

## **Family Coordinator**

Combining another federal funding, Allies with Families hired a full-time Family Coordinator to coordinate the family development activities at the state and local levels. She is working with the evaluator to develop a Family Involvement in Mental Health Care survey to assess family members' involvement in treatment planning and perception of care. Five (5) family members attended the family leadership and Systems of Care training at San Juan County on December 7, 2012. Among them, there were four (4) mothers, one (1) father, two (2) Native Americans. The evaluations indicated a high satisfaction rate. Subjects covered included: a) effective leadership skills for community leadership, b) skills for effective communication, c) overview of Systems of Care values, and d) principles of advocacy and public policy. A useful exercise was for participants to identify the system of care for their own child and family. Three of the parents are using these skills to direct a support group that is held monthly. All attending indicated that they would like to participate in committees in the future. One mother has experiences working with legislators and is considering submitting a bill to her legislator around services for youth in her area who need substance abuse and mental health treatment before becoming involved with the courts.