

Polk County Community Partnership for Protecting Children

CPPC

Volume 1, Issue 2

A Parent's Journey to Success

Jackie started using drugs at age 16 and never stopped until her daughter was born. She was age 34 at the time and was using meth on a daily basis. Jackie always thought I'll stop using if I get pulled over by the police, go to jail, or if I was pregnant. All those things happened and she was unable to stop using drugs, "nothing could stop me," Jackie said. The day before her daughter was to be released from the hospital, a social worker from DHS came to her room and informed her that her baby girl would not be going home with her because of the methamphetamine which was found both in Jackie and her baby's system.

Jackie remembers this being the lowest point in her entire life. She remembers scrambling to find a family member to take her new born baby. If a family member couldn't take her then she was going to be placed with strangers at a foster home. "This was the scariest point in my

life," Jackie stated. Jackie explained that she had to face the shame of what she had done to her baby and to her self.

Jackie had to let her family know what had occurred. Jackie's aunt and uncle agreed to take care of the little girl but told her she had one chance to make things better if they were going to take care of the child.

Jackie participated in the pre-removal conference hearing process. Her family members were there to support her. A plan was devised for visitation and what Jackie needed to do next. At this meeting Jackie met with the Parent Partner coordinator and became the first family to be mentored by a Parent Partner. She received treatment from House of Mercy Intensive Outpatient program. She reflects back on how she was ready to change but it was scary.

She had to rebuild relationships with her family, change all of her friends and

take on the role of her life time being Mia's mom. She was able to live in her sister's home while recovering.

Jackie received support from her Parent Partner by attending Family Team Meetings, Court Dates and Mom's Off Meth Group.

Throughout the period of being involved in the system, DHS was an important part. Jackie reflects back on if she resented DHS. She responded that she was in the wrong and needed to make changes. "If it wasn't for DHS I would still be out using meth and can't imagine what Mia and her life would be like today. It was a blessing that they came into my life."



Polk County



Four Strategies of CPPC

Shared Decision Making

Group – Each Community Partnership starts a local decision-making group who reviews child protection, guides the direction of the partnership and involves community members to participate and support the local partnership.

Family Team Meeting– Family team meetings are held with families who are at risk for child abuse and neglect and community members who are a part of that families networking.

Policy and Practice– Each Community Partnership site looks at the policies, practices, roles and responsibilities of those who work for children’s safety and protection to decide how to make children safer in the community and effectively intervene when a child is at risk of harm.

Neighborhood Networking– Each Partnership organizes a network of neighborhood and community supports to work together to protect children and their families.

Come get involved! If you would like to be a part of Community Partnership for Protecting Children in Polk County, please come to the meeting which is every third Tuesday of the month at Polk County River Place 2309 Euclid Ave. From 4– 5:30pm. You can also email Calleus Orr at corr@dhs.state.ia.us to see how CPPC can collaborate with your agency and help with special events or trainings. If you would like to use CPPC email contact list to distribute information about your event please send it to Calleus.

CPPC Mission in Polk County

1. To prevent child abuse before it occurs.
2. To address the issue of disproportionality, improving the well being of children of color in the child welfare system.

Parent Partner Support Group

Families Together is a support group facilitated by the Parent Partner program. This support group is held the third Sunday of each month at the House of Mercy from 2pm to 3pm.

The House of Mercy is located at 1409 Clark Street. Child care is provided during this time period. This support group can help you find answers to questions. It also will

give you the opportunity to share your experiences and help each other navigate through the system. We want to help keep families together.



“I can be a good parent no matter what my past”

CPPC Community Resource Fair

Children's games

Free Food

Raffle

January 23, 2010
12pm to 3pm
Grubb YMCA

Free backpacks

Entertainment

Resources



“Every parent needs someone to talk to”



Keeping children safe is everyone business.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN

This community approach to protecting children is supported and encouraged by the state of Iowa, with assistance from the federal government. The first Community Partnership for Protecting Children in Iowa, including here in Polk County, began in 2003. All 99 counties now have Community Partnership for Protecting Children. Each county is able to form its own Community Partnership for Protecting Children in their county.

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Upcoming Events and Training

MLK Volunteer Day

KIDS FEST!!! March 5th, 6th and 7th

Central Regional Meeting on February 11

Desire to Inspire in Ames— February 13th 9:00 –4:00 PM

Community Resource Fair— January 23rd from 12:00-3:00 at the Grubb YMCA

Parent Partner Support group- 3rd Sunday of the Month (House of mercy)

“ An old man walked up a shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm, A young man was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean. “Why do you bother?” the old man scoffed. “ Your’e not saving enough to make a difference.” The young man picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back to the water. “Made a difference to that one” he said.

Unknown Author

Remember you make a difference everyday.