

The Family Resource Network, Inc.
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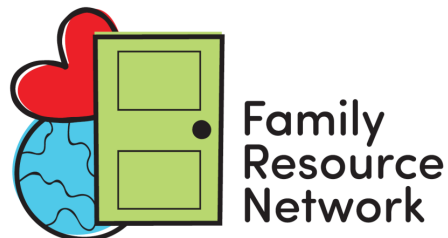


@family.resource.network

The Family Resource Network is looking for people like YOU!

If you are reading our newsletter, it is a safe bet that you already make a positive difference in the life of someone with a special need and have attended one of the many conferences or workshops sponsored by The Family Resource Network. Have you ever wished for the opportunity to share your knowledge and/or help others? The board of directors at The Family Resource Network consists of members of our community who believe in the mission of the agency and we are currently looking for people to join our board of directors.

For more information regarding the Family Resource Network, our mission statement and the role of a board member please contact board president Rhiannon Ham at (607) 278-5758 or call the Family Resource Network at (607) 432-0001.



connections

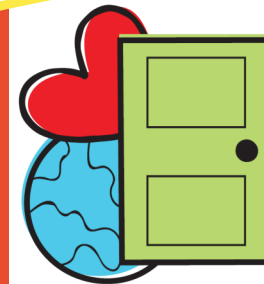
Information, Resources, and Updates from **The Family Resource Network, Inc.**

March & April 2025
in this issue:

NEW: On Demand Training Option

We're hiring! See inside for positions and details
Training: Getting Organized– Creating KIB, TIB and AIB

NEW: Rural Community Connection Program (RCCP)



Family
Resource
Network

Terry DiLuzio has announced that she is retiring from her position at the Family Resource Network after 18 years of amazing service on April 18, 2025. Terry has been a crucial part of the agency since she started in 2007 as a Family Peer Advocate in our Office of Mental Health funded positions and later transitioned to serve as an Education Advocate in our Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. During her career she worked with countless families in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins Counties. Terry brought an enormous amount of both lived experience and compassion to her work and she has helped the agency to develop the high-quality services that we provide today to families that are struggling to find appropriate services for their loved one.



Terry has been an outstanding team member and co-worker. She has worked with staff from many other agencies and programs across the 6 counties. Both the agency and her family were filled with pride in 2017 when she was recognized by the statewide agency, Families Together in New York State and received the "Outstanding Family Peer Advocate" award for her exceptional dedication to serving families and youth. Terry's willingness to help and support not only the families she works with but also her coworkers is admirable. She has been a wealth of knowledge for the agencies and the families we serve for nearly two decades. Her kindness, compassion and dedication have helped to improve the lives of countless families.

On behalf of the Family Resource Network's Board of Directors, Staff and the families we serve, we wish Terry the best in her retirement and are beyond grateful for the dedication, support and contributions she has given in her role as an advocate throughout her time at the agency.



The Family Resource Network, Inc. Mission & Purpose

Mission Statement:

Individuals with special needs deserve every opportunity to achieve their unique potential. The Family Resource Network was founded by parents to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and their families, empowering them to lead productive independent lives within the community.

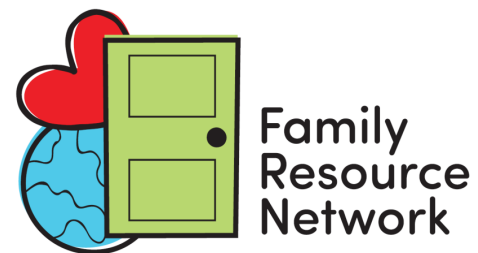
Purpose:

We want to make our community a better place through education and the enlisting of our citizens to bring services to those in need. We accomplish our mission through our core values.

We have been a vital part of our community for a number of years. We were founded to serve a growing segment of our community in need of inaccessible services. We have continued to grow with the help of our donors and volunteers that make our mission possible. Through all these years our purpose still remains the same: bring services to those in need.

