "UACC 4 Families" defines **Family** as: *The way in which we connect a child/youth and parent/caregiver through culture, tradition, shared experiences, emotional commitment and mutual support that makes a Family.*

This philosophy is an integral part of the **Family Leadership Development Institute (FLDI)**.

At the **FLDI** our hope is to spread the message that, Family Leadership emerges from consistent work and dedication by its community members and caregivers alike. This commitment, hand in hand with the resources of the **FLDI**, will help these future "**Family Leaders**" gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in meaningful leadership roles which in turn, will help to shape the future of Rhode Island families, youth, schools, communities and healthcare.

Since our inception the **FLDI** has been working with community leaders and engaging individuals throughout the community by providing trainings and community information sessions. These sessions are mini-trainings offered to community members as an opportunity to receive resources and information that assist in navigating systems of care.

We have created and successfully graduated 39 **Family Leaders** since 2011 with our *Family Leadership Training 101 - Building, Motivating, and Empowering*



the Development of "Family Leaders" and we currently have four trainings scheduled in 2012. We are very excited to announce our newest offering of the Family Leadership Training 101 in SPANISH.

FLDI was established as a collaborative to help create, support and educate "**Family Leaders**" in an initiative between ~ Community Health Worker Association of Rhode Island, Parent Support Network of Rhode Island, Sherlock Center on Disabilities, RI Department of Health, RI Department of Human Services, RI Department of Education, and the RI Department of Children, Youth & Families. One of **FLDI's** goals is to develop a network of family leaders in Rhode Island to make a positive impact on schools, communities and in health care arenas. **FLDI** offers workshops, training, support, and networking opportunities to anyone who wants to become a leader. The **FLDI** has many new training opportunities available from agencies throughout state. These agencies provide information and training on topics from Education to Healthcare, for ages ranging from infants to adults.



To learn more about the
**Family Leadership
Development Institute**
or the services we promote



Supporting the growth of "Family Leaders" in Rhode Island!

See what some past participants have to say about **Family Leadership 101 Training:**



Graduates of the 2011 Fall Session of Family Leadership 101

Thank you so very much for affording me this opportunity, to learn the skills to do this on my OWN!"

"This course was the best!!!"

"I don't ever remember ever taking a course or training where I can recall so much after the training has ended."

MegaSkills National Education Center at RIPIN

MegaSkills® is an evidence-based workshop series for parents and educators that help them impart the skills, qualities, and behaviors that help a child's achievement in school and in life. During the series of **MegaSkills** workshops, facilitators lead groups of parents through the key habits, attitudes and behaviors that lead to student success. According to the **MegaSkills** Director, Deb Meiklejohn, *"these are the basic skills that all of us need to be successful in school and in life."* Parents who participate have the opportunity to connect and share their parenting tips as well as struggles with other parents.

MegaSkills are our children's inner engines of learning:

Confidence	Caring
Motivation	Teamwork
Effort	Common Sense
Responsibility	Problem Solving
Initiative	Focus
Perseverance	

For those who would like to become **MegaSkills leaders**, **MegaSkills Education Center** at RIPIN has a training day scheduled for **Wednesday, May 23, 2012 from 9:00am-4:30pm**. Participants in this training will be certified to facilitate the five sessions of the **MegaSkills** parent workshops. **The training is appropriate for anyone who works with families: parents, community leaders, teachers, family engagement staff, or church groups.**

Visit

**To register for
MegaSkills Leader Training**



Visit

The MegaSkills National Education Center online

This month we are excited to unveil our revamped website. **On the website you will find:**

- *More information on MegaSkills*
- *Research on effectiveness and impact on student success*
- *Free activities and publications*
- *MegaSkills store*
- *Schedule of trainings and events across the nation*

facebook

Visit us on **Facebook** at **MegaSkills by Dorothy Rich**. Each month we will highlight a different skill with tips, links, and activities.

Not on Facebook? You can follow us on **Twitter** to read the tips, links, and activities. Our twitter feed is **@MegaSkills_ED**.

When we reach 100 people who follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** we will have a sale on **MegaSkills** materials for all of our followers. Help us reach our goal by sharing **MegaSkills** with your friends and families. We look forward to reading your comments and tweets.

twitter

Who C.A.R.E.S.?

