

December 2007

Kincare News

E-mail News from the New York State Kincare Coalition

Welcome to *Kincare News*, a monthly e-newsletter produced by AARP New York on behalf of the New York State Kincare Coalition for professionals working in the kin caregiving field. *Kincare News* is designed to provide a forum for the exchange of information about kin caregiving, including the latest legal developments, funding and training opportunities, events and resources. Your submissions and feedback for future editions are welcome.

Top Headlines

- **News: Kincare: A Five Year Framework for Action**
- **Resources: LIFT Offers New Service to Relative Caregivers**
- **Events: Kincare Coalition Meeting January 23, 2008**

News

Kincare: A Five Year Framework for Action

On November 13, the Kincare Coalition hosted an invitation only summit, “Kincare: A Five Year Framework for Action.” AARP NY staff led by Beth Finkel, organized and staffed the summit, with funding provided by the AARP Foundation and the New York Life Foundation. Representatives of the executive office, the Office of Children and Family, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, and the Director of the Office for the Aging and the acting Director of the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, opened up the conference with praise for kinship caregivers and the programs that support them. Their remarks showcased the dramatic change in policy towards kinship families and programs. Governor Spitzer’s support clearly encourages us all to hope for a brighter day for our families.

The purpose of the Summit centered on the identification of policies, laws, and programs that support kinship families. The keynote speaker, Dr. Jim Gleeson, outlined current research on outcomes, best practices, and emerging trends. He presented compelling reasons for governments to provide support.

The morning program ended with a panel discussion of statewide “navigator” systems by Anne Strozier, Hilari Hauptman, Anne Strozier, and Gerard Wallace, directors of their respective programs in Florida, Washington State, Minnesota, and New York.

During lunch and the afternoon, the 140 plus invitees broke up into work groups to discuss recommendations in five specific subjects: evidenced based research, statewide systems of services, programs addressing specific caregiver/children needs, legislation, and legal assistance.

The Coalition expects to present its recommendations to both the executive and legislative branches by January 15th. Building on the recommendations of the 2004 Summit, our hope is that kinship programming will expand into every part of the state and that more services and laws will favor kinship families.

More on the Summit's recommendations will be published in the next newsletter.

Resources

LIFT Offers a New Service to Relative Caregivers

LIFT is thrilled to announce that we are now conducting Relatives as Parents (RAP) legal education workshops at community-based organizations throughout New York City.

The RAP program offers relative caregivers, such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles, information about legal topics such as:

- child custody and guardianship
- the juvenile justice system
- an overview of Family Court – what to expect in Court, how to bring a case for child support, etc.
- an overview of Criminal Court – what to expect in Court, basics of arraignments, bail, etc.
- public benefits

All who attend the workshops will receive a wealth of written information about the topics discussed, including LIFT-produced multilingual resource guides, a coloring book to introduce children to Family Court, and other helpful materials. All materials are available in English and Spanish.

LIFT will work with you and your organization to tailor each workshop so that it addresses the needs of the families that you serve. All RAP workshops are held during hours that are convenient to relative caregivers.

If your organization is interested in bringing this unique opportunity to the people you serve, or if you have any questions about the workshops, please contact Ruth Vega at (646) 613-9633, ext. 212, or by email at rvega@liftonline.org.

Help available online for brain injury victims

First published: Monday, November 19, 2007

Thanks to Cathleen Crowley and the Times Union for the important and poignant story, "Invisible scars are slow to heal," published Nov. 13. Ms. Crowley captured the real challenges that 13-year-old brain injury survivor, Julian, and his family now face.

The good news, for families like the Malleins and others who share a similar story, is there is help. The Brain Injury Association of New York State is proud to announce the launching of LEARNet (<http://www.bianys.org/learnet/>), a Web-based information and resource program, funded by the state Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

Each year, more than 30,000 children become permanently disabled following a brain injury. Many more, often unaccounted for, appear to have recovered from their injuries only to have problems resurface later as they encounter increased social, academic and developmental challenges.

As in the case of Julian, problems can include behavior outbursts, cognitive changes and depression resulting in academic problems and alienation from peer groups.

