



# Making Change

May/June  
2007

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: All Our Kids Birth to Five Network



The All Our Kids (AOK) Birth to Five Network of Adams County was established in 1999. The Network is designed to help families of young children know about and have access to the services they need for their families. AOK does not directly provide services; rather it helps to connect families to those who do provide services in the community. The Network identifies gaps in services and decides how best to fill those gaps with easily accessible services. Partnerships include a wide array of representatives from the community that can bring ideas and direction to promote positive growth and development of young children. Anyone, including parents of young children, is welcome to join and be involved in the AOK Network.

AOK of Adams County is currently working on several different projects:

AOK has supported “May is Prevent Drowning Month”. Several water safety radio messages will be aired in May and June. These messages will help increase awareness of the dangers of water sources and the potential for drowning.

AOK of Adams County has adopted “Strengthening Families of Illinois”.

Strengthening Families is a nationwide program funded to prevent child abuse by strengthening families. The program offers strategies staff can use with families to open communication, identify families at risk or in crisis, and support those families in times of need, thus strengthening them so they can keep themselves strong. AOK of Adams County is currently planning to hold several trainings by late summer, early fall 2007.

AOK has also developed a Supervision campaign aimed at parents/caregivers, neighbors, and the community to always supervise young children at home, in/around cars, and in the community. The campaign message includes why it is not safe; what people need to do when they see young children unsupervised; and where people can call to get more information on supervision, child development, and safety information. AOK plans to kick off the Supervision campaign in June with community-wide support from a variety of agencies in Adams County.



## Grant Received from State for Research & Evaluation Committee

As part of a collaborative effort with the Adams County Substance Abuse Coalition, ABC has received funding from the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant to provide technical assistance and support to the Coalition and other ABC partner organizations giving special attention to assessment, planning, and evaluation.

ABC formed a Research and Evaluation Committee in

April composed of volunteer research professionals in the community. This team will be used to build local capacity to conduct research and evaluation related to substance abuse and other related health issues. This model will help develop a sustainable mechanism to leverage local community professionals' time and expertise to conduct community assessment and evaluation. The chairman of the committee is Mark Edgar, PhD.

For more information on how you can get involved in the Alliance for Building Community go to:  
[www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org](http://www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org)

ABC is funded by the Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust



Visit your local Farmer's Market to pick up your daily 3-5 servings of fruits & vegetables.



## Logic Model Training

ABC will hold a Logic Model Training on Thursday, June 14th at the Oakley-Lindsay Civic Center, 9am-3pm. Cost is \$50/person, and lunch will be provided. Space is limited, so please register now by calling the United Way of Adams County at 217-222-5020.

This training will introduce you to the logic model and explain why it is important to have a logic model. You will receive tools & materials to create your own logic model, as well as have time to begin working on it. If you have attended past logic model trainings, you are welcome to attend, but please bring your large logic model sheet with you.

For more information on this training and other events, please visit [www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org](http://www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org).



## Updates & Reminders

A Logic Model Support Group meets the second Friday of each month at the Center for Effective Nonprofits, 10:00am-12:00pm. The Support Group is available to anyone who has participated in a Logic Model Training.

Anyone interested in learning more about ABC and what we do, please contact Laura at 223-8380 or [lhyde@uiuc.edu](mailto:lhyde@uiuc.edu).

## Outcome Measurement Training

ABC will hold an Outcomes Measurement Training on Thursday, July 19th, 9am-3pm. Space is limited, so please register now by calling the United Way of Adams County at 217-222-5020. To attend this training, you must have previously attended a Logic Model training.

This training is the second in a series and will be on the measurement process: how to design effective measurements that are practical to collect and meaningful to analyze. This day will take the measures developed (from the Logic Model training) for each program and analyze the possibilities for alternative methods of collection and analysis. For example, we will explore additional sources of survey and observational data that may provide useful outcome indicators. The goal of this training is to solidify choices of outcome measurement for each project.

For more information on this training and other events, please visit [www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org](http://www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org).

## 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](mailto: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.)

U of I Extension 4-H Program: 4-H groups are preparing for summer activities, such as Electrical School, camp, clinics, and the County & State Fairs. All of these activities help develop within the youth skills and qualities that will prepare them for leadership roles in the future.

United Way of Adams County, Inc.: United Way recently awarded \$349,818, an 8.84% increase and 40% of the total dollars awarded to partner organizations, to programs that focus on "Nurturing Children and Youth". Programs in this area must address specific goals that help youth succeed in school, in work, in their community and lead healthy lives.

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