

PIKE COUNTY CONNECTIONS

Collaborate ♦ Communicate ♦ Connect

The Pike County Community Health Partnership Newsletter



September 2011

Pike County Dental Clinic Update

Pike County Community Health Partnership (PCCHP, the Partnership) continues to support the development of the Pike County Dental Clinic. Through a Partnership driven community needs assessment, oral health was identified as one of the unmet health needs which must be addressed. It was at a Partnership meeting in 2009 that the group unanimously voted to pursue grant funding for a safety net dental clinic with Pike County Health Department as the lead agency.

The Pike County Oral Health Advisory Group, which was initially established in 2007 to assist with the Pike County Oral Health Needs Assessment and Plan, has been meeting on a regular basis since that time. With a revision of the Pike County Health Department Board of Health bylaws in July 2011, this initial Advisory Group has now been given permanent Committee standing as the "Dental Advisory Committee". The Dental Advisory Committee will continue to meet, on at least a quarterly basis prior to the quarterly Board of Health meetings.

Initially, plans called for remodeling a local building as the Dental Clinic site, as the current health department building is not suitable for renovation or remodeling. As the selected local building continued to deteriorate, no other suitable buildings were available and no secure funding had been obtained, it became apparent that alternatives were needed. After further exploration and many community discussions, in early 2010, an opportunity to work with the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County became a more suitable option. The Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County (HWFPC) invited the Pike County Health Department (PCHD) Board of Health to consider partnering with HWFPC to house the Pike County Dental Clinic in a new consolidated health care complex to be built by the HWFPC.

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (ILHFS) grant funding of \$70,000 was received in December of 2010. Since that time, additional grant funding of \$400,000 has been secured for this project through the Illinois Children's Health Care Foundation.

While the clinic is not yet built, much has been accomplished in the past two years to plan and prepare for the clinic. PCHD administrative staff has been working diligently. Numerous informational meetings have been held with the Pike County Advisory Group, local dentists, local physicians, the Pike County Community Health Partnership, the PCHD Board of Health, local dentist and oral health champion, Dr. Stephen Liesen, and others. Deborah Saunders and Gina Swehla of ILHFS in Springfield took time to attend one of our local meetings.

Providing accurate public messages regarding the intent and purpose of the Clinic has taken a great deal of time. But the growing local need for access to oral health care is becoming more apparent to key decision makers and the project is moving forward.



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(Continued on page 2)

PCHD administrative staff and the Executive Director of the HWFPC have visited five other safety net dental clinics in central Illinois to gather information and suggestions for building, equipping and staffing the Pike County Dental Clinic. PCHD staff has learned much through this process.

Staff has also met with representatives of several dental equipment and supply companies and with Dr. Liesen to gather additional information about operatory essentials.

Julie Casper of the IDPH Office of Rural Health has been contacted for guidance in registering as a site for the National Health Services Corp (NHSC) as a recruiting tool for accessing dental professionals. NHSC provides a portion of student loan repayment for those professionals who will commit to working in an underserved area. Pike County is an underserved area in several health care categories, including dental.

Numerous meetings have taken place with PCHD staff, HWFPC staff and the chosen architect for the HWFPC

consolidated health care complex building. The floor plan for the dental clinic has now been finalized. Ground breaking for the new complex is anticipated in the fall of 2011 and plans are to begin providing services through the Pike County Dental Clinic in January 2013.

Many meetings with the architect, HWFPC staff, dental equipment and supply companies, the local advisory group and others will take place as this project unfolds. Marketing, outreach, purchasing of equipment and hiring of staff will take place over the next year. It is anticipated that the building will be ready for move-in, October 2012. The Clinic will be operational and providing services for low income children in January 2013.

For more information on the Pike County Dental Clinic project, contact Anita Andress, RN, BSN, Pike County Health Department Administrator or Jan Bleich, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing at 217-285-4407.

ATOD Task Force

START SCHOOL SMART

The ATOD Task Force will meet on Friday, September 16th at 11:30am in the Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois building, 121 S. Madison, to begin work on the fall campaign, "Start School Smart". Clint Weir will give a PowerPoint presentation outlining details of the campaign. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in participating in the campaign, contact Clint Weir at 285-5011.

