New Orleans, Network For Action and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grantees Meeting—
In the lobby of the fabulous N. O. Hilton, I ran into Melissa Brodowski, OCAN who called me over to introduce me to these two individuals with whom she had just lunched.
In my usual exuberant manner, I gave a big hello and hug before the formal introduction of name rank and serial number had been performed. Melissa had shared that I was a parent leader and that this was their first time attending the conference. I was so excited for them I hugged them in Welcome! Then Melissa says, “this is Mark Greenberg, Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families and Joo Yeun Chang, Associate Commissioner of the Children’s Bureau. I almost fell through the floor, but what kept me from doing that was how delighted they were by my greeting not knowing that they were VIPs. We had a nice conversation in which they let me know they were accessible. What a nice way to meet the new leadership and get to know a little about them.

Busy Or Effective?
This year the topic was Transformation: Move from Busy to Effective with the Science of the Positive (SOTP). What is SOTP? It is a framework based on the interdependence of spirit and scientific rigor as precursors to effective action and is transforming child maltreatment prevention. Among the most profound insights has been the realization that successful programs and policies place equal emphasis on promoting family strengths as on identifying and reducing risks.

During this year’s National Conference On Child Abuse & Neglect, Jeffrey Linchenbach, EdD and Robert Sege, MD, PhD returned for their third collaborative address describing the application of the Spirit, Science and Action framework to child abuse and prevention since they introduced the use of the Science of the Positive to understand and improve child maltreatment prevention and intervention at the 2012 Network for Action meeting.

For more information on the Science of the Positive go to www.montanainstitute.com
~Eliza Cooper, Editor
National Parent Leaders Meet at the CBCAP Grantees Meeting

National Parent Leaders met from all over the country. The FRIENDS CBCAP Parent Advisory Council (PAC) makes it a point to make sure there is an opportunity for parent leaders who attend the annual CBCAP Grantees meeting to get to know one another. For the past two years they have hosted a meet and greet luncheon giving attending parent leaders an opportunity to connect and network. There are new faces participating every year from different parts of the country. It is also an opportunity for those who have already met to have a face to face meeting where they can talk about their roles as parent leaders and share personal tidbits about one another. This year there were parents from Alabama, California, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon and Texas.

FRIENDS E-Learning Resources

FRIENDS NRC plans to release an e-learning course on Financial Stability that will provide information, resources and tools for providers on strategies to build financial stability with youth and families. Financial stability and asset building helps to reduce family stress and is linked to promoting protective factors. The objectives for the course are to help providers understand the linkages between financial stability and child maltreatment prevention, understand their role as a financial coach, learn strategies for engaging youth and parents on building financial assets and learn about financial resources available and how to connect families to those resources. The course will be interactive and provide hands on learning for providers and parents on a variety of topics. The topics will include information on how to help youth and families manage their money, build financial assets, create an emergency savings, understand the importance of credit, reduce debt, locate tax filing assistance, and qualify for tax credits.