

ANNUAL REPORT

2011

inform

advocate

educate

support

empower



The Rhode Island Parent

Rhode Island's Parent



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What began 20 years ago with a few parents of children with special needs and like-minded professionals sharing information has grown into a state and nationally acclaimed nonprofit organization of 120 staff members and 18 programs.

Information Network

Involvement Specialists

Founded in 1991, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide, 501c3, charitable, nonprofit organization with a collective programmatic reach that extends to every Rhode Island community, the state's major family-serving systems, schools, health facilities, associations, and agencies.

Our mission is to inform, educate, support, and empower all families to be equal partners in advocacy for the education, health, and socio-economic well being of their children and families; and to achieve family centered systems changes, which are culturally competent and community based.

RIPIN's vision is to serve and support all families in Rhode Island utilizing the principles of family centered care by: focusing on the strengths of the child and family; supporting relationship building and community membership; fostering mutual trust and respect between families and program staff and/or administration; promoting family choice and control; offering families good information and access to information; and including families in policy decisions and program planning.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Letter from the Executive Director

Matthew Cox



Dear friends and supporters of RIPIN,

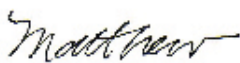
During 2011, RIPIN celebrated many milestones, not the least of which was our 20th Anniversary as a grant-funded statewide nonprofit organization! The year was peppered with opportunities for us to share our pride in two decades of service to Rhode Islanders, culminating in a grand celebration at Kirkbrae Country Club where we welcomed hundreds of supporters, former staff, many of the original founding members of RIPIN, and members of the extended RIPIN family.

We were also pleased to continue our tradition of hosting excellent educational opportunities for families and we are thrilled with the enthusiasm generated around our First Annual Statewide Transition Conference, the 7th Annual College Planning Forum, the 3rd Annual Dare to Dream Youth Leadership Conference, and the 7th Annual Partnerships Conference. How exciting it was to have Katie Beckett – namesake of the Katie Beckett Medicaid Provision – and her mother Julie with us to share their experience and successes. So many inspiring events!

Also in 2011, RIPIN “wrote the book on parent involvement”, so to speak, by authoring an excellent guidebook for school personnel and parents on starting parent groups. Commissioned by the Providence School Department, the manual resulted from the hard work and creativity of employees working in our Parent Information and Resource Center.

This year also marked an important milestone in growth at RIPIN, through a partnership with the RI Department of Human Services, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, and United Health Care. RIPIN contracted with DHS, and then separately with NHP and United, to operate a new peer navigator program called Communities of Care. With the aim of helping Medicaid beneficiaries learn how to better coordinate their health care and learn about options to frequent emergency room visits, Peer Navigators fanned out across Rhode Island to help members assigned by the health plans. Although officially launched in October 2010, Communities of Care really took off in 2011, with significant growth in outreach. We hired an excellent team of 14 specialists, all of whom are peers with extensive experience navigating Rhode Island's often complex healthcare system.

As always, we owe our success to so many in the Rhode Island community: our funders and community partners, RIPIN's Board of Directors, our wonderful staff, and the committed volunteers and interns who help us with special projects.



Matthew Cox
Executive Director

Letter from the Executive Director

The Year in Review

The year 2011 marks a significant milestone at the Rhode Island Parent Information Network — RIPIN turns 20!



Families visit exhibitors at RIPIN's Family Fun Day.

Children, youth and individuals with special health care needs and their families enjoyed a perfect day of summer fun at the *7th Annual Family Fun Day* focused on getting healthy and staying that way was the theme of this year's event. Children and adults alike participated in lots of fun fitness activities including the limbo, aerobics, dancing, martial arts, bouncy balls, obstacle course, and more.

On December 3rd, RIPIN had the pleasure of hosting the First Annual Statewide *Transition Conference* for families of students with disabilities transitioning from school to adulthood in conjunction with the Regional Transition Centers and the RI Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports. More than 140 parents of children in middle and high school came out for this important event.

On March 26th, RIPIN's Parent Training and Information Center hosted the *7th Annual College Planning Forum at Providence College*. Developed for high school students with disabilities, 504 plans and other challenges, their parents and school personnel, the forum puts students on the road to success by informing them of accommodations and supports available at the college level.

600 high school and middle school students from all over Rhode Island gathered together at the University of Rhode Island in May for the *3rd Annual Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference*. This was Rhode Island's largest *Dare to Dream* Conference to date with 35 workshop options to choose from - all created for students by students.



Dare to Dream Keynote Speaker Jeff Yalden addresses the crowd of over 600 RI middle and high school students.



Lisa Shaffran (left) and Matthew Cox (right) pose with Katie Beckett at the 2011 Partnerships Conference.

The 2011 Partnerships Conference- Health Care Reform: Changes and Challenges for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Their Families was held on April 27th, at The Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Julie and Katie Beckett, the mother and daughter behind the Katie Beckett Medicaid Provision, were the featured speakers.

In May, RIPIN and more than 400 community members walked together in solidarity to end bullying in the Ocean State at the *1st Annual Walk to STOP Bullying*. Thank you to everyone who participated including: Channel 6 and Mark Curtis, Morning News Anchor and Master of Ceremonies at the Walk; the 50 community sponsors; student groups; organizations that raised money, and of course everyone who told their story and shared their own experiences at the Walk. Together we raised nearly \$20,000. Proceeds from the walk will be given to school and community groups.

