

Polk County Community Partnership for Protecting Children

CPPC

Volume 1, Issue 1

Million Father March

This year Community Partnership for Protecting Children was a huge supporter of the Million Father March that was held across the nation for the first day of school. This movement offered encouragement to fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, grand fathers, uncles,

brothers, godfathers, cousins, baby's daddies and other significant male caregivers to take their

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children to school on the first day of school for the 2009– 2010

school year. When men are involved in the education lives of their children, children perform better in school. Decat provided t-shirts in all sizes that were distributed to African American dad's to wear while participating.

Community Partnership for Protecting Children meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at the 2309 Euclid Ave conference room 3 from 4– 5:30. Please come and share your ideas and help keep kids safe.

Community Partnership for Protecting Children

CPPC Mission in Polk County

1. To keep children safe.
2. To address the issue of disproportionality, improving the well-being of minority children.

What are people saying about CPPC?
“ The children have a voice in the process. Needs can be discussed without being mean spirited. We can all work together toward each child's welfare and safety and be very

supportive of the family.”
“ This brings family members together to work towards common goals.”
“Avenues of success can be found by the family, not the providers. Families feel empowered and comfortable enough to be open.”



Polk County



Four Strategies of CPPC

The Family

A Family Team Meeting (FTM) pulls together a family needing help, neighbors, local service providers and others to create an action plan that supports the family and ensures the children's safety. These plans identify steps parents, friends, extended families and other formal and informal groups will carry out. Individuals from CPPC's target neighborhoods and past FTM participants often guide these meetings, creating a comfort level for families new to the experience.

The community

The stronger and broader community participation in keeping children safe and families together, the

greater CPPC's impact. CPPC needs all parts of the community— schools, faith groups, mental health professionals and health care providers, substance abuse and domestic violence programs, child care providers, parent groups, neighborhood residents and others to participate.

Shared decision making

To sustain this approach over time and enhance its ability to meet local needs, CPPC relies on shared decision making and includes citizens in the process of leading the initiative.

Policy and practice changes

CPPC seeks to enhance or change existing policies and practices or develop new

ones to more effectively keep children safe and families together.

Come get involved

If you would like to be a part of Community Partnership for Protecting Children in Polk County, please come to the meetings. Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month at Polk County River Place 2309 Euclid Ave. From 4– 5:30pm. You can also email Calleus Orr at corr@dhs.state.ia.us to see how CPPC can collaborate with your agency and help with special events or trainings. If you would like to use CPPC email contact list to distribute information about your event please send it to Calleus.

New Americorp Members

We are proud to have our latest two Americorp members to help serve with CPPC.

Heather Anderson is serving with the Child Abuse Prevention Council and liaison to Community Partnership for Protecting Children. Some of her responsibilities will include working with the Hope Drama Troupe and building relationships in the community. The Hope Drama Troupe is a group

of high school students who produce and perform a skit for other schools in the central Des Moines area to help with awareness of child abuse. Heather is a recent graduate of Iowa State University. We are very excited to collaborate with her.

Calleus Orr is our other Americorp member. Calleus is the community liaison for Community Partnership for Protecting Children. Calleus's respon-

sibilities include building relationships in the community, community outreach, planning events for the upcoming year, and recruiting new members for the shared decision making. Calleus has been a parent partner for three years. Her experience from previous involvement with child welfare is an asset to our team and will help guide in our work for the upcoming year.



Home Work Empowerment Camp

This summer a home work empowerment camp was offered at Des Moines Area Community College Urban Campus on July 7-18 and August 6-18 2009. The purpose of the homework empowerment camp held two components. One was to extend the classroom of the student into the home, and the other was to introduce and strengthen the technological era for parents to become more comfortable using computers for studying with their students.

Summer studying is vital for children to maintain skills through out the year. According to the Universities National Center for Summer Learning

1. Most students lose two months of math skills over the summer.

2. Low-income students lose reading skills, while middle-class students mostly make slight gains.
3. Most of the loss occurs in elementary school, so that by the time low income youth reach fifth grade, they are academically 2 1/2 years behind children from affluent families.

Fifty seven students and thirty parents participated in the Home Work Empowerment camp. The kids range from kindergarten to eleventh grade. Parent's were taught computer programs that could be used in the summer and fall to help with remedial reading and writing web-sites to enhance student achievement. The subjects that were covered in the

Homework Camp were reading, math, science, and study skills.

Paulette Wiley was the coordinator for this project. She has a passion for children and learning.

She is the volunteer director of Education Brain Trust and is a valuable leader in the community. Paulette's focus is on children and families of color.

Paulette was asked "what's next." Her response was to meet the needs of the parents and students by continuing the program throughout the school year. Partners are welcome to join.



Keeping children safe is everyone business.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN

This community approach to protecting children is supported and encouraged by the state of Iowa, with assistance from the federal government. The first Community Partnership for Protecting Children in Iowa, including here in Polk County, began in 2003. All 99 counties now have Community Partnership for Protecting Children. Each county is able to form its own Community Partnership for Protecting Children in their county.

Denise Moore
CPPC Program Manager
Polk County
Decategorization
Polk County River Place
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
515-725-2736



Upcoming Events and Training

Train the Trainer Event with
Kathy Petersen
October 22, 2009.
9am-5pm
Comfort Inn Suites
425 Timberline
Story City, IA 50248
Contact Kyla Madsen at
kmdasen@dhs.state.ia.us

Family Team Facilitator Training
November 2-3 2009 and
November 9-10 2009
Polk County River Place Office
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
These will be all day events.
If you would like to be facillator
please contact Denise Moore at
dmoore2@dhs.state.ia.us

Community Partnership 101
Train the Trainer
November 12, 2009
8:30am-4:30 pm
Polk County River Place Office
Conference Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue.
Des Moines, IA 50310
If you would like to attend this
training contact Kelly Davydov
at KDaydov@pcaiowa.org