Community Engagement Institute (CEI) Monthly Newsletter

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter to stay in the loop about the latest news, upcoming events, job openings, and more. In case you missed a release edition, view a list of archived newsletters below!

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

CEI HIGHLIGHTS

A RECAP OF THE 2024 KANSAS GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Over 550 Kansas public health practitioners and 125 vendor participants gathered in Wichita for the Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference (GPHC) March 2-4, where Governor Laura Kelly made a special guest appearance. The conference brought together national speakers, state leaders, and regional experts to address crucial issues in public health in aims to build a healthier and more resilient Kansas.

Shout-out to CEI members from Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI), Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE), and Center for Organizational Development (COD) for attending, participating and leading sessions at the conference!

CPHI hosted two vendor booths to promote CEI services and opportunities to connect through the Kansas Public Health Collaborative.

kAron Davis and Taylor Carter (CPHI) led a two-part workshop titled, *"Adding AI to your Daily Public Health Toolkit."* Dr. Sarah Jolley (CARE) co-led a breakout session titled *"Rising from the Ashes: Rebuilding the Image of the Health Department."* Sonja Armbruster (CPHI) and Seth Bate (COD) provided a well-attended breakout session on developing team culture called, *"I Care, You Care, Self Care, Team Care."*

The conference provided a great opportunity for CEI to showcase collaboration with statewide partners and partnerships within CEI.

Learn more about the conference and view the conference brochure.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: A YEAR OF IMPACT WITH AMERICORPS

Congratulations to the AmeriCorps Program for a successful year of making an impact in our community! We appreciate your hard work and dedication to making the world a better place.

Along with CEI, the AmeriCorps Program offers capacity building services and direct volunteer opportunities to members of the community interested in combating poverty. This year, 34 AmeriCorps State members and 11 VISTAs served at 8 agencies totaling more than 28,025 service hours.

The highlights from 2023 include the positive influence the program made at ICT Food Rescue, The Kansas African American Museum, The Center, Sedgwick County Health Department and StepMC.

If you are interested in working for the AmeriCorps Program, see the open positions below. To apply, email Angela Gaughan.

AmeriCorps

- **Family Promise**: Graduate Leadership Position (PT or FT)
- **Urban League**: Outreach Coordinator (PT or FT)
- **Legacy Ministries**: Youth Development (PT)
- **Midwest Bird Buddies**: Business Liaison (PT)
- **Center for Public Health Initiatives**: Public Health (PT)
- **NAMI**: Outreach Coordinator (PT)
- **KanCare Ombudsman**: Resource Development Position (PT)
- **Holy Family Medical**: Community Outreach (FT)
- **Passageways**: Outreach Coordinator (FT)

LAUNCHING "IT MATTERS": PROMOTING POSITIVE EXPERIENCES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

CEI's Prevention Initiatives (PI) team members, Chad Childs and Abbi Wend, hosted a launch party for the new "It Matters" materials, which emphasizes the importance of portraying positive experiences for youth and young adults without using or misusing substances. The event included a video presentation, a detailed overview of the website's navigation, and discussions about the strategic use of "It Matters" materials within communities. With 40 registrants and many excited attendees, the launch party was a huge success!

Learn more about "It Matters."

UPCOMING EVENTS

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE SPRING 2024 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES
April 3: Equity – A Key to Greater Teamwork
April 10: The Work of Teaming
April 17: Worst Practices in Team Performance
April 24: Going Far, Together

Join one, several, or all of these interactive workshops to learn about effective teamwork. The workshops are virtual via Zoom, provided by CEI's staff, 60-minutes and open to everyone!

Register

WEAR BLUE DAY TO SUPPORT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
April 5

Kansas Child Service League (KCSL) encourages you to wear blue along with friends, family, and colleagues to show support for Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month. Share photos to social media using #WearBlueDay2024, #CAPMonthKS, and #BuildingHopefulFutures and make sure to tag Kansas Children's Service League on Facebook and Instagram.

Learn more about KCSL

SAVE THE DATE
KANSAS PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE (KPC) CONFERENCE 2024
Harvesting Hope in the Heartland

October 3 – 4
Pre-Conference: October 2
Wichita, Kan.

The KPC Conference provides educational opportunities to increase awareness of emerging trends, build skills and knowledge to prevent suicide, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse, and advocate for best practices. The conference hosts state and local professionals from the various facets of the substance misuse prevention field and related disciplines.

Learn more

SAVE THE DATE
CEI'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
October 28 | 4 – 6 p.m.

We are hosting a memorable event to celebrate our 40th anniversary and you are invited! We all will have the chance to hear from guest speakers, Dr. Richard Muma, WSU President, and Dr. Shirley Lefever, WSU Executive Vice President and Provost. You are invited to share your CEI memories with us so we can share them at the celebration.

More details to come!

Share your CEI history

THE POWER OF US

HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
HIGHLIGHTING DR. TARA GREGORY
Director of CEI's Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE)

Dr. Gregory was initially attracted to the organization [CEI] due to its focus on community psychology and promoting individual well-being through supportive communities. Since joining in 1985, she has witnessed significant cultural evolution, from grassroots beginnings to a more structured environment. Her role has transitioned from assisting self-help groups to leading research and evaluation efforts. Memorable colleagues like Masskiah Thomas and Paulette Goines have influenced her understanding of diversity and equity within the organization, leaving a lasting impact on its approach to these issues.

Thank you for all you do, Dr. Gregory!

POWER OF US

CEI PARTNER SHOUT-OUT

WICHITA COALITION FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
Get ready for April 2024: Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month
National theme:"Building A Hopeful Future, Together."

Throughout CAP Month, Prevent Child Abuse America and Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) are building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention. Communities must build positive futures together in partnership.

KCSL oversees the Wichita Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention (WCCAP), which is comprised of 60 agencies across the state to carry out child abuse prevention initiatives and bring awareness to this issue. WCCAP's mission is to empower organizations in Wichita to create an effective system to prevent child abuse and neglect.

CEI staff, Juliane Walker and Carri McMahon, continued working with the WCCAP, assisting with facilitation of their coalition meetings, leadership team meetings, and workgroups. Since 2008, our staff have partnered with WCCAP to support them as they create resources and raise awareness to protect children in Wichita.

Learn more about KCSL, the WCCAP, and view upcoming events to celebrate Child Abuse Prevention month!

Kansas Children's Service League
Stronger families start here.

WHAT WE ARE READING

KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE
Informing Policy. Improving Health.

2024 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS: COUNTY PROFILES
Kansas Health Institute (KHI)

On March 20, the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Annual Data Release provides an updated snapshot of health for each county across the nation. KHI serves as the state team for the 2024 CHR&R release in Kansas and offers county specific profiles with data trends and comparisons to the rest of the state and nation. Read more.

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