



**Strengthening Families, Navigating Life: A Family Enrichment Conference**  
**April 11-12, 2014**  
**Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO**

**Agenda**

**Friday Evening**

- 4:00 Hotel check in available
- 4:00 – 7:00 Exhibitor area open  
Dinner on your own (light snacks and refreshments will be provided)
- 5:00 – 7:30 Conference registration
- 7:00 – 9:00 Opening Kick Off

**Welcome** – Family Partners

**Opening Remarks** – Steve Cramer, Department of Health and Senior Services

**Celebrate the Power of Diversity**

Over 50,000 people from LA to NYC have been inspired by the men of Handicap This! They have received rave reviews, standing ovations, and left the audience cheering for more. Mike Berkson and Tim Wambach demonstrate the value of inclusion, challenge bullying, and celebrate the power of diversity. They raise awareness about people living with different abilities, and motivate any individual to go after their own goals and dreams.

**Saturday**

- Breakfast On your own with conference vouchers
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome
- 9:15 – 10:15 Keynote

**Missouri Strong: Family Strong**

Carla Snodgrass, MPA, Friends National Resource Center

Our early experiences as children and youth have a direct impact on who we become as adults and shape the way we respond in times of crisis. Ms. Snodgrass will help you develop resiliency to persevere through crisis with skill-building techniques, strategies and openly sharing your experiences. She will identify both emotional and community supports available to help your family cope with stress and discover ways to enhance positive emotional ties and positive interactions with your children. She will also explore how you can develop your own voice and leadership skills within your community to create an environment of success for you and your family.



10:15-10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:30 Breakout Sessions

### **Seeing the World through the Lens of Trauma**

Patsy Carter, Director of Children's Clinical Services, Department of Mental Health

Research has revealed the connection between traumatic experiences in childhood and negative health and social outcomes through adulthood. Traumatic experiences that occur in early childhood in particular can affect brain development that can negatively impact relationships, emotional and behavioral control and the ability to learn. This presentation will focus on the prevalence, effects and consequences of trauma in children and how we can help lessen potential negative outcomes.

### **SUCCESS in Telling Your Story**

Beth Doody and Michelle Dover, Family Partners

Your family story is powerful and can help other families – how adept are you at sharing it with a variety of audiences? How do you frame your story for curious young children or need-to-know policymakers? How about at an IEP meeting, or when applying for services? Attend this session to develop and hone your family story so you can educate, inform and connect with the right audience at the right time.

### **Charting the Life Course: Living the Good Life**

Susan Bird, Outreach Coordinator, Missouri Family to Family

From early childhood through adult life we are shaped and influenced by our life experiences. Explore the avenues you took to get where you are today and the path your family is taking toward a better tomorrow.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

### **Regional Networking**

The Family Partnership initiative presents a great opportunity for you to network with other families similar to your own. Join your Family Partner in a discussion about how the Family Partnership can build a strong family network within your region.



1:00 -2:00 Breakout Sessions

**Building a Strong Family Voice: The Art of Effective Advocacy**

Lori Williams, Training and Resource Coordinator MPACT

Parents often feel ignored by professionals or as if their opinions and concerns go unheard. Participants will discuss the importance of working collaboratively to solve problems, the role of good record keeping and how to communicate more effectively with the professionals working with their child.

**Fathers Matter: Calling all Dads!**

Sam Blue, Project LAUNCH and Gerardo Martinez, the LINC

Fathers make a difference in their families and influence their children’s lives. Take this opportunity to be yourself and learn from others in the session about capitalizing on social connections – family, friends, and neighbors who care about you and your family; reaching out to peer support (it’s really ok) and enriching your parenting skills using a child development lens. Moms are welcome too!!

**Family Leadership: Getting to your Why**

Jane St. John, Community Inclusion Specialist, Missouri Family to Family

It is easy to see what people do, and even sometimes how they do it – but as family leaders, are you proficient at defining WHY you are driven to do what you do? Make a difference in your community by learning to define your “why”. Others will follow you when they relate to your personal belief or purpose; this session will help you define and communicate your “Why” as a family leader.

2:00 – 2:15 Break

2:15 - 3:30 Closing Session

**Conference Reflections**

Family Partners, Family Leaders

Join us for a lively, interactive reflection of the conference and an exploration of personal and organizational next steps. This will be a great opportunity to share your feedback about the sponsoring organizations to help them work for you!

Don’t miss the door prizes– you must be present to win.

3:30 Adjourn