



Making Change

July/August
2007

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:



West Central Child Care Connection (WCCCC) is a resource and referral agency serving parents, child care providers, employers, and communities within a nine-county region of Illinois. The agency was started in 1990 as a part of the statewide child care resource and referral (CCR&R) system for Illinois. Today WCCCC continues to represent their region of the state within the Illinois statewide system of 16 separate child care resource and referral agencies. WCCCC is funded primarily through the Child Care Bureau of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

WCCCC manages two separate but related programs for the Child Care Bureau. They provide parents with technical assistance and referrals to help them in locating child care as well as determine the eligibility for the statewide child care assistance program which assists parents in paying for child care. WCCCC annually facilitates nearly 100

trainings for child care providers and parents as well as offers literacy activities at program sites. They also manage the distribution of over \$100,000 each year in quality and capacity mini-grants to programs on their database.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2006, WCCCC began the Quality Assurance Program, a national voluntary process used to help child care resource and referral agencies achieve the highest quality of customer service. Over the course of the year, the referral staff implemented new techniques for sharing quality child care indicators with parents who sought their services. The anticipated outcome of the Quality Assurance Program is that WCCCC provides the tools for parents to become educated consumers who know what quality child care looks like. WCCCC has completed the necessary procedures and submitted all documentation of this Program and are awaiting a final validation decision by Child Care Aware, developer and administrator of the Quality Assurance Program.



Making Change to become electronic

ABC is moving to an e-newsletter format for this bi-monthly newsletter. Beginning with the September/October issue, *Making Change* will be delivered via email. To help make this transition as smooth as possible, and to ensure you continue receiving news about ABC, please inform Laura of your email address. *Making Change* will continue to be accessible on the News page of the ABC website www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this transition, please contact Laura by calling 217-223-8380 or emailing lhyde@uiuc.edu.

Adams County In Action

Nutrition ~ Wellness ~ Physical Activity ~ Obesity

On Thursday, August 9th, health professionals and members of the community met to discuss physical activity and nutrition in Adams County and learned how we as a community can implement strategies to encourage involvement in positive health activities. Dr. Laura Payne (Univ. of IL), Jeff Sunderlin (IL Dept. of Public Health), and Mark Edgar (IL Public Health Institute) spoke about the importance of incorporating physical activity in our day-to-day lives in order to decrease obesity rates. The day also featured a panel of local representatives that explained their efforts to increase the opportunities for physical fitness and educate residents of Adams County about the importance of overall wellness.

For more information on how you can get involved in the Alliance for Building Community go to:

www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org

ABC is funded by the Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust



August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Be sure all immunizations are up to date!



Outcomes Measurement Training

ABC & United Way of Adams County held an Outcomes Measurement Training July 19th at the Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center in Quincy.

This training focused on the measurement process: how to design effective measurements that are practical to collect and meaningful to analyze. Participants used the measures developed from the Logic Model training for each program and analyzed the possibilities for alternative methods of collection and analysis. The goal of this training was to solidify choices of outcome measurement for each project.



Reminders

Friends of the Trails is having their 2nd Annual Trail FUNd Ride August 25th. For more information, contact Becky Woodward at bwoodward@co.adams.il.us.

A **Logic Model Support Group** meets the each month at the Center for Effective Nonprofits. For more information visit www.thecen.org.

Anyone interested in learning more about **ABC** and what we do, please contact Laura at 223-8380 or lhyde@uiuc.edu.

Logic Model Training

ABC hosted a Logic Model training on June 14th at the Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center in Quincy. Twenty-three area agency representatives spent the day learning about and creating logic models. All participants left the training with the knowledge and materials needed to create their own logic model.

Agencies represented include:

- Adams County Council for Senior Citizens
- Adams County Homemaker Health Services
- Big Brothers Big Sister
- Blessing Hospital
- Center for Effective Nonprofits
- Families and Children Together
- Girl Scouts of Two Rivers Council
- Panther Pride Foundation
- QUANADA
- Quincy Art Center
- Quincy Catholic Charities
- Quincy Symphony Orchestra
- Quincy University
- Redmon & Lee Community Center
- United Way of Adams County, Inc.
- University of Illinois Extension
- Walter Hammond Day Care
- West Central Child Care Connection
- Young Life

Alliance for Building Community
c/o University of Illinois Extension
330 South 36th Street
Quincy, IL 62301

Adopted Indicators Update

This area is used to give updates on adopted indicators and the projects/initiatives addressing them. If you would like to have your project updates included, please send the information to Laura (lhyde@uiuc.edu) and she will include it in upcoming newsletters. (Reminder: *Making Change* is a bi-monthly newsletter. If you have information you would like to include, please be sure it is submitted in a timely manner.)

Adams County Substance Abuse Coalition: SAC recently received a grant from the IL Dept. of Human Services to further their efforts to decrease alcohol abuse.

The Sammy Fund: The Sammy Fund has been working with ABC to identify barriers to youth involvement in organized activities.

All Our Kids Network: AOK has had a busy summer with their "Be Wise - Supervise" Campaign. This campaign helps to make everyone in the community aware of the importance of always supervising young children.

West Central Child Care Connection: WC/CCC continues to assist families in locating and paying for child care.

