

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

Those attending were:

Donna Oeding, Dubois County Health Department  
Jane Chappell  
Karen Eisenhut, Wabash Valley Produce  
Phyllis Kuntz, Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools  
Sandy Smith, Kimball International  
Marilyn Pitzulo, TRI-CAP  
Alan Johnson, Vincennes University Jasper Center  
Lynn Maitlen, Dubois County Health Department  
Mary Davis, RN, VU Nursing Student  
Janet Sendelweck, Dubois County Auditor  
Laura Smith, Generations  
Sarah Heichelbech, Southwest Dubois County Schools

Committee Reports were presented:

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

Jane Chappell distributed the Kindergarten Assessment tool that the committee had developed. There are approximately 500 kindergarten students in the county. Children will be chosen from one class from each school. The goal is to provide resource information and extra guidance to parents. It is planned to begin utilizing the tool at kindergarten roundup. A presentation will be made to the 4 superintendents on September 23<sup>rd</sup> concerning the project.

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

Donna Oeding stated that the committee met one of its main goals. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have begun stressing the benefits of full term births, including brain development in the last weeks of the fetus development. It is the obstetrician's decision to not schedule or deliver infants prior to 39 weeks gestation, unless the health of the mother or baby is in jeopardy or the mother begins natural labor. The patient charts will be audited to insure compliance with this policy. The committee felt there was a need for education with the physicians' staff, patients and their families. Also, the Health Department has become a partner with the Text4baby initiative. As soon as Donna receives the promotional material, she will distribute it to the appropriate people.

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

No activity

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

Laura Smith reported that the committee is hosting a “Stand Up to Falls” event on September 21<sup>st</sup>. There are 60 people registered to attend. There will be speakers, vendors, exercise demonstrations, massages, vision screening, home safety assessments, flu vaccinations and door prizes. Pat Koch, Director of Values at Holiday World will be the keynote speaker. There is a \$10 registration fee and the vendor fee is \$100. The committee has requested \$1,500 from the Partnership to cover additional expenses, if necessary.

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

Jane Chappell reported the changing requirements for payment of mental health services has complicated the progress of this committee.

Jane reported that Tonya Heim has been hired by Memorial Hospital to be Vice President of Patient Services. It is hoped with Tonya’s hiring, the committees which need leadership from the hospital will again become active.

Donna stated that there is a balance of \$16,979.66 in the DCPHP fund. As stated above, the Aging Concerns committee has requested \$1,500 from the Partnership to cover additional expenses for the Stand Up to Falls event, if necessary.

Donna provided the results from the survey from the Purdue University Healthcare Technical Assistance Program which was to measure the change in delivery of the Essential Services that were noted in the DCPHP project charter. Overall, there was improvement in 12 of the areas, no change in 10 areas and a decline in 5. Most members felt it was difficult to give an accurate evaluation of the Essential Services because of the limited information provided. The effectiveness of the Partnership was also evaluated. For achieving our goals, 77% felt the Partnership met their goals in the 7-9 range (on a scale of 1-10). Many noted networking as the greatest benefit of the Partnership. Suggestions for improvements included: more active participation on the committees by members, community partners and “power players”; some committees lack focus or no leadership; sustainability of Partnership; more time and money; and more publicity.

Donna will make a presentation concerning the DCPHP at the Public Health System Quality Improvement Project (PHSQIP) retreat to be held on October 5, 2010.

Jane and Donna discussed their meeting with Martha Rasche, City Editor of The Herald. The Herald is interested in having an ongoing series of local health related articles written. She is asking for 4 articles to be written in advance of publishing. Karen Eisenhut, Sandy Smith, Donna and Jane will meet to discuss possible subjects. Please notify any of these members if you know of someone who would be willing to serve on the committee or be a “subject matter expert”.

As part of the Health Department's quality improvement project, Donna distributed an evaluation form which is being used to assess the services the department provides. Please complete the assessment and return it to the Health Department.

**The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2010 from 9-10am at the Kimball Education Center.**