KFTF Mission

Children are our most important assets. Our mission is to promote the health of children and reduce infant mortality by funding programs which prevent child abuse and neglect. In conjunction with the State of Indiana, the board is looking toward partnering with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing, and stable homes.

KFTF Goals

The Board has adopted the following goals as a means of fulfilling the overall mission:

1. Reduce the number of deaths due to abuse and neglect;
2. Reduce the total number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect;
3. Reduce the infant mortality rate.

Looking to the Future

In 2007, DCS developed a Prevention Plan for Primary and Secondary Prevention for State Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. Following this plan to provide a statewide coordinated continuum of child abuse and neglect prevention programming, the Kids First Trust Fund continued to support the expansion of the two programs funded in 2006, The Villages/Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (primary prevention) and Community Partners for Child Safety (secondary prevention).

The Prevention Plan addresses funding sources, a prevention service continuum, regional allocation, and contract quality measurement and evaluation processes. A combination of identified federal and state funding sources is projected to support prevention services. The service continuum consists of identified prevention service programs including the following: Building Strong Families, Early Intervention (Healthy Families Indiana, Community Partners for Child Safety, First Steps), Parents as Teachers, domestic violence prevention, mental health and substance abuse screening, parental respite, parent education, and others. Regional allocation identifies a funding base per service for each region with the remaining funding distributed by population under 18 years of age. Natural and potential prevention partners at state, regional, and community levels, including but not limited to the following, are named: Youth Service Bureaus, Kids First Trust Fund Board, Healthy Families America, HFI state and local service providers, Prevent Child Abuse America, PCA state and local chapters, health care providers and schools. The contract process identifies contract years, the solicitation/request for proposal process, proposal review and scoring, decision making, and execution of contracts. Program quality will be measured by completion of contract management reviews through a peer review and outcomes unit. Evaluation will measure customer satisfaction; a standardized assessment tool will measure improvement in family functioning and successful outcomes will be measured by persons receiving prevention services having no substantiated CPS report(s) in a 12-month period.

Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2007

The Indiana Kids First Trust Fund Board supports The Villages/Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAI) in their efforts to provide child abuse and neglect prevention education and awareness in communities throughout the state. In April 2007, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, PCAI hosted a Child Abuse Prevention Conference for advocates and professionals. Further, PCAI provides a variety of programs/events and media blitzes, conducts vigils honoring the children who have died as a result of maltreatment, writes articles on parenting issues, and does television and radio interviews. The focus during these events and publications is aimed at changing to positive messages about parenting and prevention. An example is stress management tips for parents and child safety topics. This year the agency used pinwheels at various organizations and at county courthouses, not to honor children who died as a result of maltreatment, but to represent live births. The agency participated with other organizations in a special event at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum to provide activities and materials to almost 3,000 children and their families. They also participated in the National Blue Sunday Initiative in which places of worship were asked to recognize children in Indiana who had been abused and neglected, parents and caregivers who are doing their best to protect and love children, and professionals who help children every day.

Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2008

In April, 2008, The Villages/PCAI will recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month by participating in special programs and activities to increase knowledge and awareness of child abuse and neglect. Additionally, they will partner with the Indiana Department of Child Services, the Family
and Social Services Administration and numerous other state agencies and programs to present the Institute for Strengthening Families. The Institute offers professional development to social service providers from throughout the state to assist in the efforts to strengthen families and support young children. The three day event offers intensive training through skill building seminars provided by subject matter experts in the areas of substance abuse, domestic violence and infant and adult mental health. The Villages/PCAI will participate in planning and presenting seminars.

Community Partners for Child Safety, 2007

This year has been a year of implementation for the Community Partners for Child Safety (CPCS) program. The State of Indiana launched this statewide secondary prevention initiative in July of 2006 to contribute to the continuum of prevention services and programs for delivery in every DCS region in Indiana. CPS governing bodies will build community supports for those families that are identified through self-referral or other community agency referral to services that will connect families to resources needed to strengthen the family and prevent child abuse and neglect. It is intended that through the delivery of these prevention services the need for referral to DCS for child protective services (CPS) investigations of possible child abuse or neglect or establishment of a child in need of services (CHINS) case will not be necessary.

Regional funding allocations were made and applicants submitted proposals to Regional Child Welfare Managers and Regional Services Councils. Eight initial planning contracts for CPCS programs were issued effective July 1, 2006. Program implementation took place throughout the year and contracts for services are in place through December 31, 2008.
In April of 2007, DCS contracted for a data system to store pertinent information regarding participants, services and outcomes through Datatude, Inc. This data system, called Partnertude, is a secure web-based client management system. Data will be extracted from the database to generate reports at the state, local, staff and participant level. These reports and other data will aid in long term program evaluation to ascertain the level of program effectiveness. The system will also provide the mechanism to local regional agencies to bill the state for services.

As of June 2007, all eight contractors are providing services to their local communities. The goal of CPCS is to serve families in all 92 Indiana counties by the end of SFY 2007.

Community Partners Success Stories

A family of four was referred to CPCS after their house burned down and they were living in a camper. The Community Partners Liaison helped the family with housing, budgeting, and juvenile mentoring services for their 15 year old son. The family is now renting an apartment and has a budget set up along with a savings account for future expenses or emergencies. They are thankful for the assistance and have made great progress.

