

"A Whole Lot Of Shakin' Goin On"
Or... Trumbull County Moving Forward With
Integration of Family-Centered, Neighborhood-Based Services

Trumbull County Children Services is Shakin' and Bakin' with the integration of Family-Centered, Neighborhood-Based Services in their county. As a result of the leadership of Trumbull County CSB Executive Director, Attorney Craig Neuman, the agency is having positive and fruitful results in partnering with Trumbull county communities in new and significant ways.

In earlier articles I have shared that this approach to service delivery is founded on the philosophy that **"relationships are primary and everything else is a derivative."** Trumbull County CSB has taken this philosophy to heart. The following community-based activities were held this summer as a result of the agency's first efforts to assist with the development of a community collaborative on the southeast side of the county. The agency staff person responsible for partnering with community citizens on activating this approach to family and community is Ms. Cynthia Mason, the agency's Family-to-Family coordinator.

As a result of the hard work and efforts of caring community citizens, two events were sponsored this summer. It is amazing, and worthy of recognition that these individuals, in the early stages of their development as a collaborative, have already taken hold of this important work, are moving forward and making a difference!

Community Health and Safety Fair

Held on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, the southeast Warren Core Leader's group of the TCCSB Family to Family program held a "Community and Safety Fair" at a local church hall. This fair was targeted for families living in Warren, Ohio. The fair was family-based and open to the public. The purpose of the fair was to promote community, good health and safety for children and families. Fourteen agencies and organizations, with a total of 26 of their staff, participated in the event. Sixty persons from the neighborhood attended. Free raffles were held every 20 minutes, there was a "make an ice cream sundae" booth and lots of learning and fun!

Neighborhood Swap Meet

On September 19, 1998 in Warren, Ohio at the Washington Center, a neighborhood Swap Meet was held to give neighbors an opportunity to exchange toys, books and clothing with one another. This community event was the second such event planned by the southeast Warren Core Leader's group of the TCCSB Family to Family program to promote community and to encourage community members to learn more about Family to Family and the importance of supporting one another in times of need.

PCSAO is "Hats Off" to the southeast Warren Core Leader's group of the TCCSB Family to Family collaborative and to Trumbull County Children Services! We are inspired! ■