



To: Illinois Local Interagency Council Coordinators and CFC Program Managers
Fr: Family Committee of Illinois' Sharing A Vision (SAV) Conference Planning Committee
Contact Persons:
Terry Goode, Family Liaison Mary-alayne Hughes, Ph.D., Clinical Asst. Professor
Dept. of Special Education Dept. of Special Education
University of Illinois University of Illinois
Cc: Janet Gully, Chief, Bureau of Early Intervention, Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Date: May 25, 2007
Re: "Proud Moments" Project

The Family Committee of Illinois' Sharing A Vision Conference Planning Committee has explored options to highlight the impact families have had with their children and in their communities at this year's Sharing A Vision (SAV) Conference in Springfield, Illinois in October 2007 (see enclosed conference flyer). We are very pleased to sponsor an exciting opportunity that we are calling "Proud Moments." Based on stories that families submit, we plan to create booklets that highlight these "Proud Moments." We encourage stories that highlight the contributions of the family and the collaborative efforts of their service providers, educators, and community supports. These booklets will be then distributed at the SAV Conference. We wanted to share this information in a meaningful way, and we thought that compiling and distributing this booklet could facilitate networking between parents and professionals, and encourage collaboration and replication of good ideas.

Please share this information with LIC members, CFC staff (especially parent liaisons), and others who have contact with families, and ask them to help publicize this project to families in your area that you know have "Proud Moments" to share. Let families know of our goal to share and replicate successful collaborations, yet let them know it is optional to participate. Please offer interested families your support in writing their story, gathering a photo, and submitting it to the Family Committee (Terry Goode) to publish and distribute at Illinois' Sharing A Vision Conference.

We have enclosed the submission guidelines and the publication permission forms that families will need to complete. We have also enclosed two examples of family stories. These materials may also be accessed online at the Sharing A Vision Conference website at <http://www.sharingavision.org/>.

During the SAV conference, the Family Committee will distribute the booklets at a table set up in the Exhibit area. Booklets will be distributed on a first come-first serve basis, and we invite families to visit us there for a special welcome. We appreciate all that the Local Interagency Coordinating Councils and CFC program managers can do to help us encourage families to attend and be an integral part of this year's conference.

Deadline for submissions is **September 1, 2007**. Terry Goode is serving as the primary contact person for this project. She is the parent of four children, two of which have special needs. She also serves as a Family Liaison with the Dept. of Special Education at the University of Illinois. She will be happy to answer any questions about the project by email or phone.

All submissions [family "story," signed permission forms and/or digital picture] should be sent to **Terry Goode**. Family "stories" may be sent electronically as an attachment, or a paper copy can be mailed. A paper copy of the signed permission form(s) should be mailed. Pictures should be sent electronically. Contact information for Terry Goode:

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