



Family Matters

SPRING EDITION
March • April • May
2009

“FULL INCLUSION, FULL LIVES”

Winds of Change

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Supervisor- Children with Special Needs Unit II

I was thinking about a topic for this newsletter edition’s front page. What came to me is the topic of **Change**. We have elected our first African American president. There are elementary school children growing up in the White House again. Our children are “texting” when adults are still struggling with “emailing”. We can reconnect with old friends via *Facebook* or *Spacebook*. The US is in the midst of a recession. Families are struggling making ends meet. Local governments are concerned about the level funding they are going to receive from both the state and federal governments. State governments are running at huge deficits, hoping for part of the stimulus package from the federal government.

Changes that have been implemented in 2008 include contracting with Lutheran Social Services to provide crisis intervention services to children in La Crosse County from 830 AM to 11 PM. This change has freed up time for our service coordinators to concentrate on his or her caseloads rather than being on-call several days a week.

Another **change** is the development of the Western Region Assessment Center (WRAC) in La Crosse County’s Juvenile Shelter. This is a non-secure facility that crisis team can use for stabilization purposes and in the future assessment of children with mental health issues instead of sending a child to the hospital.

We have had **change** in personnel in the Children with Special Needs Unit II. As you already know Larry Winter left us for Chippewa County and I have replaced him as the supervisor. We also lost our support staff, Kari Flicek, and have replaced her with Tammy Thompson. We are in the search of a new social worker to fill the open position in the unit.

Lastly, our Children’s Service Specialist, Diana Adamski, has taken a new position with the State. You will now hear us talking about “Becky Boyea”, “Robin Raj”, “Theresa Walske”, “Ed Miller”, “Bill Murray”, “Katie Sepnieski”, and “Julie Bryda”.

Over the next couple of years we will continue to make **changes** in how La Crosse County Human Services does business. In 2009, we are looking at the following outcomes:

- Continuing to provide quality services to the children and their families in La Crosse County
- Regionalizing crisis response programming
- Providing training to La Crosse County parents, providers, and community members
- Ensuring that La Crosse County is being fiscally responsible
- Developing an expertise in attachment assessment and intervention

Our one request of you is to be patient with us and the **change**. We do not know where new directions will take us. Our hope is that it will lead to better services in 2009 and the future. Please if you have input, questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact Keith Keller at 789-4819 or myself at 785-6225.

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Awesome Activities



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Teddy Bear Clinic

This Saturday April 4th

From 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Children's Museum of La Crosse, 207 5th Ave. S.

Ages from 6 months to 12 or 13 year olds to attend but most appropriate for ages 3 to 8 or 9 year olds.

Children will receive a free teddy bear and learn more about what takes place during a visit to the doctor and a trip to the hospital. There will also be an informational booth for parents with resources on child abuse prevention. Admission is free. For more information contact Jennifer Peterson at (608) 775-3258.

Family Resources' Annual Bunny Hop

Saturday April 11th

From 1:00-2:00 P.M.

Seminary Park, 3400 East Ave. S. La Crosse

Hop on over and enjoy some Spring time activities and hunt for eggs. Registration is required.

For more information call Fran at 784-8125

Stewards of Children

Tuesday April 30

From 5:30-8:30 P.M.

Family Resources, 1500 Green Bay Street La Crosse

Learn how you can protect your own and other children from childhood sexual abuse.

Advanced registration is required. Call Lisa at 784-8125 to register for this FREE event.

FREE Family Fun Day at the Museum

Sunday April 26

From noon to 4:30 P.M.

Children's Museum of La Crosse, 207 5th Ave. S.

Free admission that day, thanks to the Task Force

Includes crafts, refreshments, and loads of fun!

For more fun activities and classes check out Family Resources at
<http://www.laxfamilyresources.org/> or call 785-6284



Black River Falls Day Treatment

N6643 County Road A, Black River Falls, WI 54615

715-284-1100

Black River Falls Day Treatment is a community-based treatment program for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral difficulties. We believe that our program is a vital treatment partner with area schools, families, community providers, and Social Services. We offer a wide range of clinical services designed to meet the individual needs of children and adolescents (including individual, family and group counseling, medication monitoring, and extensive skill building). Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We offer both full and partial day programming. Full day programming includes one hour of educational time per day (no additional fees) wherein clients focus on academics recommended by their school district. Private insurance and Medical Assistance are our primary funding sources. Our business department will work with referral agencies and families to determine and develop coverage plans. Additional information about the program or referral process is available by contacting the Day Treatment Program Coordinator at the number listed above. The State of Wisconsin, Department of Health and Family Services, certifies Black River Falls Day Treatment to provide day treatment services.



