

GOVERNOR MATT BLUNT SIGNS HOUSE BILL 184

Citizens of St. Charles County rallied around Governor Matt Blunt's signing of House Bill 184 on July 5, 2007, an event hosted by Youth In Need at their St. Charles location. CCRB Board members, local government officials, and nonprofit representatives attended the signing. House Bill 184, sponsored by State Representative Tom Dempsey (District 18, St. Charles), stops future diversions of tax dollars to support TIF projects from funds collected in communities that have passed Children's Services Funds legislation. "We're talking about 'preventative medicine.'" [This is] pro-active legislation," said Rep. Dempsey. "Those children are going to be productive citizens in their adulthood because of the help they're going to get with the passage of this legislation. It means that more money will be going to help children in need."



APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2008 funding cycle are due at the Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) by 2:00 p.m. on September 28, 2007.

CCRB funds child and youth-serving non profit and public agencies providing services related to temporary shelter, respite care, family and community-based services, teen parent services, psychiatric services, substance abuse treatment, school-based prevention programs, transitional living, counseling, and crisis intervention services (as governed under Missouri revised statute 210.861).

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST PLANNED

The Community and Children's Resource Board is planning a St. Charles County Legislative Breakfast in fall 2007. Bruce Sowatsky, CCRB Executive Director, has announced that this year's breakfast will emphasize specific issues of most concern to child and youth-serving agencies. Local Missouri legislators will be invited to attend to learn first hand about problems related to mental health, substance abuse, child abuse and neglect prevention that are affecting this community's youth and their families.

"According to the 2007 KIDS COUNT information, Missouri has an overall ranking of 34 when compared to other states in terms of indicators of child well-being, which includes infant mortality, teen birth rate, child and youth death rate, and poverty. We are committed to working with legislators to raise awareness of children's needs and see a turnaround in our state's responses to these issues," says Sowatsky.

Details of the breakfast will be released and information emailed to partnering agencies when completed.

Second Shower of Love Scheduled for April 10, 2008

“We were tickled pink... and blue... from the responses we received following our first annual Shower of Love event held last April,” said Bruce Sowatsky, CCRB Executive Director. “We were able to raise over \$25,000 in cash and items for teen parents in St. Charles County. Amazingly, we collected nearly 14,000 diapers, 33,000 wipes, over 2,000 jars of baby food, 1,100 battles of lotion, wash, powder and shampoo, 160 cans of formulas, and thousands of other items. The staffs at Healthy Beginnings, Mary Queen of Angels, Crisis Nursery St. Charles and Youth In Need were most appreciative of the support from the event. More importantly, hundreds of families were able to be helped, and that made a big difference in the lives of their babies.”



The countywide baby shower received support from local hospitals, fire departments, grocery stores, banks corporations, churches, individuals and community groups such as Bikers Against Child Abuse, Rotary, Kiwanis, Optimist clubs and the Jaycees. Tim Ezell, KTVI Channel 2, broadcasted live from the Mid-Towne IGA.

“The Shower of Love’s mission is to provide tangible support to approximately 270 teen parents and their babies with the hope of eradicating child abuse and neglect in our county. Our goal is to “shower” these precious babies with loving care by collecting enough baby items for one year of each child,” adds Michelle McElfresh, fundraising chair for the event.

Plans are underway for the second-annual Shower of Love, which is scheduled for April 10, 2008. In addition to the aforementioned agencies that receive the proceeds which are then distributed to their clients will be Our Ladies Inn, a group maternity home located in Defiance.

Several corporations have already expressed interest in supporting the second-annual Shower of Love by becoming either a drop-off site, hosting an employee drive for the Shower and helping to sponsor the event. Corporate and business partners interested in taking part in the 2008 Shower of Love, please call 636.939.6200 for further information.

OPEN FORUM

A CCRB-sponsored Open Forum was held on August 7, 2007 at the St. Charles County Ambulance District office. The Forum gave the public and agencies the opportunity to discuss their 2008 requests and answer any questions. Representatives from 15 agencies made presentations to the Board of Directors.

“It was a good way for agencies to address their issues to the Board,” said Dr. Ron Berrey, Vice-Chairman of the CCRB Board of Directors.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS

The CCRB is making available \$1.2 million in capital funds for building projects for the 2008 fiscal year. The Board of Directors is in the process of determining community children and youth priority issues during Fall 2007 and will be calling for proposals in December (application format will be announced at a later date).

Agencies are encouraged to write the CCRB with recommendations for priority issues by the first of October. The application process will be available for currently funded and new agencies.