Family Resource Network Staff:

Terry Diluzio: Education Advocate
Mary Fralick: Family Peer Advocate
Karyn Kanzer: Family Peer Advocate
Robin Piefer: FSS Supervisor
Ryan Tucker: Education Advocate
Kristin Winn: HR Supervisor/Program Coordinator
Michelle Zuk: Executive Director



Find us on Facebook:
[@familyrn](#)

Find us on Instagram:
[@family.resource.network](#)



Family Resource Network Programs:

Services for Families with OPWDD Eligibility

Education Advocacy
Intensive Advocacy Program
Support Groups
Family and Provider Trainings
Dragon Dates Program (Social Opportunities)
Service Access Program

Mental Health and Wellness Services

Family Peer Support
Residential Family Peer Support
Youth Peer Support
Teen Scene
Monthly Parent Group
Southern Tier Chapter of Families Together in NYS

G & E Therapies

Summer Camp for Youth with Autism
After School Program for Teens with Autism-Social Skills Group (Geckos on the Go)

Legacy Resource Fund

Source of financial assistance

Please join the Family Resource Network for an upcoming workshop:

Getting Organized

Create a Kid in a Book, Teen in a Book or Adult in a Book

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ZOOM

The Family Resource Network will demonstrate a helpful organizing tool to use when navigating the world of special education. So much gets lost in our piles of papers scattered around the house -- if this is your current method of record keeping, we are excited to introduce you to our Kid in a Book method.

Kid in a Book (KIB) is a hands-on workshop where participants are guided through the process of organizing their loved one's:

- Health records
- Education records
- Other important papers and documents of a loved one with special needs.

KIB is an invaluable resource for many parents, providing easy access to all of your loved one's information for medical appointments, CPSE and CSE meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and everyday reference.

Teen in a Book is a similar version of Kid in a Book record keeping method. Teen in a Book (TIB) provides a go-to guide for you and your loved one to access their educational, medical, and personal information at any time, all in the same place. Teen in a Book is aimed at helping teens and parents navigate the transition years with a little more confidence, comfort, and ease -- helping your loved one enter into the adult world effectively, armed with the information to be their own advocate.

Parents of OPWDD eligible individuals and parents using a Family Resource Network program can request either the binder of their choice or a digital copy. All others will receive a digital copy after attending.

This workshop will be presented by Robin Piefer, Ryan Tucker, and Terry DiLuzio, facilitators from the Family Resource Network.

Registration is required.

To register, go to [familyrn.org](#) and click on "News and Events" and "Event Calendar". For questions or assistance registering, please contact Terry at (607)287-3816.

This training is provided through a grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Self-directing families will need to add "Training Groups" to their budget prior to attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

**Please Join the Family Resource Network for Our
Online and Phone Family Support Groups:**

At Family Resource Network, we recognize that during these difficult times, families of individuals with special needs are facing unique challenges and may feel even more isolated. While we can't meet in-person to support one another, we invite you to join us for online support groups. These will be conducted through Zoom Meetings, and families may participate online or by phone. We are offering these groups as an opportunity for families to form connections, support, and learn from each other.

In 2025, we will be offering one online support group per month.

These support groups will take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Our support groups will meet on:

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 6:30-7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:30-7:30 pm

Registration is required.

To register, go to www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar".

For questions, or to participate by phone, please call Robin at (607)287-6358.

Support Groups are funded by a grant from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. Self-directing families will need to add "training groups" to their budgets. Please contact Robin at (607) 287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

Please join the Family Resource Network and Starbridge for an upcoming training:

“Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans ”

Friday, April 4th

9:00-11:00

Online via ZOOM

Sometimes a child's behaviors interfere with learning. Students and teachers need strategies to minimize those behaviors and to maximize learning opportunities. This workshop will explore the nature of a child's behavior and when a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) should be requested. An FBA helps to determine why a student engages in behaviors that impede learning. We will share tools and strategies to support student success, and what types of supports and services might be needed.

- Understand the terms Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan
 - Understand the process by which these are developed
- Be able to actively participate in the process of developing these plans

Our Presenter: Kara Georgi is the Parent Education Specialist for Starbridge Parent Training and Information Center. She offers support and information for families and professionals navigating the special education system in Cayuga, Tompkins, Onondaga, Cortland, Broome, Madison, Chenango, Otsego and Delaware Counties.

Registration is required.

To register, go to familyrn.org and click on “News and Events” and “Event Calendar”. For questions or assistance registering, please contact Robin at (607)287-6358.

This training is provided through a grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Self-directing families will need to add “Training Groups” to their budget prior to attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

New in 2025! **On Demand Trainings**

We recognize that families are busy and can't always make it to a training at the scheduled time. In 2025, we will be offering many of our training topics on demand!

