

The Pilot Site Progress

Covering Kids & Families Coalition Update

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Let's Get Ready to Plan!!

On October 23 and 24, 2003, all project staff are required to attend the Outreach Staff Planning Retreat at the Ramada Inn Limited in Little Rock. Each pilot site is encouraged to bring one or two coalition members to assist the group in constructing an effective work plan for the upcoming year. AACF will cover all lodging and meal costs; however, any incidental charges will be your responsibility. Also, to save on lodging costs, we will try to as-

sign two people per room. The retreat will begin at 2:30 p.m. on October 23rd and end at 2:30 p.m. on the 24th. If you haven't sent your registration form, please do so at your earliest convenience as to accommodate everyone attending the retreat.

Put on those thinking caps and come prepared to brainstorm!!



\$\$Texarkana Hits the Jackpot \$\$

Congratulations goes out to our Texarkana site for securing a \$125,000 grant over the next two years to further study why people are not enrolling children in ARKids First. This branch of our coalition is working diligently to sustain the program in their area. Pilot Site Coordinator Aaron Cash says, "I want the ARKids logo tattooed to their brains!"

They also did an outreach effort in conjunction with the "Take a Loved One to the Doctor" campaign on September 13, 2003. The turnout was great and the insurance information was greatly appreciated. The site now looks forward to the Health-O-Rama in Prescott, AR next month.

Keep up the good work!



Mr. Chuck Comes to Town

On **October 30**, the Delta AHEC North Parent Educators will present "**Mr. Chuck's Ready to Learn Parenting Workshop.**" Mr. Chuck, of the nationally syndicated PBS children's program, will tackle a variety of topics geared toward helping parents and caregivers prepare children to enter school "**Ready to Learn!**" Contact Anita Saig in West Memphis for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- ? *October 10th, Outreach Coalition Meeting. 12:30 Lafayette Hotel.*
- ? *October 23-24, Outreach Planning Staff Retreat*
- ? *November 21st, Project Staff Tele-Conference 2:00—4:00.*
- ? *December 12th, Outreach Coalition Meeting. 12:30 Lafayette Hotel.*

An ARKids Connection

Janie Overall is teaming up with school nurses in Northeast Arkansas to spread the word about the Medicaid Reimbursement program. She also plans to share information on how to coordinate ARKids First with the school lunch program. One school is even planning to utilize a high school health class to assist with enrollment. The students will design a tri-fold display for use at basketball games and other activities where parents are present.

Keep those creative juices flowing Janie!!

Another Successful Health Fair

Mona Clemons in Northwest Arkansas recently attended the First Annual Women's Hispanic Health Fair. The event was co-sponsored by the Reynolds Cancer Support House and the Good Samaritan Clinic. It was an all day event and health providers were on site providing free screenings and consultations to participants. ARKids First was among the many vendors and Mona even conducted a live public service announcement in Spanish on a local Hispanic radio station.

Muy Buena, Mona!!

A Great Get Away!

Rhonda Sanders, Derick Easter, Aaron Cash, Mona Clemons, Anita Saig, and Sharon Benton had the pleasure of attending the Covering Kids and Families National Meeting in St. Louis last month. They were all bombarded with truckloads of ideas and useful information. The meeting was informative, yet fun and the word on the street is "They had a blast!" For further details, call one of them up and have them tell you all about it!

We are currently out of ARKids applications. We'll let you know when the new shipment arrives!!

A New Partnership

Our Northwest Arkansas site recently linked up with the United Way Campaign and spoke to different agencies about the collaborative use of ARKids First with some of their present day projects. Forming such a partnership will stretch agency dollars that can be used to further enhance services in the community.

Sharon Benton looks forward to the NWA Mall Health Fair on October 4th and 5th!

Give 'em all you got Sharon!!

ARKids First promotional materials should be in by next week. Call and let us know if you need pencils, miniature frisbees, crayons, flyers, etc.

You need it.....we've got it!

Don't Forget!!

Information for the November newsletter is DUE on October 15th.

Be included or get excluded.... the choice is yours!!!