Consider Day Treatment When:

- Additional counseling and services are necessary beyond weekly outpatient visits.
- A child or adolescent's behaviors and emotions are escalating and situations are getting out of control at home, in school or in the community.
- Current or previous treatment is not meeting the needs of the child or adolescent.
- Discharge from an inpatient hospital, residential, or group home setting is imminent, and daily structure and intensive therapies are needed to maintain treatment gains or to further treatment outcomes.
- A child or adolescent's behaviors or other mental health issues are significantly impeding the child's success.

Transportation

Black River Falls Day Treatment is able to provide or arrange for transportation to and from the program. Just ask us how.

Partner Picture Continued

Half-Day Programming

Black River Falls Day Treatment provides half-day programming. We modify our program to fit the needs of the child. For this reason, we offer half-day services to children who are doing well in the school setting. We want to accentuate the positive. If things are going well in school, let's give the child the opportunity to continue to succeed in that setting.



Pictured, left to right: Amy Burkhalter, Case manager, Trista Glover, Group Facilitator, Kory Brandau, Case Manager/Group Facilitator, Patrick Lacy, Psychologist, Jill Chaffee, Regional Administrator, Boyd Busse, Educational Coordinator/Case Manager, Ann Smetana, Program Assistant/Group Facilitator, Dan Lynch, Clinical Mental Health Coordinator

Radical Resources

Need Dental Care? Check out Mission of Mercy

Coming to La Crosse June 26-27, 2009

Where? La Crosse Center Arena

MOM (Mission of Mercy) is a **FREE** dental care program. The purpose is to address the patients' most pressing dental problems and relieve them of their pain.

Eligibility: The MOM will provide care to anyone that shows up that does not have any medical compromising condition that would prohibit them from receiving care. Children and adults are welcome. Un-insured, under-insured, or those who otherwise have difficulty getting to a dentist are all welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointments accepted.

Types of services offer: Fillings, extractions, cleanings and limited treatment partials are offered. All work done is **FREE!**

Volunteers over the age of 16 will be needed to help.
You can also make a donation.

For more information visit: <http://www.wda.org/categories/46-mission-of-mercy>

Jesus Cares

A bible study for kids and adults with Disabilities

- Meetings are held Monday nights September through May.
- The first Monday of the month the meeting is held at St. Paul's Church in Onalaska from 5-6pm and is an adaptive worship program.
- The rest of the month they meet Mondays from 5-6pm at Luther High School in the library.
- At these meetings they have a bible story, craft, sing, and/or occasionally go out into the community.
- Both facilities are wheelchair accessible.
- They have volunteers but parents or siblings are encouraged to join in.
- This is run by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod but all religions are welcome to attend this no cost opportunity!
- They have a monthly schedule of events they distribute at the first Monday of the month meetings.

For further questions or information please contact Lisa Loersch at 781-9118

**Birth
to 3**

*Do you have any questions about
your child's development?*

A great deal of learning takes place in a child's first three years. Families who have children with developmental delays or disabilities may need extra support to help their children reach their developmental milestones. The Birth to 3 Program offers free evaluations for children ages 0-3 years old. If you would like to speak to someone about the program please call Kristi, Susan or Bethany at 781-1035.

Don't Forget about the Family Advocate:

If you are a parent of a child with special needs and would like some extra support, have any questions about the special education process or IEPs, please contact:

Vicky Shanley 608-783-4009
shanley5@charter.net
WI Family Ties

Trainings

Saturday April 18, 8am-12:15pm

“Positive Parenting” and
“Guiding Children—24/7”

Gundersen Lutheran Rasmus Center
1900 South Ave., La Crosse

Presented by nurse practitioner Kay Johnson as she focuses on positive parenting. Children need guidance through all aspects of their daily life...both in and out of the home. Preventing behavior problems is the key to positive guidance.

The second part of the program presented by early childhood instructors, Tracy Craker and Mary Henthorne, will explain strategies for guiding children in the home, at early childhood education programs and in the community.

For more information and to register contact Jennifer Peterson at 775-3258

***FREE

Saturday May 2, 8am-12pm

“The P.L.A.Y. Project
Autism Workshop”

Gundersen Lutheran Rasmus Center
1900 South Ave., La Crosse

Through P.L.A.Y. Project (play and language for autistic youngsters), Richard Solomon, MD, trains parents and professionals to provide early intervention programming to help children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). It includes play-based methods for helping children with ASD gain language and social skills, and engage in meaningful day-to-day interactions.

