Community Engagement Institute (CEI) Monthly Newsletter

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MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

CEI HIGHLIGHTS

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES' CHAMPIONS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AI INNOVATION

CEI's Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) took center stage at the Kansas Association of County Commissioners conference in Pittsburg, presenting two workshops that underscored their dedication to supporting county governments and advancing public health through innovative strategies and technologies.

AAron Davis of CPHI, with support from Program Specialist Juliane Walker, led a session titled "Unlocking the Power of Community through Engagement Strategies." This workshop explored various community engagement models and showcased successful examples from across Kansas. Commissioners were actively engaged in rethinking and refining their own strategies, reinforcing the vital role of government in promoting civic participation and supporting a range of county responsibilities.

In a session titled "Ethical AI in Action: A Hands-On Guide for County Commissioners and Local Government Staff," AAron Davis partnered with Tatiana Lin of the Kansas Health Institute to discuss the cautious yet enthusiastic adoption of AI to enhance local government productivity. The session highlighted the transformative potential of AI, illustrated by the experience of one County Clerk who initially expressed a desire to retire due to the advent of AI but found renewed enthusiasm for her role after using ChatGPT during the workshop. She noted that the generative AI solution enabled her to accomplish tasks more efficiently, reigniting her commitment to public service.

Both workshops emphasized the importance of advancing effective local government operations. The positive reception and active participation from county commissioners reflected a strong interest in pursuing further opportunities to enhance the work and reputation of local governments. This engagement underscores CPHI's expertise and its ongoing partnership with the Kansas Association of Counties in promoting the health and well-being of residents.

Learn more about the conference.

KANSAS CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: SURVEY OF EXPERIENCES AND BARRIERS OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Drs. Tarang Gregory, Lynn Schrepferman, and Amber Dean, along with Cassie LeBrun-Martin, Nadine Long, Lisa Jones, and former Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE) Research Scientist Dr. Nicole Freund, conducted a study involving families eligible for the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Child Care Assistance benefit regarding their perceptions of the program. CARE staff created and administered a survey regarding reasons why eligible families hadn't applied for the program as well as the experiences of those who had applied and/or received benefits. Staff worked with child care organizations across Kansas to recruit parents to complete the survey.

CARE staff received 770 valid responses and did interviews with six parents and six professionals involved in the child care system. In general, the reasons families didn't access the benefit were the lack of quality child care in their area, stigma attached to "welfare," concerns about requirements for participation, and concerns about engaging with DCF in general. The report was recently released by DCF, view here.

PARTNER WITH AMERICORPS NCCC FOR SERVICE PROJECTS ACROSS KANSAS

The CEI AmeriCorps Kansas and AmeriCorps VISTA programs partner with other AmeriCorps programs across the country. One opportunity from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is to apply to have one of their teams work with agencies across the state. You can submit a request for a 6-13-week service project. This flyer covers core information on the program and the activities teams help support — everything from disaster recovery to affordable housing construction to building community gardens and tutoring and mentoring youth!

NCCC is interested in finding new partners and projects to work on in Kansas, so if you have any interest please reach out to Kansas' NCCC main contact: Assistant Program Director, Ka Vang at (202) 914-8429 or kvang@americorps.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW) SYMPOSIUM 2024
June 11 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Pre-Symposium Event: June 10 from 1 – 5 p.m. Wichita, Kan.

Attend the Kansas CHW Symposium for a day filled with a wide variety of speakers, breakout sessions, and activities with CHWs from across the state. The theme of this year is *"Evolving CHWs: Fostering Leaders, Amplifying Voices, and Advocating for Sustainability."*

Our keynote speakers (pictured) are Co-Executive Directors and Co-Principal Investigators for the CHW Center for Research and Evaluation.

If you are already planning on coming to the symposium and will be here a day early, attend the Pre-Symposium Event! Experience educational speakers, the premiere of the new CHW documentary, and a social gathering to follow.

- Our registration is at maximum capacity, but you can join the waitlist.
- Learn more about the symposium.
- Contact CEI's Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) with questions.