Becoming an Effective Youth Advocate

Parents, Providers, & Professionals
Come to a **FREE Special Event**
with internationally recognized
Youth Communications Specialist

Javier A. Sanchez
R.E.A.C.H Communications, Inc.

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

RI Department of Health

Providence 1:00-3:00 pm or

Providence Career & Technical Academy

6:00-8:00 pm

**Spanish interpreters,
Refreshments and Child
care will be provided at
the evening event at
Providence Career &
Technical Academy**

Dare to
Dream
2012

er



...moving youth and adults from inspiration to action!

As adults working with teens we have a responsibility to awaken them to the chances they have for success and be an ally, guiding them through the tough choices they make everyday. Participants will walk away with a new or renewed passion for youth development as well as practical tools to maintain youth-centered programming that is applicable, engaging, relevant and fun.

This special event is part of the 2012 Dare to Dare Dream Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development Conference.

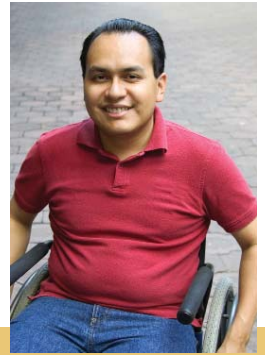


Dare to Dream because ALL Kids have a voice.

Register Today!

Deb Golding at 401.222.5954

deb.golding@health.ri.gov



Family Leadership Training 101

Building, Motivating, and Empowering the development of "Family Leaders"

The 30 hour training series will include the following topics:

Learning Style, Solving Problems in Groups, Leading Effective Meetings, Networking, Understanding Conflict, and more.

training &
staff development
opportunity

Ask yourself,

"DO I WANT TO WORK WITH FAMILIES?"

- Do you have what it takes to be a Family Leader?
- Can I fuel, inspire, and guard a shared vision?
- Do I encourage dreaming and thinking the unthinkable?
- Do I engage in goal setting?
- Can I develop and implement action plans?

YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A **FAMILY LEADER!**

Location: Parent Support Network of RI (PSN)
1395 Atwood Avenue, Suite 114
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

When: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Held on: Mondays and Wednesdays

4/30, 5/2, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14,
5/16, 5/21, 5/23, 5/30, 6/4

Cost: \$399.⁰⁰/per participant

Participants will earn a certificate for completing this comprehensive 30 hour training.

The target audience for this comprehensive training includes, but is not limited to:

- Parents and individuals who lead peer involvement efforts in schools and communities
- Parents of children/youth with special healthcare needs
- Family members or caregivers of people with disabilities
- Consumers with disabilities, chronic conditions or special healthcare needs who provide peer assistance, either as a paid employee or a volunteer

parent
support
network
OF RHODE ISLAND



To register, please visit: <http://www.ripin.org/fldi.html> or contact
Jonna Mulvaney, FLDI Coordinator at 270.0101 x155 or email mulvaney@ripin.org

www.ripin.org info@ripin.org 800.464.3399 401.270.0101

inform

support

educate

advocate

empower

The FLDI is a collaborative initiative of:

Community Health Worker Association of RI — Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RIC — Parent Support Network of RI — RI Parent Information Network
RI Department of Children, Youth & Families — RI Department of Education — RI Department of Health — RI Department of Human Services

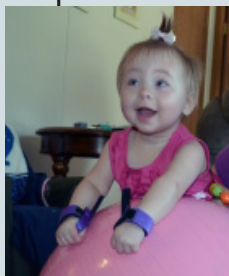
2012

8th Annual

Family/Professional Partnerships Conference

Accessing Services & Supports:

for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Their Families



Jonathan Mooney

Eric Duquette

A dyslexic writer & activist who did not learn to read until he was 12. Jonathan then grew up to graduate from Brown University with a degree in English Literature.

Salutarian of Smithfield High Schools graduating class of 2010, Eric grew up with Asperger's and has overcome countless obstacles with the support of his family and professionals. He now pursues a pharmacy degree.

Featuring Accomplished Guest Speakers Including Parents and Professionals!

Join Us to learn more about:

- * FINANCING CARE
- * FAMILY SUPPORTS
- * SERVICE DELIVERY

REGISTER at www.ripin.org
Family Scholarships are available!

FAMILY VOICES



April 25, 2012

12:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Crowne Plaza

Warwick, RI

CEUs offered:

Nursing & Social Work



Education Credits Pending

RI Department of Education