

The Dubois County Public Health Partnership (DCPHP) met on December 15, 2010 from 9-10:30am at the Kimball Education Center.

Those attending were:

Donna Oeding, Dubois County Health Department
Jane Chappell
Gail Peckenpaugh, TRI-CAP
Lynn Maitlen, Dubois County Health Department
Sarah Heichelbech, Southwest Dubois County School Corporation
Janet Schnell, Dubois County Substance Abuse Council
Marc Steczyk, Town of Ferdinand
Jason Nord, Jasper Engines
Donna Potter, Kimball International
Marian Bromm, Southeast Dubois County School Corporation
Lisa Arvesen, Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center
Mike Hile, Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools

Committee Reports were presented:

Committee #1 – Educating parents on raising healthy (physical, social and mental) balanced children

Marc reported that the committee has received preliminary approval from the school superintendents for this project. He, Jane and Donna will meet with the superintendents tomorrow for final approval. The assessment tool has been completed and will be translated in Spanish. It will be distributed to all parents at Kindergarten Roundup. The data obtained will be compiled to better identify the needs of the parents. It is planned to have one pilot class in each school, for a total of eight classes. Please let Marc know if you know of anyone who would be a good volunteer mentor. The committee met with Sheral Stanton concerning the RIDGE program in the Southwest Dubois School Corporation. She felt the two programs would be complimentary to each other.

Marc stated that the committee is also beginning to discuss initiating the Flat Stanley program in the 3rd grade classes. More details will be available later.

Committee #2 – Improve Knowledge of Expectant Parents on Benefits of Delivering a Full-Term Baby

Donna reported that the Dubois County Health Department is a partner with the Text4Baby program. It utilizes text messaging to send information to pregnant women and mothers of infants up to one year of age. Donna has not received the posters to help advertise the program. Lisa stated she would be willing to promote the service to the physicians. Jason stated that Jasper Engines has a prenatal education program and would begin to distribute the Text4Baby information on January 1, 2011. Donna has tear-off sheets available for anyone to distribute.

Committee #3 – Teach people on when and how to use the Emergency Department

Lisa reported that Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center has hosted focus groups comprised of Urgent Care patients to determine why they are utilizing specific services. They are also working with physicians who are sending letters to their patients asking why they are not making an appointment with them instead of using the Urgent Care or Emergency Department. Jason suggested that education materials be developed to list the differences between the flu and a cold, when it is appropriate to use the emergency department, etc.

Committee #4 – Start the process of helping senior citizens and caregivers plan for the future, beyond finances: healthcare, living arrangements and transportation

Donna gave the report because Laura Smith could not attend. The Stand Up to Falls event, held on September 21, 2010 was attended by 106 people. Overall, the evaluations were very positive and the participants gave good suggestions for topics for future events. The income from the event totaled \$2,245 (\$100 is still owed by a vendor), with the expenses being \$1,918.64 for a balance of \$326.36. The committee will be meeting in the future to discuss their next steps.

Committee #5 – Ensure a strong network of mental health providers in Dubois County

Jason reported that the committee had not met recently. He has contacted the City of Huntingburg in an effort to meet with the new owners of St. Joseph Hospital. He may ask someone from the facility to serve on this committee. He reported that because of the Mental Health Parity Law, Jasper Engines and at least 2 other large employers will no longer provide mental health insurance coverage, including prescription medications. It was suggested to contact Reps. Mark Messmer and Todd Young to meet with them concerning these issues.

Committee #6 – Health Education Articles

Donna stated that the committee, comprised of Jane Chappell, Karen Eisenhut, Faren Levell, Sandy Smith, Angie Richart and herself, had submitted 4 articles to Martha Rasche at The Herald. The articles will be published monthly. The group agreed that the tag line should be the Dubois County Public Health Partnership. Donna will check to see if Sandy Smith can set up an email account through the gmail system that people could submit questions to. Someone would then have to monitor the site and send the questions to the appropriate person. If anyone has an article they would like to have submitted, forward it to Donna.

Donna stated that there is a balance of \$27,158.20 in the Dubois County Public Health Partnership fund. These moneys are available, upon request, by any committee who needs them to further their projects.

Several of the committee members reported on projects or issues they are involved with:

- Donna stated the Health Department is participating in a research project with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Indiana University to provide cribs to parent who meet specific guidelines, in an effort to promote safe sleeping practices. She also stated that she had contacted Ray Snowden at Memorial Hospital concerning partnering on a Community Health Needs Assessment as both agencies are in need of conducting this assessment. It will likely be conducted in 2011 or 2012.

- Marian and Sarah reported that the incidence of gastrointestinal virus and respiratory virus is high, but not out of the norm for this time of the year
- Jason reported they are dealing with K2, a synthetic marijuana product, which has been banned in this county. The drug illicit a higher response than marijuana and is not detectable by drug screening methods. He also stated he is hearing positive comments from employees concerning their partnership with Memorial Hospital on fitness classes.
- Janet stated the Substance Abuse Council is seeing an increase in substance abuse in the county. They are looking to have a speaker appear at the local schools to address this issue.
- Gail stated she had been at TRI-CAP for a week and was glad to be included in this committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday March 16, 2011 from 9-10am at the Kimball Education Center.**