



## UVA CHILD ADVOCACY UPDATE

### Child Advocacy—What Can You Do?

- **Stay informed!** Sign up for the **AAP SmartBrief** daily email newsletter to keep up with pediatrics in the news; go to <http://www.smarbrief.com/aap/> to sign up.
- **Get involved!** You can be involved in health care reform as a member of the **AAP's Federal Action Advocacy Network (FAAN)**; as a resident member of the AAP you should receive FAAN email alerts about current issues that are working through the policy-making process.
- **Screen for social needs!** Make it a habit to screen *all* of your patient families for social needs and refer them to social work, the UVA Child Health Advocacy Program, or to other community programs for assistance. Addressing these needs can improve the health of the child and the stability of the family.
- **Check out our new Child Advocacy website!** The Child Advocacy website has been completely updated and can be found at <http://www.medicine.virginia.edu/clinical/departments/pediatrics/special-programs/child-advocacy/>. Here, you will find the **Advocacy Toolkit**, with competencies and objectives, an advocacy portfolio to track your progress through residency, as well as information and opportunities for developing your advocacy skills.

### Do Your Patient Families Need a Lawyer to Stay Healthy?

When you are screening your patient families for social needs, consider asking these questions:

1. Do you ever run out of food at the end of the month?
2. Do you ever have trouble making ends meet?
3. Do you have a problem with the condition of your rented home or apartment?
4. Is your child receiving the help that he needs at school?

If your screening identifies a need, you may refer families to our pediatric social workers and/or to our Child Health Advocacy Program (CHAP) for evaluation. Carolyn Pointer is our CHAP attorney and can help families with many of these issues. She is easily accessible by email ([carolynp@justice4all.org](mailto:carolynp@justice4all.org)) or phone at 977-0553.

### Coming Soon! Intranet Site With Up-to-Date Community Resource Information!

A new intranet site is under development that will include up-to-date information on community resources that you can use to help families or print off and give to families when needed. As part of the PL-2 Community Pediatrics rotation, this information is being collected and will soon be available. We already have resources for obesity, affordable medications, autism, dental care, and others.

### UVA's Nancy Walton Pugh Child Advocacy Funds Available For Resident Advocacy Projects!

If you are in need of some seed funding to get an advocacy project started or to participate in an advocacy educational opportunity, funds may be available through the Nancy Walton Pugh Child Advocacy Fund. Email [dep6b@virginia.edu](mailto:dep6b@virginia.edu) for details.

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The VA Capitol, Richmond

### Pediatric General Assembly Day, January 27, 2011!

Mark your calendars now to attend the Pediatric General Assembly Day on **January 27, 2011**. This is a great way to learn hands-on state legislative advocacy skills!

### Autism in Schools: Steering Towards Success!

Special education attorney William Reichardt will be speaking at **KCRC on Tuesday September 28, 2010 at 7:00 pm**. His talk will be geared towards parents, but will also prove useful to health care providers who care for children with special needs.

### Grand Rounds December 9: Disability Benefits for Children!

Be sure to mark your calendar for **December 9, 2010 Pediatric Grand Rounds**, where CHAP attorney Carolyn Pointer will discuss SSI disability benefits for children, including eligibility, the process, the benefits, the role of the health care provider, etc.

### Save the Date! VA AAP Williamsburg Meeting In October!

This meeting will be held **October 29-31** at the Williamsburg Lodge. There will be a **free luncheon on Saturday** featuring **Dr. Karen Remley, pediatrician and State Health Commissioner**. See <http://www.virginiapediatrics.org/calendar/Wburg2010.pdf> for details.

*If you have other child health advocacy items to share, please send them to [childadvocacy@virginia.edu](mailto:childadvocacy@virginia.edu).*