Who is eligible? If you are the parent or family member of a child or adult who is eligible for services through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), you are eligible to request on demand trainings. If you have self-directed services, "Training Groups" must be added to your child's budget before scheduling. On demand trainings will be scheduled at a time that is convenient to you, either in-person or via Zoom. If more than one parent is interested in the same training, we will schedule it at a time that works for all interested parents.

What if you do not have a child with OPWDD eligibility? Please reach out to us for your options. We may be able to accommodate you through one of our other programs.

Available Training Topics:

Understanding the NYS IEP
Preparing for Your Child's CSE Meeting
All About Assessments
Services and Supports in NYS for Children with Developmental Disabilities
Intro to Social Stories
Intro to Visual Schedules
Your Due Process Rights: What to do when you don't agree
Kid, Teen and Adult in a Book
Advocating for Your Medically Involved Child
The Nurturing Philosophy
Personal Power, Praise, and Positive Discipline
Stress: Coping, Calming, and the Brain
Helping Children Cope with Change, Grief, and Loss
Praise, Encouragement, and Family Rules
The Power of Play and Socialization
Communication and Advocacy

On Demand Trainings continued
In addition to single session trainings, the Family Resource Network also has the following multisession training opportunities available through our new On Demand Training program design.

Mind the Gap:

The Mind the Gap program is for families of children ages 0-18 with a developmental disability who live in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga or Tompkins Counties. Families will be connected to a Peer Navigator. Peer Navigators have undergone thorough training through the University of Rochester and are parents of children with special needs themselves who have experience navigating the special needs service system. This short 4-6-month program offered to families includes 12 flexible coaching sessions with a peer navigator in which parents are guided and supported as they learn and understand their child's diagnosis and get access to resources and services.



Nurturing Parenting: Parents & Children with Special Needs & Health Challenges

This parenting curriculum is a 12 session program is designed to help parents and their children with chronic or life threatening medical conditions, developmental delays, life-altering disorders and disabilities add to their parenting toolboxes.



Nurturing Parenting®
Established 1983

Please join the Family Resource Network Teen Scene and Dragon Dates Programs for our upcoming event
Skating and Laser Tag!



Sunday, March 30, 2025
10:00am-12:00pm

Interskate 88
5185 NY-23
Oneonta, NY

Enjoy a morning of skating and laser tag at Interskate 88 with the Family Resource Network! The Family Resource Network has rented out the building for our private event. This event is free for registered Teen Scene and Dragon Dates participants and their family members. We will cover skates for each family member, usage of the play structure, laser tag as well as pizza and drinks!

Please Register by March 28th

Registration is required

To register please visit our website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar".

The age range for **Teen Scene** events has been expanded and Teen Scene events will be open to any school aged youth in Otsego, Delaware and Chenango County.

Dragon Dates events are for the families of individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Self-directing families will need to add "Social Skills" to their budgets before attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget. Questions? Call FRN at 607-432-0001 and ask for Kristin.

****This is a family event. FRN is not responsible for supervision.****

Come join the Family Resource Network's Teen Scene and Dragon Dates Programs for an afternoon at

ClarkSportsCenter



Sunday, April 6, 2025
1:00pm-5:00pm

Clark Sports Center
124 County Highway 52
Cooperstown, NY



Enjoy an afternoon at Clark Sports Center with Family Resource Network! Registrants and their family will have access to many fun activities at the gym including Bowling and Swimming. Any youth ages 5-18 may participate in Kid's Climb and utilize the Rock Wall during our event as well. In addition, everyone will have access to the open gym, game room, ping pong tables and racket ball courts! This event is free for registered Teen Scene and Dragon Dates participants and their family members. A pizza lunch will also be served.

Space is limited and registration is **REQUIRED**.
Please Register by April 4th

To register please visit our website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar". To register by phone or for additional information please call FRN @ 607-432-0001

The age range for **Teen Scene** events has been expanded and Teen Scene events will be open to any school aged youth in Otsego, Delaware and Chenango County.

Dragon Dates events are for the families of individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Self-directing families will need to add "Social Skills" to their budgets before attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

****This is a family event. FRN is not responsible for supervision.****

Rural Community Connection Program (RCCP)

The Family Resource Network is very excited to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the United Way of Mid Rural New York to provide the Rural Community Connection Program. This is a partnership between the Family Resource Network and HALo's. The purpose of the RCCP is to connect families and youth in Chenango, Delaware & Otsego Counties to support and resources that will increase the health and resiliency of our communities. We will have monthly events and look forward to helping families to make positive connections.