VICTORIA ADEWUMI
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CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS
KANSAS PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE (KPC) CONFERENCE 2024
Harvesting Hope in the Heartland
October 3 – 4 | Pre-Conference: October 2 | Wichita, Kan.

Share your knowledge and expertise at the 2024 KPC Conference!

The 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 KPC Conference hosts state and local professionals from the various facets of the substance misuse prevention field and related disciplines. Conference breakouts on October 3-4 will be 45-minute, 60-minute or 90-minute sessions.

The Kansas Prevention Conference invites presentations that:

- Reflect on emerging techniques and cutting-edge content related to substance use or suicide prevention
- Provide useful content for the public and prevention professionals
- Stimulate and provoke discussion and audience engagement
- Deliver model practices using approaches for different types of learners
- Present evidence-based strategies
- Use multimedia approaches to enhance attendee learning

The call for presentations will close on June 17, 2024, at 5 p.m.

- Learn more about the conference
- Submit a presentation proposal
- View sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities

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

Did you know that in October 2013 as the Center for Community Support and Research (CCSR), we began a new Self-Help Services Program that would provide Medicaid providers and recipients greater access to no-cost and low-cost self-help groups in Kansas. Read more about this timeline rewind from October 1, 2010.

What history do you have with CEI? 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

CELEBRATING CEI'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY
RECOGNIZING DR. SARAH JOLLEY
Center for Applied Research & Evaluation

Sarah Jolley, PhD, recently celebrated her remarkable 22-year journey with CEI, where she currently serves as the Evaluation Projects Coordinator, also recognized as a Program Manager.

When asked what drew her to working here, she said, *"I was fresh out of college, and this was a job with a salary and benefits that was also related to my college degree. What could be better?"* She goes on to share, *"My biggest success during my time here was getting my PhD. I had been working here for almost five years before I decided to go to graduate school, and it was a big decision that came with a big commitment. I was blessed to have the support of my family, friends, and close colleagues at CEI throughout that (long and expensive) process."*

Thank you, Dr. Jolley, for being a significant part of CEI's history and future.

CEI PARTNER SHOUT-OUT

THE KANSAS AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The Kansas African American Museum (TKAAM) aims to make the African American experience in Kansas resonate with every Kansan.

Once the cornerstone of Wichita's black community, TKAAM was formerly the Calvary Baptist Church, built in 1917 by its congregation's leaders. This community thrived with restaurants, businesses, homes, jazz artists, and Negro League baseball stars. It was also home to America's first African American Academy Award winner and Martin Luther King Jr.'s lawyer.

The building stands as a monument to endurance and dignity. The people who worshiped there endured racial segregation and fought it with dignity. TKAAM aspires to be the premier place where communities come to learn about and share the Kansas African American story. The museum has embarked on a $6 million campaign to fund a new home for the museum. The new location at 201 North Main in downtown Wichita, will provide twice the space for programming, exhibition, and research compared to TKAAM's current home.

KAAM and CEI are collaborating to host WSU AmeriCorps Kansas member Aaron Neal (pictured). In his role, Aaron has added value by developing programs in the education department. He has assisted in creating educational content for social media, garnering over 4,000 views.

"I am eager to learn and share this information with my community," Aaron said. *"I like to shine a light on trailblazers from Kansas."*

Schedule your educational experience today with the TKAAM.

WHAT CEI IS READING

WORDS MATTER: PREFERRED LANGUAGE FOR TALKING ABOUT ADDICTION

Check out an article from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) emphasizing the importance of using non-stigmatizing language when discussing addiction. Stigmatizing terms can prevent individuals with substance use disorders from seeking help. NIDA recommends using person-first language, which focuses on the individual rather than their condition. For example, use "person with a substance use disorder" instead of "addict." The goal is to reduce negative stereotypes and support recovery. The article also includes a table of preferred terms and those to avoid, along with reasons for these choices.

For more information, visit NIDA's Words Matter.

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