

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the spring edition of our Partnership newsletter! We are pleased to bring you this update on activities, events, and plans and to give you an idea of how rapidly we are growing, and hopefully, creating a positive impact on health and quality of life for Adams Countians.

A.C.P.C.H. has now reached a total of twenty-one (21) affiliated task forces and committees, with a membership of over two hundred volunteers. The Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition, Adams County School Nurses Association, and the Adams County Safe Kids Coalition recently voted to affiliate with our Partnership, and we are honored by all of these associations.

We have just received notice of a grant award from the Hoffman Trust in the amount of \$4,500 for acquisition of the "Outcomes Toolkit", an interactive database system which will enable us to document, track, and compare service developments of A.C.P.C.H. and its task forces with many other community health partnerships. Also, the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force has received a generous donation of \$2,500 from Mr. Gary Lowenthal, former owner of Boyd's Bears, to cover the costs of printing special parenting calenders, to be distributed in conjunction with Health and Safety Day, on Sunday, May 6.

Responses to our recent survey of 5,000 random households across Adams County have been summarized under the guidance of Linda Krut, Adjunct Faculty Member of H.A.C.C. - Gettysburg Campus, who supervised a computer class project for data analysis. We are grateful to Linda for providing this special expertise to our community assessment process. A Spanish version of this questionnaire, which is one of our tools to gauge perceptions of health and human service needs and quality of life in Adams County is currently being distributed to 500 Latinos locally. This additional effort has been undertaken in acknowledgment of the dramatic increase in this segment of our population, and in recognition of the challenges faced by them. Highlights from these surveys will be published in the next edition of our newsletter. We especially thank Janet Eline for her translation services, and Aida del Pielago for "proof reading" and corrections. Aida is also coordinating distribution and return of those questionnaires.

John Mulligan, Director of NOVIS (Non-Violent Intervention Services) would like anyone who is interested to contact him at 1-800-736-1477, regarding a need for an additional instructor. If you would like to teach non-violence, change conditions and attitudes of men who are violent, and reduce the number of domestic violence victims locally, please contact John.

On February 26, members of the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force participated in a Strategic Planning Retreat at Camp Eder in Fairfield to identify and prioritize issues around local child abuse. One outcome from this conference has been the change in this task force's name to "Families First". This name change was adopted in order to reflect broader emphasis on parenting and increasing family strength. "Families First" sponsored activities in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month (April), including a window display of a quilt and art at the Bank of Hanover (Gettysburg square). A life-size game of Candyland will be scheduled for kids to play during Health and Safety Day on May 6, at Allstar. Parents will be asked to complete a survey about parenting issues and quality of life for families. They will receive a special school year calendar (mentioned above). In addition, a handbook for professionals on reporting child abuse and resources has been developed, and will be printed through the courtesy of the Littlestown High School. The Partnership will also be represented at Health and Safety Day with informative materials about the task forces and an activity for children visiting our display table.

On March 10, a workshop on "Clergy Response to Domestic Violence" was conducted for 40 area clergy and lay persons, by the Domestic Violence Task Force and the Pastoral Care Department of Gettysburg Hospital. The workshop addressed issues surrounding domestic violence, focusing on the biblical perspective, and offered intervention solutions for counseling victims. A comprehensive manual, based on the text published by the Clergy Committee of the

York County Task Force on Domestic Violence, and modified to reflect specific Adams County resources, was distributed at this workshop.

On March 10, A.C.P.C.H. was represented at the 6th Annual Women's Health and Wellness Conference, sponsored by Gettysburg Hospital, through a materials display table staffed by Sally Roelke and Mary Kuhn.

In February, the Spiritual Health Task Force became the Congregational Health Initiative, under the guidance of Reverend Barbara Derrickson. The mission of CHI is to create and sustain a coalition of local religious congregations, health care providers, and human service organizations, with the purpose of supporting existing congregational health initiatives and encouraging creation of new initiatives where needs are demonstrated. Initial membership included ten congregations, Wellspan Health, and five (5) local service agencies.

The Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy will be sponsoring two programs in May: On Monday, May 14, an evening program for youth will be held, and, on Tuesday, May 15, an all day forum for professionals who work with youth. The guest speaker for these programs will be Mary Jo Podgurski, President of the Academy for Adolescent Health, Inc., Washington, D.C.

The new Latino Services Task Force and the Aging Services Task Force have already approved statements of goals and objectives, and established working committees to address them. Also, the Communities That Care Task Force has also been integrated under the Youth Resource Network as a working committee.