



MARCH 2008

Family Matters

“FULL INCLUSION, FULL LIVES”

Larry's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to look back at 2007 and give you a peak at what is planned for the year ahead.

2007 was a year of continued growth for children with special needs at La Crosse County Human Services. The Family and Children's Section impacted 932 children (small percentage is duplicated). Over \$3.2 million was secured from local, state and federal funding sources to support the needs of children. Along the way, there has been several successful outcomes, as well as challenges. Regardless, this is a time to give parents, providers, schools, social workers, the human service board members, community members and anyone else who has supported the life of a child with special needs in 2007 a big thank you for a job well done. Without sound policy, supports and interventions and the fiscal means to carry out the mission of our work, the needs of children would go unmet.

Looking to 2008, there are a number of exciting plans being formalized by the Family and Children's Section and the community to meet the needs of children in La Crosse County. The following are some highlights that will give you an idea of what is currently in the works.

The La Crosse County Board approved an additional social worker to serve children with special needs. This brings the total number to seven.

The Family and Children's Section will be awarded seven additional Children's Long Term Support Waiver (CLTSW) slots through the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Long Term Support in order to decrease the current waiting list. The waiting list currently stands at 79 children.

In April, approximately 12 community professionals will attend an intensive eight day training in order to assess children for attachment issues.

In the fall, approximately 12 professionals will participate in a five day intervention training titled "Circle of Security" see <http://www.circleofsecurity.org> for children with attachment issues.

Work will continue with providers through training and coaching to move toward a restraint and isolation 'free' system of support.

In late 2008 an adolescent assessment center will open for children in need of a place to be assessed in a crisis situation and if appropriate stabilized for a short period of time.

The Family Support Program will begin using funds to match the CLTSW when the needs arise. Needs will be determined by the program coordinator, child's social worker and parent.

The Birth to 3 Program is required to track and report on eight federal indicators to document outcomes.

Coulee Coalition for Children with Differing Abilities will sponsor a summer picnic in August and the annual holiday soiree in December.

Truly these are exciting times for children with special needs in La Crosse County. Help us embrace the challenges ahead. Parents, you are always welcome to provide ideas and feedback on how we are doing as we strive as a community to meet the needs of your children with special needs. You can do this by filling out surveys, speaking with your social worker or community providers or by contacting me at 608-785-6412 winter.larry@co.la-crosse.wi.us

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April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Bullying: Where do you fit in?

April 3, 2008
Radisson Hotel

**Family Fun Day
Children's Museum of
La Crosse**

207 5th Ave S,
784-2652

FREE ADMISSION
on

April 13, 2008
From 12-5pm

Stewards of Children

April 15, 2008 6-8:30pm
South Side Community
Center, 300 6th St. S.
Call: 789-8298

**Sponsored by the Coulee
Region Child Abuse Pre-
vention Task Force**

CESA #4 Cooperative Educational Service Agency



Cooperative Educational Service Agency #4 (CESA #4), located in West Salem, Wisconsin is one of the twelve nonprofit Cooperative Educational Service Agencies, created in 1964 by the Wisconsin legislature, which serve educational needs in all areas of Wisconsin by enabling school districts to communicate with each other and with the Department of Public Instruction. Because they work on a regional cooperative basis, CESAs are able to economically and efficiently provide programs and services requested by local school districts and other public entities.

CESA #4 offers fourteen program support areas, **including parent education**, to meet the unique and diverse needs of students with disabilities. All the fourteen program areas work with students, teachers, parents and community members to assist **families** and school districts in meeting the goals and objectives of the student's **Individual Education Program, also known as an IEP**. Following is a list of the program areas of the CESA #4 special education team: Assistive Technology, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Early Education, Behavioral Disabilities/Challenging Behaviors, Paraprofessional Support, Parent Education, School Nursing, Special Education Staff Support, Speech and Language, Transition, and Traumatic Brain Injury.