Please join the Family Resource Network and HALo's for our upcoming event
Art for Wellness: Self Portraits



Saturday, March 8, 2025
10:00am-12:30pm
Snow date: Saturday, March 15th

HUB
146 Main St.
Afton, NY 13730

Please join the new Rural Community Connection Program for an Art for Wellness event. We will be doing a variety of mental health related art projects led by Art Wellness Coach Lori Jacobs-Farist. A pizza lunch will be provided.

Please Register by March 6th

Registration is required

To register please visit FRN's website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar". To register by phone please call 607-432-0001 and ask for Kristin.

Families from Chenango, Delaware & Otsego Counties are eligible to attend.

The Rural Community Connection is a partnership between the Family Resource Network and HALo's. Funding has been provided by the United Way of Mid Rural New York.

Please join the Family Resource Network and HALo's for our upcoming event
Art for Wellness: Mixed Media

Saturday, April 12, 2025
10:00am-12:30pm

HUB
146 Main St.
Afton, NY 13730

Please join the new Rural Community Connection Program for an Art for Wellness event. Participants will be doing a variety of mental health related art projects using water color and mixed media to illustrate your favorite kind of day and what a safe space looks like to you. A pizza lunch will be provided.



Please Register by April 10th

Registration is required

To register please visit FRN's website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar". To register by phone please call 607-432-0001 and ask for Kristin.

Families from Chenango, Delaware & Otsego Counties are eligible to attend.

The Rural Community Connection is a partnership between the Family Resource Network and HALo's. Funding has been provided by the United Way of Mid Rural New York.

****This is a family event. FRN and HALo's are not responsible for supervision.****

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The Family Resource Network is hiring!

All applicants should submit a resume with a cover letter to kwinn@familyrn.org. For more information please call the Family Resource Network at 607-432-0001 and ask for Kristin.

Education Advocate

Family Resource Network is hiring a 30 hour per week Education Advocate. \$18.00 per hour (19.00 with Bachelor's Degree) plus mileage reimbursement

Responsibilities will include:

- Assisting families to navigate the Special Education system by phone, email, video-conference, and in person in the office, in family homes, and in the community.
- Advocating for families and their children at CSE and other school meetings
- Assisting families to collect documents needed to apply for services through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
 - Facilitating Support Groups in-person and through video-conferencing
 - Planning, advertising, and facilitating workshops and conferences for families
 - Some travel required
 - Some weekend and evening hours are required
 - Generous paid holidays and vacation
 - Must have a valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle
 - Must provide proof of vehicle registration, inspection, and insurance

Qualifications:

Minimum:

- General understanding of the special education system
 - Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in basic features of Microsoft Windows, Word, and Excel

Preferred:

- Personal or professional experience advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Strongly preferred:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Personal experience navigating the special education system as the parent or guardian of a child with an IEP

Benefits: Flexible schedule with frequent opportunities to work from home, Paid time off, End of year bonus

The Family Resource Network is hiring!

All applicants should submit a resume with a cover letter describing your personal lived experience of being a parent or guardian of a child with a social, emotional, behavioral, mental health or developmental disability to kwinn@familyrn.org. For more information please call the Family Resource Network at 607-432-0001 and ask for Kristin.

Family Peer Advocate

Family Resource Network is hiring a 40 hour per week Family Peer Advocate \$19.00 per hour, plus mileage reimbursement.

Family Peer Advocates have 'lived-experience' as the parent (biological, foster, adoptive) or primary caregiver of a child/youth with a social, emotional, behavioral, mental health or developmental disability. They receive training to develop skills and strategies to empower other families. They foster effective parent-professional partnerships and promote the practice of family-driven and youth-guided approaches. Lived experience is extremely valuable when working with families in need of resources, support and advocacy.

Applicant must:

- Possess excellent organizational and communication skills
 - Complete progress notes in a timely manner
 - Conduct home visits with families to identify need
- Submit to a background/fingerprint check (at no cost to applicant)
- Have experience advocating within the service systems (i.e. Mental Health, Special Education, DSS, Juvenile Justice, SPOA, Foster Care)
 - Have working knowledge of Microsoft Office software

High School Diploma or Equivalent required.

Benefits: Flexible schedule with frequent opportunities to work from home, Paid time off, End of year bonus