A young couple with two children ages 6 and 2½ came to CPCS for services. The father did not know how to discipline the children without becoming physical. The Community Partners Liaison educated both parents on parenting skills and community resources and assisted them in obtaining food stamps. The Liaison also contacted school personnel who had reported discipline and behavior problems with the 6 year old. After several weeks of working with the Liaison, the family reported positive changes in the children’s behavior and received favorable reports from the school. The parents expressed gratitude for the positive changes in their family at the time services ended.

A newly divorced mother with health problems was responsible for two young girls, 9 and 10 years old, and was referred because the girls were not attending school on time. The Community Partners for Child Safety Liaison assisted the mother with scheduling, attending doctor appointments, budgeting and developing a chore list for the girls. Though the mother had been overwhelmed before, through CPCS services she was able to pay bills, get the girls to complete their chores, and connect the children with the local community mental health agency. When services ended, the mother expressed her thanks and said she had acquired the confidence to care for herself and her children.

A 39 year old homeless mother with two children was referred to CPCS. Her 15 year old son was uncontrolable and refused to go to school. Also, the client wanted to earn a GED. Her goals were: 1) housing 2) individual and family counseling and 3) education to prepare for her GED. The Community Partners Liaison got the family into Capes House in Hammond. Capes House contacted the Gatekeeper Program in Gary that found housing and would pay the rent for three to five years. The Liaison contacted the LCDHS in Hammond, who extended the client’s benefit termination date, allowing her to secure her children’s original birth certificates to obtain Medicaid. The Liaison referred the client to GED preparation classes and referred the family to Tri-city Mental Health, where they enrolled in treatment programs. At the time of case closure the client was preparing for the GED, the family was attending counseling, and her son was attending Hammond High School. All of the client’s goals were accomplished.

The Villages / Prevent Child Abuse Indiana Highlights

In 2007 Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAI) became a part of The Villages, Inc. New leadership, innovative programming and dedicated staff, council members and volunteers created a sense of energy and enthusiasm to convey
the message that as individuals, a community and as a state we can prevent child abuse. Throughout 2006-2007, PCAI educated, motivated and inspired a vast target audience through trainings, special events and community outreach.

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana made a difference last year by:

- Kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month with a dynamic theme of “Turning Choices into Change.” Councils across Indiana organized special events, vigils, educational workshops and proclamation signings throughout the month to increase awareness and promote the message of prevention.
- Hosting the Breaking the Cycle Conference that featured nationally recognized experts and leading local professionals who discussed topics including cultural sensitivity, parenting, prevention efforts, foster care, special needs children and domestic violence.
- Distributing nearly 300,000 prevention materials targeted at assisting parents and caregivers with community resources for supporting children and families.
- Educating over 4,500 youth and adults through 218 trainings and workshops with a message of how they can help prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Partnering with community-based networks to create two new Councils designed to support child abuse and neglect prevention efforts within their communities.
- Training 25 caring and committed individuals to present Preventing Shaken Infant Syndrome to youth and community members.
- Exhibiting at the statewide IAEYC Conference, Radio Disney’s Kids Day on the Canal, PBS Kids in the Park and several community events, fairs and schools.
- Serving on local and state boards and committees, including Family Violence Prevention Institute, Indiana Board of the National Association of Social Workers, Statewide Perinatal Task Force, Perinatal Unplanned Pregnancy Task Force, Children’s Coalition, Clarian’s Community Plunge Planning Committee, and Clarian’s Violence Prevention Committee.

**The Villages/PCAI Success Stories**

Eric, a single father of twins, appreciated the information he learned at the Preventing Shaken Infant Syndrome for Caregivers presentation. He shared with the facilitator the value of learning new ways to cope with his frustrations created by working two jobs and trying to raise his boys alone. After hearing the dangers of shaken baby syndrome, he committed to putting himself in time-out rather than taking his frustration out on his boys.

Jennifer and Rachel, both pregnant for the first time, made a commitment to one another to be each other’s support system after their babies were born. Concerned with the stress and challenges of becoming new moms, they attended the Preventing Shaken Infant Syndrome for Caregivers presentation together to learn how to care for a crying baby.

As a second grade teacher, Rhonda attended the CHILD ABUSE 101 presentation to help her identify behavioral and physical signs of abuse and neglect. She plans to share what she learned with other teachers so they can work collectively to make their students safer.

Through Indiana Kids First, The Villages/PCAI is impacting parents and caregivers daily – teaching them prevention strategies, the responsibilities of reporting abuse and how to advocate for the safety of Indiana’s children.

**Media Campaign**

- KFTF PSA’s from the summer of 2006, intended to draw attention to preventable deaths and motivate conversation about preventing harm to children, received several awards during SFY 2006-2007. Those awards included: four Addys, a Silver Award of the Brass Ring Awards, and a Silver Award in the International Telly Awards competition.
- The KFTF brochure, web site, and key chain were updated with new program and contact information.
- KFTF 2005 – 2006 Annual Reports, brochures, and key chains were distributed throughout the year by state and local DCS staff and KFTF Board members.
- KFTF pop-up boards and banners were displayed at conferences and meetings throughout the year. Banners were displayed in the tunnel between the Indiana Government Center and the Capitol.

2007 was a year of planning and creating new partnerships. A new campaign will be initiated as those partnerships develop in the next year.

**New KFTF Motorcycle Plate**

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has informed DCS that in January, 2008 a KFTF motorcycle license plate will become available. The new plate will have the same design as the automobile plate. DCS will provide information to the public when the plate becomes available for sale.

---

The Indiana Department of Child Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, national origin, or ancestry.

Job #4749