

Medical Home Conference Call February 22, 2005

Guest Speaker: Barbara Smith (Utah Family Centers)

Utah Parent Center (UPC) works with children with disabilities and works closely with a specific audience of parents. The UPC and the Utah Family Center (UFC) work very closely with one another because they are both serving parents. The UFC helps parents help their children succeed at school. UFC has a broader audience of parents. 50% of funds are used for low income families and 30% of funds are used for early childhood (pre-kindergarten). There are two main things that the UFC does: 1) Runs 10 resource libraries around the state. All the information in the libraries are for the parents. The libraries have information on all issues such as toilet training, temper tantrums and even finding ways to deal with a teenager that has ADD. Also positive discipline, activities you can do with your family, and even fatherhood. This is a broad base of information available free for families in English and Spanish. The libraries also have videos and educational toys that can be checked out. For example a parent may have a child that needs help with pre-literacy, the parent can then check out educational toys used to help him/her until they find one that helps. 2) The second thing that UFC does is to help oversee the PAT (Parents As Teachers) program for the state). The PAT Program is a national program. It is a home visitation program for low income families. The PAT educator (visitor) receives a whole week of training. They visit at-risk families once a month. Each month has a certain curriculum (for example, there is a curriculum for a 13 month old, a curriculum for a 22 month old, etc.). Programs work with age 3-5 and some with birth to 5. The PAT educator is paid for by different agencies. The families receiving PAT visits are identified by self, doctor, or social worker. There is a short waiting list to get on the program.

The UFC also does a lot of parent training and parenting classes, also early childhood training and multiple intelligences.

UFC center locations: Logan (Wilson Elementary), Price (State Office of Education), Davis (Family Enrichment Center), Monument Valley (trailer outside or high school), Salt Lake (State Center, Glendale Middle School), Tooele (District office), Provo (Timpanogas elementary), St. George (Woodward Building), Ogden (Club Heights elementary). If there is not a center nearby the information can be mailed to the family. The website is www.utahfamilycenter.org . Centers are open year round. Services are available to all.

Next Conference is on March 22, 2005.

Attendees: Gina Pola-Money, Barbara Ward, Barbara Smith, Grace Baugh, Family Advocate, Kathy Coopersmith, Lisa Lee, Robert Terashima, Kathy Hefferon, Maria Wiscombe, Val Jones, Donna Jenson, Fred Riggs , Cathi Hall