

MIDWEST HUB REPORTER

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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September – November 2000

National TANF “Listening Session”



(Pictured) Dr. Wade Horn, Diann Dawson, Linda Lewis, James McCullum, Harry McDaniel, Joyce A. Thomas

On Friday, November 2, 2001, Legislators, Department Directors and Supervisors, along with welfare recipients met with Wade Horn, Ph.D, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services as he convened the National TANF Listening Session in Chicago, IL. The entire day was organized and planned to solicit input and gain insight from state partners and stakeholders who are on the front lines of welfare reform.

Representatives from all 10 of the Midwest Hub states were in attendance, along with ACF staff from our Regional Offices. Joyce A. Thomas, Midwest Hub Director, began the session with greetings and introductions. Linda Lewis, RVII Regional Administrator, Andrew Bush, Director of the Office of Family Assistance, Bobbie Mowery, Acting DHHS Secretary's Representative (RVII) and Suzanne Krohn, Acting DHHS Secretary's Representative (RV) were greeted by the participants.

Dr. Wade Horn took time in the afternoon to visit the Hub Office and met with staff before concluding his Chicago visit.



The National Association of Community Action Agencies Fall Conference

Delegates from over 900 Community Action Agencies across the country convened its national association 2001 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. September 4th – 7th, member organizations attended pre-conference training, workshops and seminars, and heard from many energetic keynote speakers which included Clarence Carter, newly appointed director of the Office of Community Services (OCS) –DHHS.

A pre-conference meeting for Community Service Liaisons was hosted by Joyce A. Thomas, lead Hub Director. The meeting agenda gave participants an opportunity to discuss trends, accomplishments, the early alert system and future directions. The purpose of Community Service Liaisons is to provide regional coordination and dissemination of information to strengthen collaboration between OCS programs and Head start.



Hub Domestic Violence Seminar

Jody Raphael, Director for Research at the Center for Impact Research, and author on violence and poverty, was the MWH guest speaker on Domestic Violence, October 19, 2001. Her presentation entitled, “Domestic Violence and It's Impact on Children, Families and ACF Programs” was linked by utilizing video-conferencing. Staff of both offices received current statistics regarding Domestic Violence, the victim, the perpetrator, and teen dating. Ms. Raphael shared her ideas on ways to heighten awareness.

Youth Development Plans & Highlights

The Youth Network Council, the training & technical assistance provider for Region V will be host of the 3rd annual MWH Youth Development Conference, to be held in Chicago, IL. June 26 – 28, 2002. A planning committee of state partners, ACF staff, M.I.N.K staff, **(Region's VII Training & Technical Assistance Network)** are currently meeting monthly to plan this event. If you know of good keynote speakers or workshop presenters please contact Dale Scott (RVII), Marie Presley (RV) or Phil Onofrio (RV). Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Clarence Small, Hub Liaison was invited to participate in three national youth development conferences during the month of October. At the International Youth Volunteer Corps annual conference in Talequah, Oklahoma, October 24 –27th, He was part of the planning committee and also conducted workshops on Team-building and Peaceful Intervention. Clarence conducted a Total Quality Management training at the 4th annual Youth Workers Training Oct 19th 2001. It was hosted by YouthNet, a nationally recognized youth service project and co-hosted by the Kaufmann Foundation, nationally known for supporting youth development and promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Clarence participated as a member of the planning committee and emcee for the annual PeaceJam Conference. PeaceJam is an international youth conference which promotes youth development through service learning. Each year hundreds of high school youth are brought together to share ideas, resources and experiences, and the highlight of each conference is to invite a Nobel Laureate to speak to the youth. This year's guest was Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Northern Ireland. She was awarded the Noble Peace Prize for organizing Protestant and Catholics into the largest peace demonstrations in the history of Northern Ireland.



Focus on Fatherhood

The MWH hosted a seminar on Fatherhood which brought together the regional offices via video-conferencing. The speaker was Dr. Waldo E. Johnson, Jr., Asst. Professor at the University of Chicago. He gave valuable information on the issues of fatherhood/male involvement in the lives of children and families as it pertained to ACF programs and welfare reform. His presentation was based on a child welfare study and a fragile families study recently conducted throughout 20 US cities. Staff were intrigued by the data which included: factors of fatherless families; time – love & cash-care issues; and relationships. The presentation gave ACF staff a deeper look into the effects, and factors to consider as the MWH works to promote Responsible Fatherhood.



Children and Families Review Progress

Dick Schrader, CFS Hub Coordinator recently released a positive report regarding the MWH's CFS review process. Our Hub had a very successful year. We thank the many staff who went the extra mile to ensure this success. Most notably, Ron Stevens (RV), Mary McKee (RVII) and Rosalyn Wilson (RVII) who not only provided the leadership within our hub, but also provided valuable assistance as members of

the national CFS review team. Planning has begun for the 2002 CFS reviews in Ohio, Nebraska and Michigan.

Promoting Healthy Marriages Initiative

The MWH has been organizing and planning activities and events to support and promote the Healthy Marriages Initiative. Hub Leadership is making this a top priority to ensure that this initiative becomes integrated within office work plans and discussed so that staff begin to understand the concept, the facts and the importance. Plan include to developing a fact sheet with talking points for staff and developing a powerpoint presentation to be used for various training with stakeholders and partners.

Hub Images



Joyce A. Thomas and Andrew Bush



Invitees to the Listening Session



Dr. Wade Horn and Andrew Bush with TANF Consumers



Dr. Wade Horn and Andrew Bush