'I am an idealist. I don't know where I'm going but I'm on my way.'

Carl Sandburg

This ALERT functions as a vehicle of communication between the Alliance and its constituency. It is our goal to provide timely and useful material in a readable, easy access format. Feel free to send in your announcements, share your ideas or ask for help.

Scholarship Assistance Available: Thanks to significant support from MCH, the Alliance can offer partial scholarships for the Peer Support Training Conference, March 30 - April 1. Applications forms have been mailed out. Those needing support should contact Joan Weiss: 1/800/336-GENE.

New Support Group Formed: The Beckwith-Wiedemann Support Network for parents of children with BWS has been started to provide moral support and to facilitate the flow of information between parents and interested medical professionals. Contact Susan and Roger Fettes, 3206 Braeburn Circle, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. Their telephone number is 313/973-0263.

Get Involved! The National Health Care Campaign has stepped up activities to pressure the Pepper Commission for bold health care reform proposals. The bipartisan Pepper Commission is a federal commission appointed by Congress to study what the nation needs to do about the escalating health care crisis. It is chaired by Sen. John Rockefeller and must submit recommendations by March 1, 1990. If your group wants to participate in meetings with Commission members or get involved, let the Campaign know: 202/639-8833.

RESOURCES

Estate Planning for the Disabled, a non-profit organization, has been formed to help parents of children with disabilities develop comprehensive estate plans at the lowest possible cost. Located in California, the group is planning to expand into other states. Limited assistance is available by telephone. Call Richard Fee, Executive Director at 800/448-1071. Write for a brochure about the planning process: Estate Planning for the Disabled, 955 W. Center Street, Suite 12, Manteca, CA 95336.

Understanding DNA Testing: A Basic Guide for Families is a brochure designed to supplement genetic counseling, and it explains DNA analysis in consumer language. It was produced by the Genetic Counselor Workshop of the Southeastern Regional Genetics Group. The illustrations are colorful and non-threatening; the text is clear. This is a useful pamphlet that will add to a counseling session where DNA testing is being discussed. For a copy, write to the Div. of Genetics & Dysmorphology, Depart. of Pediatrics, Univ. of Kentucky Medical Center, 800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536.

"Facing Facts: 1990", a major report detailing health care costs, access and quality indicators for every state in the country, is being prepared by the staff of the National Health Care Campaign. This month, the Campaign is releasing a report on the affordability of health care for families. A state version shows basic monthly living expenses for families of different sizes and income levels. A national version of the same report summarizes the state data. Call the National Health Care Campaign if you would like a copy of a specific state report or the national report: 202/639-8833.

The Alliance ALERT is a publication of the Alliance of Genetic Support Groups
38th and R Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.20057 • Telephone: 1/800/336-GENE

The Alliance is funded in part by project #AMCJ-111007 from the Maternal and Child Health Program (Title V, Social Security Act). Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services