RIPIN Writes the Book on Parent Involvement! RIPIN's Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) was commissioned to produce a manual on how to start a parent group for the Providence School District. The guide will include establishing a group, money management, operational strategies, and fundraising.

RIPIN is once again using the successful model of “peers helping peers” with a new Department of Human Services’ (DHS) program, *Communities of Care* (CoC). By partnering with DHS, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI and United HealthCare, RIPIN’s Communities of Care Peer Navigator team is reaching out to individuals, helping them to better access: community resources; appropriate, timely and proactive medical care; and consistent primary care that can meet their unique needs.



More than 400 community members joined RIPIN at the 1st Annual Walk to STOP Bullying in May.

**The Year
in Review**



Revenue and Expenses

through June 30, 2010

Revenue

Government Grants and Contracts	3,021,662
Other Contributions and Grants	389,018
Program Income - Workshops	85,881
Fundraising Income	18,668
Interest Income	86
Total Revenue	\$ 3,515,315

Expenses

Program Services	3,002,032
Management and General	521,689
Total Expenses	\$3,523,721

through June 30, 2011

Revenue

Government Grants and Contracts	3,352,754
Other Contributions and Grants	951,615
Program Income - Workshops	113,375
Fundraising Income	23,983
Interest Income	46
Total Revenue	\$ 4,441,773

Expenses

Program Services	3,727,221
Management and General	638,334
Total Expenses	\$4,365,555

Revenue
and
Expenses



Board and Team Members

Board of Directors

2010 -2011

Max Arias, MSW
Kathleen DiChiara, Chair
Ammala Douangsavanh
Anthony Fiano
Stephen A. Furtado
José González, EdD
David Hamel, MPA
William H. Hollinshead, MD, MPH
Rebecca Kislak, Esq, Vice Chair
Dale Longworth, Secretary
Louis Simon, CPA, MST, Treasurer

Team Members

Mario Aldana	Joeanna Cruz
Audrey Amegashie	Kelsey Davenport
Brenda Andino	Lory DeConte
Anne Babineau	Chris DeGrave
Joseph Barbato	Valerie Delaney
Raqual Barrera	Rhonda DelRio
Monica Bayer	Luisa DePina
Susan Baylis	Michelle Deschenes
William Beauvais	Susan Donovan
Deborah A. Belanger	Victoria Duarte
Lori Bettencourt	Steven Dulude
Virginia Bevilacqua	Emmanuel Echevarria
Alan Birch	Anne Fartura
Amy Black	Crismilda Faxas
Bryana Boucher	Elizabeth Friedman
Carmen Boucher	Emily Garthee
Denise Bouley	Jeffrey Goggin
Cris Brodeur	Deborah Golding
Bettina Brothers	Johanna Gomes
Kristin Campbell	Otaniela Goncalves
Monica Cardoso	Margaret Greene-Bromell
Deleimy Castillo	Glenda Guglielmo
Alexandra Checo	Laura L. Harris
Amy M. Collins	Mary Ann Heran
Matthew B. Cox	Diane Hernandez

Team Members

Rose Hernandez	Jonna Mulvaney
Donna Houle	Susan Naysnerski
Amanda Johnson	Sabrina Olivo
Laura L. Jones	Daphne Owens
Peter Jones	Akshar Patel
Cynthia Kaplan	Mayra Paulino
Kathleen Kenney	Xiomara Paulino
Diana B. Kriner	Pamela Petrarca
Kathleen Kuiper	Lourdes Pichardo
Beth Lamarre	Diana Ranallo
Julie Lambert	Sandra Rivera
Susan Lamendola	Victoria Rodriguez
Joseph Lang	Carla Russo
Carla Laroche-Harris	Tammy Russo
Nelson Lau	Lisa R. Schaffran
Lisa R. Letang	Nancy Silva
Victoria Letourneau	Shavon E. Smith
Brenda Leverett-Mullen	Deborah A. Spaziano
Wiburn Logan	Tina Spears
Carol Manglass	Marciel Then
Nathan Markley	Suzanne M. Tobin
Deborah P. Masland	Barbara Torres
Aura Matos	Kathrine Torres
Marguerite McCalsky	Tara Townsend
Kelly McCorkle	Susan Vandal
Marilyn J. McCullough	Allyson Ventura-Tesillo
John McElroy II	Nenita Vinalon
Linda McMullen	Linda Vollaro
Geraldine McPhee	Dawn L. Wardyga
Deborah Meiklejohn	Patricia Waterman
Rosalie Moretti	

Several employees celebrated milestone anniversaries this year as well. We thank them for their excellent work and dedication! They include:

Lisa Schaffran, Associate Director – 15 years

Kathleen Kenney, Manager – 10 years

Deb Spaziano, Manager – 10 years

Deb Golding, Coordinator – 5 years

Carol Manglass, Parent Consultant – 5 years

Sandra Rivera, Resource Specialist – 5 years

**Board
and
Team
Members**

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www.ripin.org info@ripin.org



RIPIN is a proud member of the Fund For Community Progress.
www.fundcp.org