

# Arizona's 2008 Adolescent Substance Abuse Conference

## Confronting Social Barriers in Adolescence

### Conference Speaker Information



**Jane Kallal, Executive Director  
Family Involvement Center**

The challenges of navigating the behavioral health system and other child-serving systems while raising a child with severe behavioral health challenges was Jane's inspiration to become a national advocate for the needs of children and youth with behavioral health and substance abuse challenges, and their families. She serves as a community spokesperson and systems transformation leader in Arizona and nationally.

A former Corporate Systems Development Manager, Jane became focused in 2000 on Arizona's Vision to transform its behavioral health system based on meaningful collaboration with families. First hired as the sole family representative to shape the statewide effort, Jane applied her family perspective and expertise on systems navigation as one of four pioneering Systems Developers (the others coming from Child Welfare, Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice systems). This initial team led Maricopa County's "200 Kids Project" to demonstrate how to bring to life Arizona Vision, by developing a Child & Family Team (wraparound) process as a central mechanism within the state's emerging system of care. She was invited as first family representative to sit on the statewide Arizona Children's Executive Committee, the cross-agency executive group overseeing implementation of the "Jason K" settlement.

Demonstrating the importance of bringing family representatives to the service delivery workforce, and as advisors to public systems' transformation activities, Jane saw the need to establish the Family Involvement Center (FIC) in 2002, a family-run, non-for-profit organization, to operationalize the integration of family and youth involvement at all levels from service delivery to program and policy development to practice improvement. In the last 6 years the Family Involvement Center has become a nationally leader for developing a highly successful model for building and supporting family participation, family leadership programs

and family professional partnerships at both the state and local levels to support these goals. Through the efforts of the FIC, and its sister agency, MIKID, Arizona families today are pervasively involved in federal, state and local policy and program development, consultation, service delivery, and quality management. Jane presents nationally on these topics, and serves on the National Family and Youth Council for Georgetown University's Technical Assistance Partnership, and other national advisory groups. These targeted activities are increasingly bringing Jane and FIC to help address the needs of families in the child welfare and juvenile justice system and expand integration of family voice within those systems.