



*The Children's Advisory
Commission of Indiana County*

***Report Card
to the Community
2006***

*The Early Care and
Education Committee*

*Community Engagement Grant
Goals and Activities*

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ABOUT THE CHILDREN’S ADVISORY COMMISSION

Collaboration in Indiana County, PA can be encapsulated by the acronym “CAC”. “CAC” stands for the CHILDREN’S ADVISORY COMMISSION OF INDIANA COUNTY. The CAC has been working to realize its mission of *improving outcomes for children, adolescents, and families in Indiana County* for twelve years. The CAC is the parent organization for Community Engagement, as well as the collaborative for the County Integrated Children’s Services Plan. The CAC is also the Collaborative Board for projects such as Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit 28’s *Parent Child Home Program* and the Indiana County CYS Systems of Care grant. CAC members include representatives from each of the seven school districts in the county, human service agencies that serve children, county departments, health agencies and parent/community representatives.

Indiana County agencies that provide early education and care, school readiness and prevention services - -Head Start, Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit 28, United Way, Child Care Information Services, home visiting service agencies, Open Door and Indiana County Day Care -- are also among the members of the CAC.

“Expanding early-childhood initiatives gives students a greater opportunity to learn and grow, giving them a brighter future in the classroom. If our children are well cared for, we know that our communities are strong and our future is bright.” – Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell



The Early Care and Education Committee, and the Community Engagement Grant

The Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County (CAC) received a \$37,000 *Community Engagement Grant* funded by the PA Department of Public Welfare for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The work of the grant focused on increasing awareness in the community concerning the issues of **early care and education**. The grant was administered locally by the Indiana County Department of Human Services.

The Early Care and Education Committee (ECEC) is a committee of the Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County. The CAC will continue to be the decision making body for the general provisions of the grant.

The members of the Early Care and Education Committee include representatives from Child Care Information Services, Child Care, Indiana County Head Start, Public Education, Parent and Family Services, Indiana County Government, Indiana Regional Medical Center, PA Department of Health, League of Women Voters, Penn State Extension (Indiana Office), and the Indiana County community.

The ECEC oversees the activities of the Community Engagement Grant and works to: identify critical needs in the community; gather stakeholders for addressing needs; maximize the state and community resources available for improving child care; and, plan strategies to improve child care locally.

Part-time personnel funded by the FY 2005-06 grant included a Project Supervisor, an Information Coordinator, a Secretarial Support person, a Fiscal Director, and a Project Coordinator (consultant).



Activity Rating Key:

A A A A = Exceeded expectations

B B B = Met expectations

C C = More work needed

D = Did not meet expectations



This **Report Card to the Community** has been created to highlight the goals of the Community Engagement Grant in Fiscal Year 05-06. This report also rates the activities that were conducted to achieve the goals.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION



The Early Care and Engagement Grant for 05-06:

Priority Areas

State Requirements for the grant are:

- Promote Keystone STARS
- Conduct A Community Event (Family Fun Fest)
- Work on Transition/School Readiness Issues

Promoting KeyStone Stars:

Goal: There will be an increase in regulated child care providers who participate in Keystone STARS in Indiana County.

Outcome: Keystone STARS and Indiana County STARS participants will be recognized publicly.

Outcome: Indiana County Keystone STARS participants will be recognized within the early care and education community.

Activities that supported the goal:

Activity for Public Awareness	Activity Results	GRADE
Attend <i>Back to School</i> nights	Distribute Keystone STARS info to parents at 26 open houses, newsletter sign up	A A A A
Continue the CCIS newsletter to parents.	6 issues of the CCIS newsletter sent	B B B
Secure 50 new subscribers to the CCIS newsletter	Get Subscriptions at Fair, Open Houses, Family Fun Fest, Stand for Children and other sources.	A A A A
Publication of Gazette activity pages	1 out of 2 articles published	C C
Provide information to Kindergarten Registration	<i>What About Kindergarten?</i> Keystone STARS info given out at 13 Registrations	A A A A
Provide information to K-4 Orientations	Keystone STARS info distributed to families at 4 orientations	B B B
Keystone STARS information to agency newsletters, PSA'S, etc.	Community informed	A A A A
Research/ write content for above	Done monthly	A A A A
Web page up-date	Agency/provider/and public education	B B B

