THE CHILD HEALTH ADVOCATE

University of Virginia Department of Pediatrics

UVA CHILD ADVOCACY UPDATE

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Child Advocacy—What Can You Do?

- **Vote!** Midterm elections are just around the corner and one of the most important things that you can do is vote! Stay informed on issues affecting children and on candidate positions. With your thoughtful vote, you can help ensure that the policy-makers who are elected will pursue what is best for children.
- **Submit a CATCH grant!** Do you have an idea for a project that you would like to implement? Up to $3,000 is available to residents who receive an AAP CATCH grant. The next cycle of CATCH grants will begin November 1 and proposals are due by January 31, 2011. See http://www.aap.org/catch/residentgrants.htm for details.
- **Attend the October VA AAP Meeting!** The VA AAP will meet October 29-31 at the Williamsburg Lodge. This is a great way to learn about what is going on around the state. There will be a business meeting and free luncheon on Saturday October 30th featuring Dr. Karen Remley, pediatrician and State Health Commissioner. See http://www.virginiapediatrics.org/calendar/Wburg2010.pdf for details.
- **Attend the AAP NCE Meeting!** The AAP NCE meeting will be held October 2-5 in San Francisco. Here, you will learn the latest in clinical care, policy and advocacy for children. See http://www.aapconvergence.com/ for details.
- **Attend the Charlottesville Health Summit!** The summit will focus on the influence of substance abuse on pregnancy and infants and will be held Thursday October 28 from 9-4 pm in Charlottesville. Contact Peggy Brown Paviour at 972-6232 for details.

New Food Stamp Clinic at PCC!

If you have a family who may be eligible for food stamps or who currently receives food stamps and would like to talk with someone about this important benefit, please refer them to the *Food Stamp Clinic*, located in the lobby of the Primary Care Center Clinic on Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 pm. The clinic is part of the *UVA Child Health Advocacy Program (CHAP)* and is staffed by medical students who have been trained to help families review their benefits.

Greene County Asthma Education and Spacer Event!

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Dr. Almea Matanock, many school children in Greene County now have spacers at school. Working with the Greene County school nurses and Blue Ridge Care Connection for Children, Dr. Matanock obtained a BAMA Works grant to provide spacers and asthma education to Greene County students. She organized an educational event featuring Dr. Teague and Deb Murphy, RN who answered questions about asthma and medication management. Afterwards, pediatric residents helped the children practice the proper technique for using their new spacers.

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 Reichhardt 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.

If you have other child health advocacy items to share, please send them to childadvocacy@virginia.edu.