To see a list of educational opportunities and trainings available for families at CESA #4 you can go to the following parent page on the CESA #4 website <http://www.cesa4.k12.wi.us/programs-services/parented/index.htm>

For more information, you can also contact CESA #4 directly at 1-800-514-3075 or 1-608-786-4800 and ask for Colleen Mulder, the parent education director on the special education team at CESA #4.

Partner Picture

Up Coming Trainings At CESA #4

Traumatic Brain Injury training

A training program for Wisconsin Educator: Level 1
CESA #4 923 East Garland Street West Salem WI
April 17th 2008 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Sponsored by CESA #4 and Wisconsin DPI Discretionary Project

Student rate: \$50/person (person in College/University half time or more)

Parent rate: \$50/person (parent of a TBI student)

Flagship school members: Free

Non-Flagship school: \$100/person

Contact person is Colleen Mulder at 608-786-4848

Mail registrations to: CESA #4—Attention: Beth Naas

923 East Garland Street

West Salem, WI 54669

608-786-4841 or bnaas@cesa4.k12.wi.us



The IEP: Process and Product Creating the Vision: Transition Services Held at CESA #4 in West Salem

April 9th, 2008

Time: 4:00—7:00 PM

One Training and Two Topics

Both at CESA #4

An overview of the IEP process and what parents need to know and do to be effective members of the IEP team. The presentation also will address transition services for students with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age and focusing on transition from high school.

Presented by Bob Greene, Transition Director and Colleen Mulder, WSPEI Parent Education Director

For registration: The workshop is FREE but you must register

Contact: Beth Naas at 608-786-4841 or email: bnaas@cesa4.k12.wi.us

Include full name, phone number and address or organization

There will be a light supper, refreshments and handouts provided to registrants



Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading

May 21, 2008 From: 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Place: CESA #4 West Salem WI

Fees: RSN/Flagship schools: \$50/person

Nonflagship/RSN: \$150/person

Fee includes one manual and one reproducible take-home book per district

For registration contact: Beth Naas 608-786-4841

Presenters: Mary McKee CESA #4 Paraprofessional Director and Colleen Mulder CESA #4 CSPD Director

Tucker signing strategies for reading is a strategy designed to prompt associations between letters and the sounds they represent through the use of hand signs. They are different from the signs of American Sign Language.

Still have questions about IEPs (Individualized Educational Program)?

There are several great resources available:

Some include our local CESA #4 chapter located in West Salem

<http://www.cesa4.k12.wi.us/programs-services/special/index.htm>

Also check out NICHCY (National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities)

They have a section for information and training materials on IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). <http://www.nichcy.org/idea.htm>

Awesome Activities

A Special Thank You

The Coulee Coalition for Children of Differing Abilities was able to hold a Holiday Soiree for children with special needs and their families at the Children's Museum due to financial support from the Children's Miracle Network.

Don't forget about the **Coulee Region Autism Society Support Group**.

- Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm
- Place: Chileda 1825 Victory Street in La Crosse
- Free on-site Child Care, but please let them know so they have the appropriate number of staff to supervise the children
- Any further questions can be directed to Steven and Rena Cash (608) 519-0883 or lax-autismgroup@centurytel.net

La Crosse Area Satellite of CHADD Parent Support Group Meeting Dates

(Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
April 10 th Thursday	Speaker – Kay Everson Retired teacher
May 8 th Thursday	Speaker – June Reinert & a student on College bound & ADHD
June 12 th Thursday	Summer vacation
July 10 th Thursday	Sibling rivalry & Friendships
August 7 th Thursday	Working with schools



** All meetings held at Gundersen Lutheran Behavior Health 123 16th Ave S. Onalaska in the basement conference room at 6pm.

** Please see the website for updates and changes to meeting information.

** If you have any questions please feel free to email Tanya and Kari lacrosse-area@chadd.net.

You do not need to be a member of CHADD to attend the parent support group. But if you sign up to be a member you will get endless benefits including: A free CHADD Information and Resource guide: A 150 + page guide to life with ADHD (a \$35.95 value!) The bi-monthly ATTENTION magazine, offering advice and the most up to date information. Reduced annual conference fees, access to member's only forums, discussion boards, a chat site which conducts monthly chats with the top experts, monthly chat archives, ATTENTION magazine archives and much more. Discount on the Prescription Card Program, and a 10% discount off the CHADD online store. All for \$45.00 a year! Also, \$5.00 of every membership goes back into your local support group to be used for meeting costs such as copies, postage and supplies.