MID-YEAR REPORT DATA

2007 partner agency mid-year reports received in August are providing good detail on progress made in working with St. Charles County children, youth and families. Data on numbers of children and youth seen include:

School-Based Prevention: 22,818 children and youth served (4 agencies)
Respite Services: 393 served (3 agencies)
Home/Community Based Services: 1,836 served (3 agencies)
Counseling: 264 served (4 agencies)
Teen Parent: 161 served-including 36 children (2 agencies)
Substance Abuse Treatment: 141 served (2 agencies)
Crisis Intervention: 237 served (1 agency)
Psychiatry: 29 served (2 agencies)
Transitional Living: 14 served (1 agency)
Shelter Services: 31 served (1 agency)

TOTAL CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED: 25,924

Children's Trust Fund Grant Applications



Applications for the 2008 Children's Trust Fund License

Plate funds will be available online or by mail on October 1, 2007. The deadline for submitting applications is 2:00 p.m. on December 31, 2007. Funds must be used to support, develop, implement and evaluate child abuse and neglect prevention programs in St. Charles County, which are defined as any community-based education, family support or resource program designed to prevent, alleviate or reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect (see application for full range of allowable programs).

In 2007, \$10,000 was distributed to six area agencies. St. Charles County is one of 29 license plate partners with the Children's Trust Fund of Missouri, and has distributed over \$120,000 since the program began in 1998.

Partner Agency News.....

Youth In Need was named as one of three recipients of the Ladue News Charity of the Year award in June. Nearly 100 applications for the award was received by Ladue News, with nine finalists being selected. The award was based on Youth In Need's services to over 9,000 children, teens and families in the areas of residential treatment, outreach, early-childhood, educational and counseling programs.



Congratulations to Crider Health Center for being designated a federally qualified health center from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which is a part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. They will have sites in Warrenton, Wentzville and in Franklin County, and will be providing primary, behavioral and dental services. It's a difficult grant to receive, particularly on the first round!

Preferred Family Healthcare hosted a dedication of their newly remodeled recreation area and pavilion (Westbury location in St. Charles) on July 10 with a special gift of appreciation to St. Charles Mayor, Patti York.

Crisis Nursery celebrated its 21st anniversary in August!

The Child Center moved to a new location in Wentzville during the first week of September. They have announced that Bruce Sowatsky, CCRB Executive Director, is their Child Advocate of the Year. The award will be given at their annual banquet (Harvest Ball), which will be held on November 17 at the Holiday Inn in Wentzville.

F.A.C.T. has taken on the task of providing infrastructure support to a family organization, Our Voices Our Choices, for the St. Louis Youth in Transition program, funded through the Department of Mental Health's federal grant.



PUTTING KIDS FIRST Conference

Over 50 people attended a one-day Putting Kids First conference hosted by the CCRB on July 30 in Columbia, Missouri. The conference, designed for communities interested in developing local funding resources, was well received by individuals participating at the event.

The workshop provided attendees with a systematic approach for creating a successful campaign for children’s services. Keynote speakers included Dr. Terry Jones, Professor of Political Science at University of Missouri-St. Louis, CCRB Executive Director Bruce Sowatsky and Grants Administrator Jan Lewien, and Dr. Karl Wilson and Annie Schulte from Crider Health Center. The speakers addressed topics including development of needs assessments, polling and working with local governments, social marketing, message development, public education and the media, building a grassroots campaign, campaign leadership and finance, and building alliances. Conference attendees were very appreciative of the CCRB willingness to share their experiences.

“The Community and Children’s Resource Board would like to see children’s mental health needs being met throughout the State of Missouri,” said Board Chairman Vince Schneider. “This is one of the reasons we held the workshop and are willing to promote our experiences and strategies with the campaign.”

CCRB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CCRB FUNDED AGENCIES

Bridgeway Counseling.....	636.757.2300
Catholic Family Services.....	636.498.2273
Child Center.....	636.332.0899
Children’s Home Society.....	636.940.1119
Crider Health Center.....	636.332.6000
Crisis Nursery-St. Charles.....	636.947.0600
F.A.C.T.....	636.949.2425
Family Support Services.....	636.949.2546
Lutheran Family & Children’s Services.....	314.787.5100
Our Ladies Inn.....	636.398.5375
Preferred Family Healthcare.....	636.946.6376
Saints Joachim and Ann Care Service.....	636.441.1302
Salvation Army.....	636.240.4969
Youth In Need	636.946.5600