

Collaborative Relationships

Keli Anderson, Executive Director

The F.O.R.C.E. Society for Kids' Mental Health

October 18, 2009

CCYHC Symposium

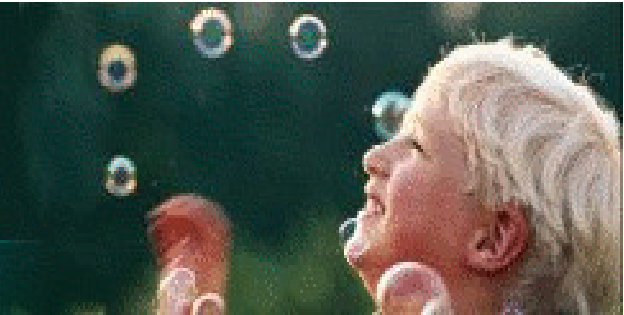
Halifax, Nova Scotia

The F.O.R.C.E.

Families Organized for Recognition and Care Equality

Society for Kid's Mental Health

As families, we've been there.



Who we are and Our Vision

We are families of children and youth with mental health challenges.

Our vision is that all families receive the appropriate care, support and resources needed for their child's mental health.

'Some' of The FORCE Families



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What we've found



- There are more families needing help than we thought;
- How a lot of professionals and systems 'talk about us, without us';
- How hard it is to parent a child with a mental health issue;
- How most people really don't 'get it'. It isn't just bad behavior or bad parenting;
- That parents aren't seen as 'experts' on their children;
- That research doesn't seem to represent parents like us;

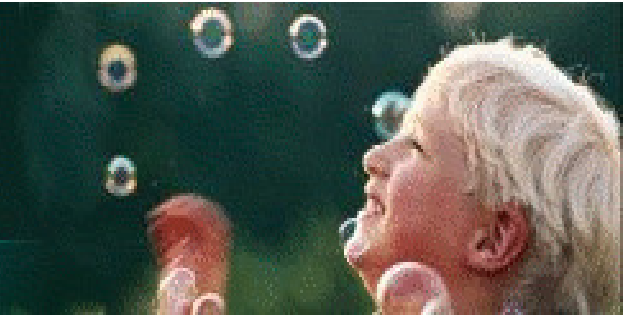
	What we thought in 2000	What we've come to know in 2009
Who we are	We are parents whose children's lives are touched by mental health issues	We are families where 'everyone' is affected by the mental health challenges of any member
Why we formed	To ensure mental health care and services are provided to children and youth and to assist their families in finding information and support	Mental Health care and services need to be provided to children, youth AND their families and information, support, policies, research and programs should be developed <u>'with' families</u>

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How is change created

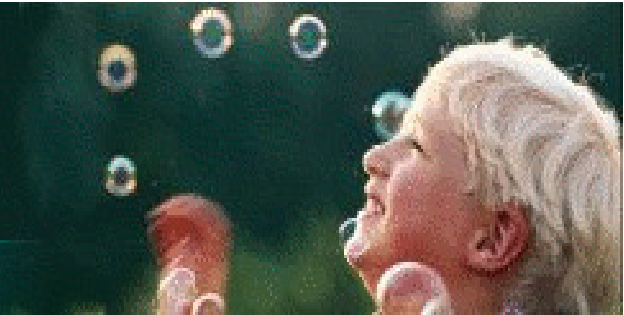


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Working Group for developing Provincial Family Council:

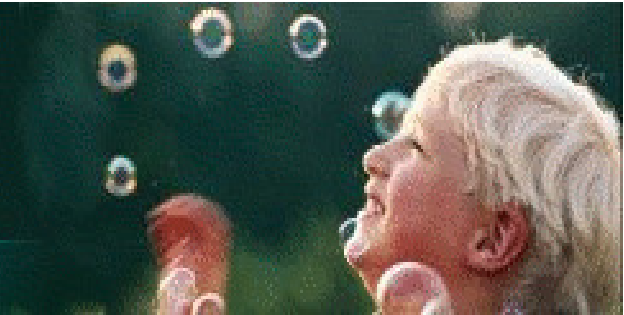
Engagement of Decision Makers and Family Members

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Partnerships for advocacy:

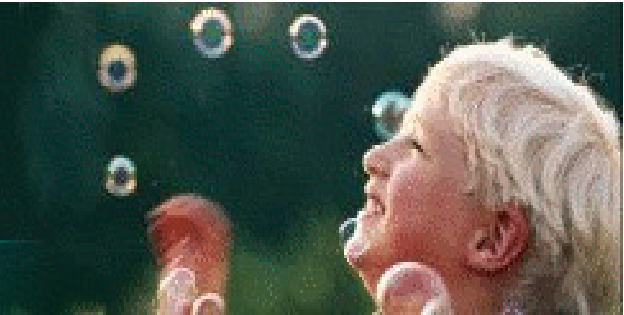
Many stories, multiple roles, **ONE** message

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Centralization and Mobilization of Family Engagement

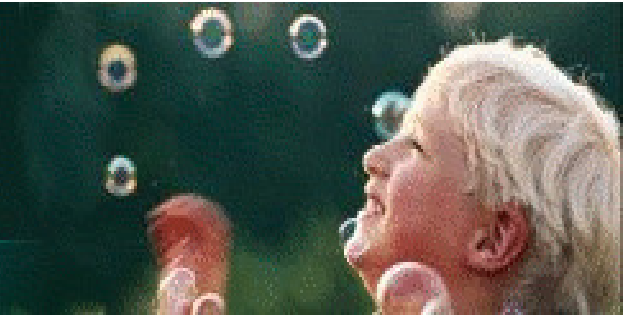
CFI

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Commitment to:

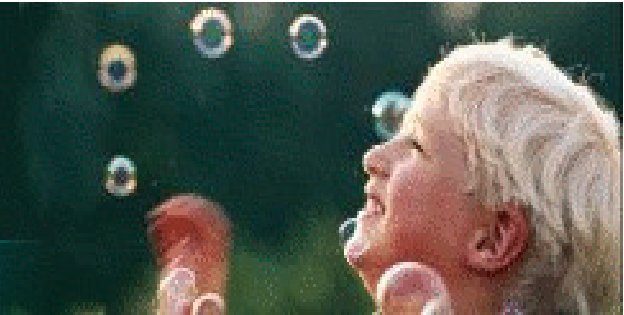
'Nothing ABOUT families, WITHOUT families'

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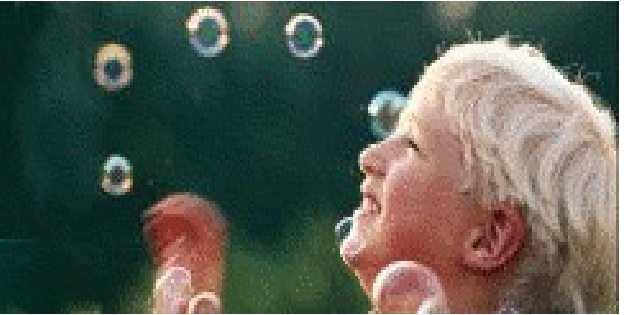
May 'Families' be with you

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Contacting the F.O.R.C.E

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