LEARNet offers, along with resource information, a comprehensive problem-solving tool designed to help teachers and families find solutions to these often challenging and frustrating problems.

In addition to LEARNet, the association's Family Advocacy, Counseling and Training Services Program provides links for individuals injured before age 22 and their families with community-based services and supports.

FACTS coordinators throughout the state are on hand to educate the public about brain injury, available services and prevention.

For more information about LEARNet, the FACTS Program or any of the association's other programs, please contact BIANYS by phone at (800) 228-8201, by e-mailing info@bianys.org, or by visiting our Web site at <http://www.bianys.org>.

JUDITH I. AVNER Executive Director Brain Injury Association Albany

Brookdale Foundation Grant Opportunity

The Brookdale Foundation Group Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) is pleased to announce a grant opportunity. We will be providing seed grants to non-profit, 501(c)(3) programs across the country that want to create or expand services to grandparents and other relatives raising children. Please see the attached local Request for Proposal (RFP) guidelines for more information. The RFP application is available on our website, www.brookdalefoundation.org.

In addition, the Foundation has collaborated with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) on a publication intended to make the aging network across the nation aware of important and successful Relatives as Parents Programs (RAPPs) operated by Area Agencies on Aging. We hope this guidebook will encourage the replication of RAPP supportive services to relative caregivers by the many Area Agencies on Aging that serve older adults. You can find this publication, Promising Practices in Supporting Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children, on our website, <http://www.brookdalefoundation.org/relativesasparents.htm>.

Finally, we have attached a flier of our book, *Relatives Raising Children, A Guide to Finding Help and Hope*, which is an excellent resource written specifically to help answer some of the questions and concerns of relative caregivers, including getting help with expenses, the child's needs, relations with the child's parents, getting help from the legal system and planning for the future.

Please feel free to share these resources with those in your Networks that may be interested.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melinda Perez-Porter at mpp@brookdalefoundation.org or Rolanda Pyle at rp@brookdalefoundation.org

Events Calendar

Mid-Erie Counseling & Treatment Services

Offers day, evening and teen support groups for caregivers.

Day support group for caregivers:

Meets at **608 William St. from 11:00 am – 1 pm.**

Evening support group and teen support group in the evening:

Evening and teen support groups meet at **347 E. Ferry St. from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

Schedule for the remainder of this year:

December 18 (Day Group)

December 19 (Evening/Teen Groups)

Diana Kachurka, LCSW-R
Supervisor School Based Services
phone - (716) 895-7167 ext. 106
cell - (716) 983-2125

Empowerment Trainings for Grandparents

A new series of empowerment training will be offered at the Graduate School of Social Service, Fordham University beginning Oct. 31. The program which is supported by the NYC Department of the Aging involves 14 classes dealing with all phases of empowerment for grandparents. The training is open to all grandparents in the 5 boroughs who are raising their grandchildren. Transportation to the program and lunch are provided. For more information, contact the Department for the Aging, 212-442-1192.

Upcoming Kincare Coalition Meeting

Date

Wednesday, January 23

Time

12:00pm – 3:00pm

Locations

Albany Office

One Commerce Plaza Ste 706
Albany, NY 12260

Rochester Office

435 E Henrietta Rd.
Rochester, NY 14620

New York Office

780 3rd Ave. 33rd fl.
New York, NY 10017

Please Note

The Rochester office has limited capacity. They will only be able to accommodate 8 to 10 people. Please RSVP with Merissa Gremminger at mgremminger@aarp.org or (212)-407-3784 for the meeting and identify to which office you will be going.

About Kincare News

Kincare News is produced by [AARP New York](#) on behalf of the New York State Kincare Coalition. The Coalition is dedicated to empowering the grandparents and other relatives who are raising nearly half a million children in New York State. The goals of the coalition are to remove barriers facing kin caregivers and engage policy makers in the areas of education, health, legal issues, temporary assistance and child welfare. The members of the coalition are a statewide network of organizations and agencies that serve kin caregivers by providing resources, legal and social services, support groups and advocacy.

To submit an item or for more information about *Kincare News* or the New York State Kincare Coalition, contact Merissa Gremminger at mgremminger@aarp.org or 212-407-3784.

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