** If you would like to join please inquire at a parent support meeting or you can sign up online at www.chadd.org

We look forward to seeing you at the next parent support meeting!

Tanya & Kari

Lacrosse-area@chadd.net

www.chadd.net/244

Don't forget that **March is Social Work Month** so make sure to say thank you to that special social worker you may be working with. It is never to late to say Thank You.

May is also Children's Mental Health Month.

Mental Health Resources:

Wisconsin Family Ties 608-267-6888 or www.wifamilyties.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) 608-268-6000 or www.namiwisconsin.org

Wisconsin Collaborative Systems of Care (WCSOC) www.wicollaborative.org

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) www.nimh.nih.gov

SAVE the DATE

The **Summer Picnic** is Tuesday August 19th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Children's Museum

The **Holiday Soiree** is Friday December 5th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Children's Museum

*Watch for more information in the coming months.

Radical Resources

Would you like free lesson plans, free worksheets, free software, online math, and an educational store?
This is available through <http://www.schoolexpress.com/fwsindex.php>

Visit <http://trainland.tripod.com/pecs.htm> for hundreds of web site links with great resources.

Some of these include:

- * Boardmaker downloadable files such as games, chore flash cards, and how to use visual supports to help people with Autism.
- * Resources for pictures such as clipart or graphics, software and much more.
- * Beyond Autism Pecs pictures/icons pages: handwriting page maker, internet picture dictionary, or picture symbol directory
- * PECS pictures for sign language skills
- * And much much more!



Used Equipment Marketplace

- * The UEM is a clearinghouse for individuals or agencies who wish to buy, sell, donate, loan, or rent assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.
- * Any equipment valued at more than \$25 will be accepted, i.e., wheelchairs, van or bus lifts, adaptive computer equipment, automobiles with adaptive controls, bathroom equipment, hospital beds, augmentative communication devices, etc.
- * No equipment will be housed at the UEM office.

Please see website for more details and answers to more questions.

<http://www.wati.org/buys/marketplace.html>

Want to know more about augmentative and alternative communication?
Try this website <http://www.voiceforliving.com/index.jsp>

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is a formal term used to describe a range of communication tools that help individuals affected by significant speech, language and learning disabilities communicate with others. Some forms of AAC, such as hand gestures and facial expressions, are very familiar and something that we all use. Other forms of AAC, such as communication boards/books and electronic speech communication devices are less familiar, but just as powerful in helping those with communication disabilities express themselves.

Other Random Resources Check them out!

Yellow Pages for Kids With Disabilities: State-By-State Lists

<http://www.yellowpagesforkids.com/>

Tax Benefits for Parents of Kids with LD

Parents of children who have disabilities may qualify for certain tax benefits.

<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/1187?cpn=20080214ld>

Visual Strategies Products

Visual Strategies is a low-cost commercial website that includes free downloads to help children with autism and other disabilities, families and schools with communication needs, transitions, visual schedules and more. www.visual-consultant.com

Autism Software Database

The MouseTrial Autism Software Database http://www.mousetrial.com/autism_software_database.php is a free resource for parents and professionals listing all kinds of software for autism treatment.

Multifunction Cell Phone

The National Federation of the Blind has collaborated in promoting a multifunction cell phone that allow the user to read mail, receipts, handouts and many other documents wherever the user happens to be.

<http://www.knfbreader.com/>

What is going on at Family Resources?