Activity For Provider Awareness	Activity Results	GRADE
Continue to distribute seasonal training calendars.	Providers receive training calendars	B B B
Continue to send the CCIS newsletter to providers.	SIX newsletters sent to providers	B B B
Two informational mailings to providers	Providers receive information from the ECEC	B B B
STRIPES 4 STARS: Supplying Tips, Resources and Information to Promote Enduring Success distributed to regulated providers	Regulated child care providers will receive monthly newsletters from the ECEC. Regulated child care providers participating in STARS will contribute to the newsletter.	Revised: Response from providers was poor - changed to quarterly newsletters D
Letters of congratulations and a certificate of accomplishment to each STARS participant that has received a STAR ONE level.	The Early Care Committee recognizes Keystone STARS participants	B B B

STARS LEVEL	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS AT THIS LEVEL: JULY 2005	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS AT THIS LEVEL: JULY 2006
Start with STARS	1	1
★	16	18
★★	6	6
★★★	1	4



Current Status of Indiana County Regulated Childcare Providers Participating in Keystone STARS

Keystone STARS is a system of continuous quality improvement for child care through Standards, Training/ Professional Development, Assistance, Resources, and Support. Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development to improve, support, and recognize quality child care programs in Pennsylvania. Keystone STARS works to support the capacity and quality of programs through performance standards, financial incentives, and STAR designation awards.

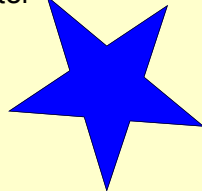
Child care providers are awarded a STAR One, STAR Two, STAR Three, or STAR Four quality rating based on their achievement of quality performance standards in the areas of staff education, learning environment, and administration. The star rating reflects standards of quality that are research based and linked to improved outcomes for children as related to social and emotional development, learning skills, and school readiness. For more information on STARS go online at www.pakeys.org.

Indiana County Child Care Provider STAR Status:

Start With STARS: Jodi McDivitt, Indiana
Darlene Palmer, Clymer

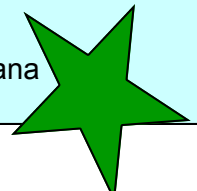
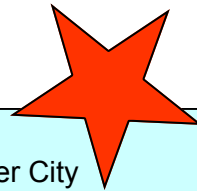
One STAR

- Almost Home Day Care, Marion Center
- Almost Home Day Care II, Clymer
- Almost Home Day Care III, Indiana
- Almost Home Day Care 4, Indiana
- Almost Home Day Care 5, Home
- Amy's Angels Daycare, Blairsville
- Beacon Day Care Center, Indiana
- Betty Polenik, Clymer
- Denise Barberich's Group Day Care Home, Blairsville
- Deborah Rend, Indiana
- Donna Rowley's Day Care, Blairsville
- Holly Henderson, Robinson
- Jen's Group Day Care, Indiana
- Linda Fulton, Indiana
- Margaret Kunkle, Indiana
- Stay N' Play, Homer Center
- Stay N' Play Day Care, Indiana
- The Ark Kids, Penn Run



Two STARS

- ABC FUN, Inc. , Homer City
- Indiana University Child Care, IUP Davis Hall, Indiana
- Grand Beginnings Children's Center-West, Indiana
- Kozy Kidz Daycare, Blairsville
- Marcella Pollock, Blairsville
- Trinity School Age Program, Indiana



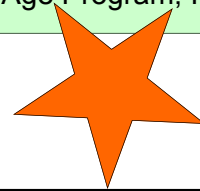
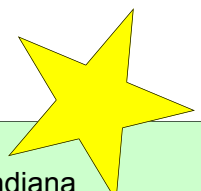
For more information on these child care providers call: **Child Care Information Services:** 724-349-8830



Reaching higher for quality early learning

Three STARS

- Grand Beginnings Children's Center -East, Indiana
- Ben Franklin Elementary School Age Program, Indiana
- Homer Center Elementary School-Age
- Horace Mann Elementary School-Age Program, Indiana



"Early childhood experiences are powerful enough to completely change the way a person turns out." Harry Chugani, M.D., *Professor of Pediatrics, Wayne State University School of Medicine's Children's Hospital of Michigan*