

The Pilot Site Progress

Covering Kids & Families Coalition Update

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

MARCH 15, 2004

!!Welcome Aboard Ladies!!

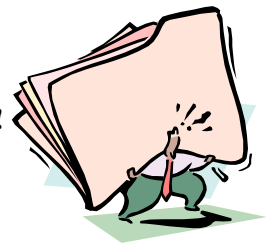
Deb Garrison and Gail Cannady are the two newest members of our team and if you haven't taken out the time to get to know them...."you really don't know what you're missing!!"

Deb is the new Executive Director of the Our Kids Count Coalition in Jonesboro. In this new role, she will provide outreach, training and technical assistance to schools, hospitals, clinics and churches regarding ARKids First. Deb also plans to work closely with the board of directors to develop new projects that are geared toward improving the quality of life for

children and youth in Northeast Arkansas.

Gail Cannady is our newest Americorp VISTA worker. She has become Jo Ann Trotter's "right hand woman" at our Lake Village site! Gail performs direct outreach in Chicot, Desha and Drew counties and when she's not doing that she's searching for ways to get the word out about ARKids First!! Oh yeah, bet you didn't know that Gail is the PROUD mother of seven children. Needles to say....she has a personal connection to ARKids First!

Ladies, come on in and get busy!!!



New Plan to Improve Reenrollment Process

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Arkansas Advocates and the Arkansas Department of Human Services have teamed up to improve the reenrollment efforts of ARKids A and B in our state. One of our very own project sites, Poplar House, serves as the local outreach partner for the project. Through the "Arkansas Process Improvement Project" the pilot site calls families in Washington county that have not turned in their re-enrollment forms. Parents/guardians of the ARKids recipients are then asked if they would like to conduct re-enrollment via the phone. If so, a series of questions are asked (regarding change of address, household composition, income, child care, health insurance and primary care physician) and the proper forms are completed as the adult answers the questions. The project is moving along great and the pilot site is amending some things month to month as it notices better ways to conduct phone interviews. When the data is gathered electronically, it will be forwarded to each pilot site so you can get a better idea of how the project is going. **If you just can't wait.....give Sharon or Derick a call!!**



MARK YOUR

CALENDARS:

- ? *March 19th, Outreach Coalition Meeting. 12:30 pm Lafayette Hotel.*
- ? *April 4th, Daylight Savings Time begins!!!*
- ? *April 29th, AACF Post Legislative Conference. 8:30 am-1:30 pm- St. John's Conference Center*
- ? *June 4th, Outreach Coalition Meeting. 12:30 pm Lafayette Hotel.*
- ? *July 16th, Project Site Teleconference 2:00 pm*

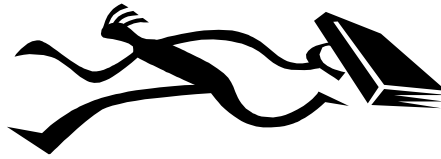
Busy, Busy, Busy

Our Northwest Arkansas site is as busy as can be! Sharon Benton is assisting with the Process Improvement Plan and definitely has her hands full with other ongoing projects. She is preparing for her upcoming partnerships with the Real Women Project, the American Lung Association and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Keep up the good work Sharon and let us know how it all turns out!!

Involving the Business Community

Jo Ann Trotter and Gail Cannady are doing all they can in Lake Village to get the business community involved in the outreach process. They've been busy assembling and delivering ARKids informational packets to business owners who have agreed to pass the information on to employees. Way to go ladies!! Don't give up until every business in town is calling for more!! This site also did a great job promoting the insurance program at "Love Your Heart Day" with the McGehee Post Office and "Sweetheart's Day" at St. Paul Baptist Church in Dermott. Stay busy you two!!



Insured or Soon to be Insured-That's What It's All About!!

Last quarter, our Fort Smith site worked really hard (as it does EVERY quarter) to get the word out about ARKids First. Mona Clemons, site coordinator, organized the ARKids Coats for Kids and it was a huge success! The local Comet Cleaners even joined in to help out. Over 65 coats were distributed and there was an insured or soon to be insured kids behind each one of them! This site also conducted its first ARKids Northwest Arkansas Food Drive in December. The event raised over 194 lbs of food and almost \$93 which equals \$1,288 food bank buying dollars from employee donations. During the day, AR-K passed out a toy to each child and as before, "each child was insured or soon to be insured!!!"

This year's tax season also brought about chances for Mona to get H & R Block involved in outreach!!

Keep making those contacts Mona, you're doing great!



Late Breaking News: LaTonya Darneish Edmonds is our new site coordinator in Texarkana. She will be attending the coalition meeting on the 19th, so help make her feel and home!!

Healthy Connections, Inc. Has a New Dentist!!

Our project site in Mena is definitely on the move!!! They just hired another full time dentist at the W.A.T.C.H. Center and recently began their 2004 Dental Sealant Project last month. Also, the hygiene students from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith will be assisting with the project which covers all schools in Polk County. **Bob and Doreen.....you're on a roll..... keep us informed on your progress!!!!**

Don't Forget!!

Information for the May newsletter is DUE on April 15th.

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