For more information and to register contact Jennifer Peterson at 775-3258

***FREE

Creating a Trauma-Informed Care Champion Team

Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells
May 11th and 12th, 2009

Overview: Keynote presentations introduce the concept of simple and complex trauma, review research related to retraumatization within institutional and community settings, and explore curative factors in mental health and addiction recovery. Conference attendees will learn about Trauma-Informed Care tools and implementation strategies.

Go to DD Networks website: www.ddnetworking.org for conference updates.

Registration is \$40

For more information contact Elizabeth Hudson at 608-266-2771 or Elizabeth.hudson@wisconsin.gov

Trauma & Recovery
Radisson Hotel La Crosse
May 8th and 9th

This workshop is directed to professionals across the range of experience. Target audience includes social workers; psychiatric nurses; psychologists, psychiatrists; health and medical professionals; emergency services providers; law enforcement and criminal justice workers; and pastors, chaplains and grief counselors.

Cost is \$195 (\$135 if Franciscan Skemp Employee)

To register and for more information go to www.uwlax.edu/conted

Trainings Continued

Circles of Life Conference

The Circles of Life Conference is for families who have children of any age with disabilities or special Needs and professionals who support and provide services for them. The Conference is a unique opportunity to develop new skills, garner the latest information, and form lasting friendships. In its 25th year, the Circles of Life Conferences Planning Committee welcomes new and returning families and providers.

Keynote address give by Julie Beckett. There is a Family Fun Night on Thursday night. There will also be a Family Voices Parent Listening Session on Thursday night. Respite care is available for a limited number of children with disabilities. For more information contact Toni Arnison, Program Director at SCR at 608-745-0000.

Other events will be the Gathering of Youth. It is a hands-on conference planned by and for youth with disabilities. To register call Kirsten Engel at 608-242-8484 ext 228. Sibshops are also available. To attend you have to have a brother or sister who has special needs. For more information or to register contact Jim Nelson at 608-822-3276 ext 214. There will also be a Celebrating Children and Families Slide Show. For more information go to the Children Come First website.

Dates: Thursday April 30 and Friday May 1, 2009

Time: Thursday registration at 8:00-9:00, Friday registration at 7:30-8:45

Location: Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q Hammons Drive Middleton, WI

For rooms ask for Circles of Life block of rooms deadline for rooms is March 27

Fee: Professional is \$50 for one day \$90 for two days

Parent of a child with a disability is \$40 for one day \$70 for two days

Visit www.colwisconsin.org for more information

Understanding and Mending Trauma's Impact

Glacier Canyon Lodge WI Dells

April 22nd—24th

Keynote Speakers:

Pete Feigal—A Gift To Be Opened, Not A Problem To Be Solved

Don Coyhis—Intergenerational Trauma and the Healing Forest

Pat Parker—Racial Disparities: A Challenge to Social Work Ethics and Values

Registration before April 8th is \$135 after April 8th is \$150

For more information on the conference please contact

Tracy Faust 920-746-7112 tfaust@co.door.wi.us

Kathy Flanagan 608-284-2010 kathyf@greatkidsinc.org

To see a conference brochure go to this website:

<http://wifostercareandadoption.org/calendars/1460/WIFamilyBasedConf2009.pdf>

FAMILY MATTERS
ATTN: SUSAN BECKER

La Crosse County Human Services
300 4th St N
La Crosse, WI 54601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Announcements

Competition for Young Artists with Disabilities

VSA Arts and Volkswagen

Deadline: June 19, 2009 by midnight

Number of awards: 3

1st prize: \$20,000, 2nd prize: \$10,000, and 3rd prize: \$6,000

Visit their website at: <http://www.vsarts.org/PreBuilt/showcase/gallery/exhibits/vw/current/>

The program is open to artists between the ages of 16 and 25 who are living in the United States and who have a physical, cognitive, mental, or sensory disability. A disability is defined as an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. For more information about disabilities that apply, please review the VSA arts Disability Awareness Guide, located under Resources at www.vsarts.org.

Previous award recipients are not eligible to apply.

Submissions must be original work completed within the last three years and after the onset of disability. Eligibility media include, but are not limited to, paintings and drawings (oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, or charcoal), fine art prints, photography, computer-generated prints, digital art, and time-based media (video, film). Work must have visual component. Both representational and abstract work are welcomed.