SAFE HOMES PROGRAM

The SAFE HOMES fliers will be sent to all the students in 7th – 12th grades in Pike County. The SAFE HOMES Program is a drug-prevention program for parents/guardians of youth in 7-12th grades. The program offers parents an opportunity to join together in providing safe environments for their teens to socialize while presenting a clear message to all youth that there will be NO USE of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs by youth in their homes.

Please be watching for these to come home if you have a student in one of these grades and return it by October 28th. If you have any questions about the Safe Homes project, contact Peggy Johns at 285-4436 or pjohns@mhcbwi.org. You can also download a Safe Homes letter on the Partnership website, www.pikehealthpartnership.org.



OPERATION SNOWBALL

Operation Snowball is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug use prevention program focusing on leadership development to empower youth to lead drug-free lives. The Pike County Operation Snowball kick off meeting will be held on the September 13th. Peggy Johns is currently recruiting and interviewing potential new members. The first order of business will be to elect officers. Snowball members will be selling cookie dough from September 13th through September 30th to raise funds for the Snowflake Event which is held annually in February.



September 2011

national preparedness month

A time to remember.

A time to prepare.

Pike County Health Department Announces Participation in September's National Preparedness Month (NPM)

This September, our nation will mark the ten year anniversary of 9/11. Pike County Health Department has committed to participate in National Preparedness Month (NPM) in September, an event founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the U.S. The event, now in its eighth year, is a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

Pike County Health Department is participating by having a booth at the Pike County Senior Expo to be held at the Crossroads Center, 125 W. Jefferson St, in Pittsfield on September 29th. Robin Wainman, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the health department will have a booth with Emergency Preparedness brochures and a display of an Emergency Go Kit.

One of the key messages is: be prepared in the event an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water services, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with three important steps:

- Get an emergency supply kit.
- Make a plan for what to do in an emergency.
- Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. This year's National Preparedness Month focuses on turning awareness into action by encouraging all individuals and all communities nationwide to make an emergency preparedness plan. Preparedness information and events will be posted to www.Ready.gov.

For more information, contact Robin Wainman, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at 217-285-4407 ext 131.

Is your organization sponsoring an upcoming event?

LET PCCHP HELP YOU SPREAD THE WORD.

If your group or organization would like PCCHP to pass on information about your events to other PCCHP members, email the information to info@pikehealthpartnership.com.

Pike County Senior Expo

Thursday, September 29, 2011

10:00 am—2:00 pm

**Crossroads Center
125 W. Jefferson, Pittsfield**

Free Admission!

Over 50 exhibitors Health Screenings

Meals Plus for Seniors will be serving a roast beef dinner between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. The full cost of the meal is \$5.00 for those under 60 years of age. The meal is on a donation basis for those over 60.

Over 50 exhibitors will be present to help you learn about programs and services available to you and to provide health screenings.

Relax while listening to the live music of 'Smooth Sounds Band'!

Underwritten by the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County, West Central Illinois Aging Network, Pike County Health Dept., Pike County Housing Authority, and KHMO 1070 AM.

November is:

National Diabetes Month

www.diabetes.org

**Lung Cancer
Awareness Month**


www.cancer.org

COPD Awareness Month

www.lungusa.org



CHECK IT OUT!

Blessing Health System has a new Facebook page. It contains health tips, advice from physicians, nutritional videos and more. 

Volley for Hope

Monday, October 3, 2011

Griggsville High School Gym

5:00pm

GPHS Lady Tornados will take on North Greene in a varsity only match.

All proceeds from the 50/50 raffles and basket raffles will go to one of Griggsville-Perry's own, Mrs. Pam Sethaler, who is battling cancer.



Steering Committee Members:

Katie Wilson & Karen Epley

Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois, Pike County location

Patricia McIntosh

Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County

Kathy Hull & Jennifer Mowen

Illini Community Hospital

Anita Andress & Jan Bleich

Pike County Health Department

At-Large Steering Committee Members:

Brenda Middendorf

Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Area

Becky Niewohner

PACT Headstart