



History of Children's Mental Health Week Started in Missouri

Compiled by Barb Scheidegger, Director of Missouri Families 4 Families 

1988 – Missouri received the Federal Child and Adolescent Service System Project (CASSP) Grant Award in October of 1988. *1

1990 – Child and Adolescent Service System Project (CASSP) Coalition of families and professionals in the Greater Metro Kansas City areas deciding that they needed to do something to educate people about the fact that although children with Mental Health issues looked healthy on the outside they were hurting on the inside. So this Coalition (including Keys for Networking and the CASSP parent effort in MO) got the Majors of Kansas City, MO (Mayor Cleaver) and Kansas City, Kansas to sign proclamations declaring a certain week in May as “**Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week**”. This event took place in Kansas City, MO. The next year it went statewide in both States. *2

1991 – May 17, 1991 – Declaration of Children’s Mental Health and Behavior Disorder Week. . General agreement that the State Parent Advisory Panel (SPAP) would support such a week, but it was the Panel’s feeling that support should come through the school systems. If the P.L. 99-142(*3). Board will support such a proclamation then the SPAP will also. *3

1991 – Summer/Fall CASSP Kansas City Area Coalition. The Coalition sponsored by Kansas Keys for Networking and the Missouri CASSP Project planning toward a jointly sponsored Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Disorder Awareness Week to be held during the first week of May, 1992. This will be a statewide event in both Kansas and Missouri and will not be limited to the Kansas City area. Local Community Mental Health Centers, Schools, not-for-profit and private agencies, advocacy groups and businesses will be asked to plan activities during this week which will assist in providing information and education about these disorders and in reducing the stigma attached to them.

Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Awareness Week Vision:

A growing number of children are recognized as having emotional, behavioral and mental disorders. At the same time members of the community lack information and understanding of these disorders. The purpose of this week is to disseminate information to the community about the needs of these children and their families. *4

On November 26, 1991 - at the CASSP Statewide Parent Advisory Panel meeting decided not to have the poster contest this year because of the time elements and the lack of manpower on the committee to

do it. The Kansas City Committee decided to ask Virginia's Parent's and Children Coping Together to use their poster. We will be developing information packets to send out regarding the week. *5

1992 – First Stateside “Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week” Poster with Theme “Healthy On The Outside Hurting on the Inside” Poster reference to contact Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS) or Kansas Keys for Networking. This year the first Missouri Governor Proclamation declaring the first full week of May (May 3-9, 1992) as “Children Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week” signed by Governor John Ashcroft. *6

1994 – The first year that the Family Organization Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network took Posters, Information Packets and Green Ribbons to the Federation Children Mental Health National Conference to share with other States where they could put their State’s information on the poster and information. Later the poster and information became available electrically. *7

1994 – Robyn Boustead, MO Director of CASSP left Missouri Department of Mental Health and went to Ohio and took Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week to Ohio and then to Maine. *2

1995 – The name of “Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week was changed to “**Children’s Mental Health Week**” The posters then read co-founders Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network and Missouri Department of Mental Health Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. *2, 6

1996 – First year that Children’s Mental Health Week was celebrated nationwide May 5-11. 1006. *8

1998 & 1999 – Children’s Mental Health Week in the Congressional Record signed by Missouri Senator John Ashcroft. *6

2000-2005 – Posters with Themes were distributed statewide along with information packets by Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network, Department of Mental Health, Community Mental Health Centers and NAMI. *6

2006-2010 – Missouri Families 4 Families and Families 4 Families SW Region continued observing Children’s Mental Health Week with a theme and Statewide Award Ceremony. In 2006 the Award Ceremony was held in Monett and the next years in Jefferson City. *8

2010-2017 - Missouri Families 4 Families designed a poster with Theme for Children’s Mental Health Week. The Posters along with information were disseminated statewide with support from Department of Mental Health and NAMI MO. *9

**MO Governor’s Proclamations declaring the first full week of May as “Children’s Mental Health Week”
1992-2005**

1992 -Signed by Governor John Aschoft

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 - Signed by Governor Mel Carnahan

2001, 2002, 2003 - Signed by Governor Bob Holden

2009, 2010, 2012 - Signed by Governor Jay Nixon

Mayor’s Proclamations of “Children’s Mental Health Week”

2009 First year of Mayor’s Proclamation

And the number of Mayor’s Proclamation have increased each year since

Children’s Mental Health Week Award Ceremony

1996-2005 Missouri Statewide Advisory Network held Children’s Mental Health Week Award Ceremony, the first years the event was held at the Capitol or the Governor’s Mansion.

2006-2017 MO Families 4 Families and Families 4 Families SW Region have continued the Annual Award Ceremony

Children’s Mental Health Week Themes

1992 Healthy On The Outside Hurting On The Inside

1993 It takes A Community To Raise A Child

1994 A Right To Belong

1995 We Do Fit In

1996 One Youth At A Time

1997 Putting Our Voices Together For Children

1998 Communities Need All Our Children “Give Them A Chance”

1999 In A Child’s Life Everyone Is Accountable

2000 Remember Us In The New Millennium

2001 We’re All In This Together

2002 Show Me Our System Of Care

2003 In A System Of Care Dream It Do It

2004 Our Child And Family Driven System Of Care

2005 In A System Of Care Nothing About Us Without Us

2006 Our Kids, Our Lives, Our Future, Creating Hope

2007 United Families Have The Power And Hope

2008 Joining Hands For Unity

2009 Stars Of Hope On The Horizon

2010 Where We Have Been Where Are We Going

2011 Looking To the Past To Create A Better Future

2012 Building With The End In Mind

2013 Show Me Children Mental Health Matters

- 2014 All of Me Healthy My Mental Health Matters
- 2015 It's Time Children's Mental Health Matters
- 2016 All Aboard For the Next 25 Years
- 2017 Putting Together Our Hopes and Dreams
- 2018 Supporting Families Changing Futures

References

- *1 Parent and Professionals Together Newsletter January 1989
- *2 Phone calls, emails and in person interviews (2010) with
Robyn Boustead, former MO Director
of the Child and Adolescent service System Project (CASSP)
Barbara Huff, former Director of Kansas Keys for Networking and
Nation Federation of Family for Children Mental Health
Jenny Wiley, former assistant Director
of the Child and Adolescent Service System (CASSP)
Donna Dittrich, former member of Parent Support and Advocacy Panel and
Former Director of Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network
Marge Parrish, former member of Parent Support and Advocacy Panel and NAMI
- *3 May 17, 991 Minutes of CASSP Parent Support and Advocacy Panel
(P.L.94-142) Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which required that children between
age 3 and 21 with serious emotional disturbances be provided a free and appropriate education
and the mental health services that are needed to promote learning
- *4 Parents and Professionals Partners For Change CASSP Summer/Fall 1991
- *5 November 26, 1991 CASSP Statewide Parent Advisory Panel Minute
- *6 Posters and Proclamations
- *7 Minutes of CASSP Statewide Parent Advisory Panel
- *8 Letter on DMH Letterhead dated April 8, 1996 signed by Roy C. Wilson M.D.
- *9 Missouri Families 4 Families Records

NOTE: All the Posters and Governor's Proclamations are on display at
Missouri Families 4 Families Office in Jefferson City, MO