Special Fun Dates: *National Turn off the TV week* Wednesday April 23rd 6:00-7:30pm
Give mom a break! Take the kids to Family Resources Saturday May 10th from 10:00-11:30am
*Call Fran (784-8125) to reserve your spot

Power of Parenting Walk Riverside Park 9:00am-3:00pm Saturday April 26th, 2008

Family Resources' Annual Children's Summer Festival

Myrick Park 9:00am to Noon

July 19th, 2008

Spring Children's Rummage Sale Friday, May 16th 8:30am—1:00pm at Family Resources

Check out Family Resources' website for more information, workshops, playshoppes, or other fun activities

www.laxfamilyresources.org

(608.784.8125)

Upcoming Trainings

Child Maltreatment Conference: Friday April 4th, 2008 8:30a.m.-4:00p.m.
La Crosse Radisson Ballroom in La Crosse WI

Conference goals are to:

- * Provide affordable high quality educational opportunities for professionals involved in the identification, intervention and treatment of children and their families when child abuse/neglect is reported.
- * Afford conference participants the opportunity to network and share knowledge/experiences that increase practice skills and treatment/intervention effectiveness for maltreated children across community systems.
- * Encourage practitioners and agencies to respond to the changing needs of maltreated children by incorporating the latest research findings and best practice guidelines to effectively meet the challenges of today's society/environment.

Registration is \$85.00 Continuing Education Contact hours will be applied for.
For more information contact Cathy Pupp at pupp.cathleen@mayo.edu or (608) 392-4172 to register.
Conference registration deadline is March 23, 2008

BULLYING - A COMMUNITY PROBLEM WHICH REQUIRES A COMMUNITY SOLUTION **April 3, 2008 at the La Crosse Radisson Hotel**

Bullying - Where do you fit in? Bully, Victim, Bystander Thursday April 3rd at the Radisson Hotel



The 5 W's of Bullying:

- * Who are bullies?
- * What is bullying?
- * Where does it occur?
- * When?
- * Why is it important for our community and society to address these issues? And how can we do it?

Olweus Bullying Prevention presentation teaches intervention skills and ways to engage the community in a discussion about how to prevent bullying and intervene when bullying does occur.

**FREE and Open
to the Public**

2 sessions designed for different audience interests -

4:00-5:30PM for agency staff who work with youths, as well as parents and interested community members who want to learn specific bullying intervention skills.

6:30-8PM for parents/families, community leaders and others interested in participating in a discussion about ways to engage the community in combating bullying and creating safety for children as well as learning bullying prevention and intervention skills.

There is no cost for attendance and registration is not required

Please contact Cathy Pupp @ Pupp.Cathleen@mayo.edu or (608) 392-4172 if you have questions or want more information.
Melani Fay and Carol Kuphal - La Crosse School Counselors will present the Olweus Bullying Prevention program with a guest appearance by the UW-La Crosse social improvisation group Awareness through Performance (ATP) during the 6:30PM session.

Wisconsin Deafblind Education

Sensory Functioning in Children with Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities (May 6th and 7th)
Tips and Tools Early Intervention Series: PLAI Curriculum (May 8th and 9th)
At the Wintergreen Resort, WI Dells Registration deadline is April 21st.

Upcoming Training updates

<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/HumanServices/fc/docs/specialneeds/index.htm>
Click on the Training Information tab.

Another great place to find out about training is at Childed www.childeda.org
For information on trainings/seminars you can contact Jonathan Zinniel at 608.782.6480 ext: 243

Want to know more about adaptive physical education?

For further questions on the programs offered through UWL contact Garth Tymeson at 785-5415

Here are some other helpful links: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/bul02-02.html>

http://www.aahperd.org/aaalf/pdf_files/pos_papers/APApositionsmtlnfantsetc.rtf

<http://www.cortland.edu/APENS/>

What is Crisis?

From the Crisis Corner

By Eleanor Shaffar MA LPC

This quarter I would like to take a moment to describe our Mobile Crisis Program and possibly clear up a few misconceptions folks might be having concerning the use of our program.

