

Notes from Buena Vista County Coalition

Retta Mitchell from Child Care Resource and Referral presented to the group. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is a free service that is state funded. CCR&R provides resources, education, and advocacy. Retta explained the training required for Registered Home providers (24 hours in a two year period). CCR&R provides base level trainings. Registered homes have three categories A, B and C. An A home can have 6 children with only 4 under 24 months and 3 under 18 months and 2 school agers. B Home can have 6 full time children, same infant rules, 2 part time children and 4 school agers. C Home is two providers both having the same qualifications they can have 12 full time children, same infant rules, 2 part time and 2 school agers. Non-registered providers can have 5 children or less as stated in Iowa law. There are also unregistered/not recognized. Licensed Centers, Registered homes, and Non-registered homes are able to receive state subsidy payments for child care assistance.

CCR&R works with provider to meet the basic registration requirements and also improve in the quality. Providers may improve the quality in many ways here are a few: Child Net-series of classes and can result in certification, Quality Rating System- increased quality by practicing/documenting identified practices. Quality Improvement Grants offered through BVCS Early Childhood Iowa, identified child care providers must have achieved a QRS level 2 or above to apply.

CCR&R works with licensed child care centers. Services room arrangement, Positive Behavior Initiative Support (PBIS) which offers discipline alternatives, training for staff, and technical assistance on a variety of subjects.

CCR&R provides referrals for child care to parents looking for child care through a data base of child care providers. The referral is set up to educate parents on what quality child care looks like, encourages the parent to visit and ask questions.

CCR&R assist communities by offering background data for businesses and groups, and keeping families in the workforce.

Annette Koster and Retta gave an update about from the Child Care Committee looking to start child care centers in Buena Vista County. The Alta community is embracing the idea of a center. Storm Lake still wary from closing of a center. Community wants to be assured the center would be financially stable. The committee is in the process of looking for board members to assist with the organizational of starting a center.

Gale and Scott Randall will be taking over Mr. Goodfellow.

Gale Randall shared Early ACCESS will be having a Regional Review at the end of October. Federally mandated, rely on for funding.

Annette K shared a survey Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac, Early Childhood Iowa will be conducting. The survey is two pages and has one page for references.

Annette K, Pam Bogue, and Kristi Neuman meet with Steven Scott, Director of Prevent Child Abuse Iowa to see what step Buena Vista County would need to take to reestablish a Child Abuse Prevention Council in Buena Vista County. A planning group will meet on November 12, 2014 at 1:00 in the Public Health meeting room. Public Health can act as the fiscal agent. This meeting will start setting the structure, to be able to apply for the next grant cycle, which is possible a three year grant.

Jessica Mendel is a full-time therapist at Plains Area Mental Health Center. She has been on staff for two months. She will provide services to 12 years and above, couples counseling, and family counseling. Learning resources in the community. Talk about the Resource Directory, one is available on the BVCS BCI website at <http://www.bvcsempowerment.com/> under County Resource Directories. Plains area offers same day access model, therapist are on call and offer 24 hour services.

Kristi N shared she is trained in Girls Circle, Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development, Care for Kids curriculum, Darkness to Light. Kristi is looking to train the Care for Kids curriculum to preschool or in-home visitation, she has five six lesson curriculums free, and she will train to use the curriculum. The worth of the curriculum is \$250.00. Darkness to Light will be offered in Schaller on Thursday, October 23 from 1:00 to 3:15 and 6:00 to 8:15.

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month. Oct 25th there will be a panel at Our Place Presbyterian Church.

Pam Bouge shared about Public Health issues. In particular the Ebola and the conversations/communications she has had with health care professionals, morticians, BVU international students, EMS and Law Enforcement, and Piolet newspaper. Provide information and prepare policies in place and be vigilant about practices. A meeting is set for next Monday with practitioners.

Janet Gritten Family STEPS is an in-home visitation program for birth to five year of age and their families. Provide developmental screenings for children and make referrals when appropriate. Family STEPS has had increased referrals for single dads and teen moms. Currently have waiting list. In the planning process for a socialization for families ideas; Infant CPR/First Aid or self-defense.

In August held a car seat safety check. Two parents who attended want to become certified checkers. Would there be others in the community who would want to become checkers? Being a car seat checker does require continued education. Would be nice to have a place that was able to offer on an as need basis (fire departments/police were brought up). A question was asked if there was anyone that provide assistance to parents who could not afford a car seat, would there be liability involved. Community Chest grant support the car seat safety check and crisis funds to families. This year Buena Vista Public Health also received a grant for food insecurity for Home Care Patients.

Thank you for attending,

Annette Koster