CEC Family Resource Program

VFTH

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A diagnosis of autism or any learning disability can be overwhelming for parents, but a new program within the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex can help provide support.

Amy Bingham profiles the CEC’s Family Resource Program in this week’s View from the Hill.

For almost ten years now, the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex has offered a variety of therapies and services to children and young adults with special needs. A new program now exists to make sure parents get the kind of support and information they need.

Shannon Sales \ Family Resource Program Dir.

Dr. Mary Lloyd Moore \ CEC Executive Dir.

Dr. Liz Steenberg \ Pediatrician/FRP Advisory Comm.

 “We seem to, at the CEC, have taken care of all of our children, all of our babies, but we’ve missed the mark in taking care of our parents, so that’s the role of family resource is to simply take care of our families.”

A few months ago, the Family Resource Program was established within the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex to be a point of contact for families. “We may not be able to provide them with the service at the CEC but we’re confident in getting them the help they need.”

 “We have a vision of what we think the Family Resource program needs to be and what we want it to be. But team work is better than individual work so the Family resource program advisory committee is our team.

 “Everybody has something to bring to the table about access to services, what they provide. Sharing information is the most important part so families can learn about all the secret gaps in the community where you can access information but they’re not in one location where you can find out about them.”

Painting Party Nat sound

 “We had a painting party fundraiser for the Family Resource Program. It was a night for families and counselors to come together and spend time with one another.”

Next spring, the FRP is planning workshops, respite care even massages and nutrition classes. Whatever the needs are of the families they are serving.

 “We are bridging gaps, we are definitely becoming a stronger support for our families and I think families are able to see light at the end of the tunnel so I think we are making a difference.”

The CEC’s annual Special Needs Summit will be held tomorrow at the Knicely Conference Center for parents, caregivers, family members, professionals and students.

For information you can call (270) 745-2419.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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