The La Crosse County Mobile Crisis Program in partnership with Lutheran Social Services provides service 24 hours a day/seven days a week to children and families within our county who are experiencing a crisis. Our mission is to keep children and their families safe and together within the community whenever possible. We do this by offering urgent assessment and intervention in homes, schools, hospitals or other settings within the community. When remaining at home is not desired or possible we do offer **VOLUNTARY** crisis stabilization placements when available. Occasionally, when a child's mental health needs are severe, hospitalization may be necessary. Should hospitalization become necessary, it is everyone's goal to return the child to their family as soon as the crisis has been resolved. In providing these services, it is our program's heartfelt desire to enhance, to strengthen, and to solidify family relationships rather than disrupt them by unnecessarily removing children from the care of their parents.

All of our Mobile Crisis Responders are trained in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention techniques. Our interventions are geared toward resolving crisis situations without use of any physical force or restraint of any kind. This will ensure the physical safety of everyone concerned. We strongly encourage families/caregivers to contact our services as soon as there is any indication that a crisis is developing. The earlier we are able to intervene, the better our chances of de-escalating a situation **before** it results in physical aggression. If a child has a mental illness, developmental disorder, or a pattern of behavior that may result in physical violence or other crisis, it is strongly recommended that the child's treatment team formulate an **Emergency Response Plan** so that all parties will know the best way to respond to the child's behaviors in order to prevent further escalation. If at all possible, any contact with Law Enforcement will be kept to a minimum.

There is a charge for crisis intervention services provided through the Mobile Crisis Program. Your insurance, including Medical Assistance, will be billed directly for any services you may receive. If you do not have insurance or find that these services are not covered by your insurance, you may apply for a reduced fee by scheduling a Financial Review with the Billing Department of Human Services.

Please do not hesitate to call when things become unmanageable. We're here to HELP!
Day or Night **784- HELP (4357)**

Upcoming activities:



Wisconsin Family Ties 13th Annual Fun Day!!

Scheduled for July 8, 2008 **Join the Fun Come Rain or Shine**
Mount Olympus Water & Theme Park in Wisconsin Dells

Sponsored by Wisconsin Family Ties, Family Fun Day is offered specifically to families that include children and youth with mental, emotional or behavioral challenges. The water park opens at 10 a.m. and you may stay until closing for a price of \$11 per person.

This price includes the outdoor and indoor water parks, plus a hotdog lunch. If you wish to upgrade your ticket to include the entire theme park, you may do so **at the gate** for an extra \$7.00 as long as you have a Family Fun Day ticket through Wisconsin Family Ties. Deadline for ticket requests is Thursday, July 3.

Check out their web site for further information. <http://www.wifamilyties.org/>



Happy 20th Anniversary to Wisconsin Family Ties!

Saturday April 12th



The event, entitled "Celebrating Every Child's Gifts," will be held at the Performing Arts Center, 2100 Bristol Street, in Middleton, WI. The afternoon begins at 1:00 PM with a reception where we'll be serving food and you'll have an opportunity to meet the founders and staff of WFT, reconnect with old friends and meet new friends too! If you have any questions you can contact us at



Don't Forget about the Family Advocate:

If you are a parent of a child with special needs and would like some extra support or have any questions about the special education process or an IEP you may have. Please contact:

Vicky Shanley 608-783-4009 shanley5@charter.net

Announcements

La Crosse Logger's tickets The tickets are FREE!!!



NASA (North American Squirrel Association) is holding their night with the Loggers. It is Grand Slam Night at the La Crosse Loggers on Saturday, June 28th. The baseball game starts at 7:00pm and there will be an entire bleacher section made available to families. They will be giving tickets away to families. If you are interested in getting tickets for your family please contact your social worker and if you do not have one but are on our waiting list please contact the Family Resource Liaison, Susie, at 608-785-6284.



Please reserve your tickets by Friday June 13th.

Something to think about



Remodeling anytime soon?

Ask...

- Is the contractor or architect licensed and bonded?
- Do they carry general liability and worker's compensation insurance?
- Will they provide a written lien waiver?
- Are they a member of NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) or NAHB (National Association of Home Builder's)?
- Will they pull all required building permits?
- Do they guarantee their work and for how long?
- Who will be in charge of the job?
- Who is responsible for cleaning up?

