

Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For April-May 2010
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds

Highlights of April-May 2010

- Invitations were sent to commissioners, elected officials, and those running for offices for the Legislative Breakfast scheduled for June 17th.
- We are about to complete the FDC training (training for family resource workers in our region). We will take the final test in late May. This has been a great training, one appropriate for staff in many of your organizations. I would like to begin to look for funds to sponsor this class again in the next year or so.
- I attended the Colorado Children's Trust Fund grant reading session for this year's CCTF grant proposals. It was a great learning experience for me and I hope will improve my grant writing skills.
- I spent several days/evenings this month evaluating the various Getting Ahead Programs in Northeast Colorado. This program is a very exciting project for this region. All facilitators are doing great work in the counties and the classes are going great. I visited the following program:
 - Logan County—Mickie Sjoberg, facilitator
 - Yuma County—Kerri Hansen, facilitator
 - Phillips County—Pam Gibbs, facilitator
 - Lincoln County—Rose Padilla, facilitator. I attended the graduation for this group.
 - Washington County—Jamie Bacon, facilitator.
 - Graduation celebration for Washington and Logan County investigators
- I attended the Eastern Region Workforce Center Board meeting as a new board member.
- Staff have been very busy in April and May attending health fairs and resource fairs. They represent Rural Solutions well. Be sure to take a look at their monthly reports.
- Don't forget that we have a small meeting room in our office if you need to use it, holds about 8 comfortably with phone conferencing available.
- Several staff attended the Mental Health First Aid training in Yuma.

Financial News

- The Finance Committee met several times during April to work on next year's budget. The Health Disparities grant ends June 30th and this will seriously affect our budget.

Preventing Suicide Initiative and Office of Suicide Prevention Grant for Seniors.

- Please see Maranda's monthly report.

Health Disparities Grant

- Please see Michelle's monthly report.

Rural Philanthropy Days Continuation Grant

- We sponsored a QuickBooks for Nonprofits training in Yuma on April 27th. It was a follow up training for those organizations that attended the initial training in November.
- We are sponsoring a Board Training in Sterling on June 14th. Tom Westfall is facilitating the workshop. He facilitated this same training in Yuma in January and the evaluations were very positive so seems to be a great training. Spread the word.

Bridges out of Poverty

- I presented this training in Sterling for Centennial Mental Health. There were about 40 people in the training. Great group! Plans are to have a second training in Fort Morgan for CMHC in July.

Fatherhood Initiative

- Rural Solutions submitted for the 4th round of funding for the Fatherhood Grant.

Community Connections

- April 6th: Attended Early Childhood Council meeting in Akron.
- April 8th: Attended the Colorado Children's Trust Fund grant proposal meeting in Denver.
- April 20th: Attended the Temple Hoyne Buell open house here in Sterling. They had their quarterly board meeting here in Sterling and sponsored the open house to meet with grantees and others in NE Colorado.
- April 22nd: Attended the Eastern Region Workforce board meeting in Holyoke.
- April 29th: Presented a Bridges out of Poverty training for Centennial Mental Health staff here in Sterling.
- May 6th: Attended a Human Services Committee hearing to be confirmed by the Colorado Senate to be a board member for the Colorado Children's Trust Fund.
- May 11th: Attended the Colorado Children's Trust Fund board meeting in Denver.
- May 11th: Met with Shawn Young again from Advocates for Young Adults who sits on the Governor's Jobs Task Force. He is interested in working with organizations in Northeast Colorado developing programs to work with people who live in poverty. We continue to meet and discuss possible collaborations for services in Northeast Colorado.

- May 12th: Attended the *Getting Ahead* graduation ceremony for graduates in Logan and Washington counties. We had visitors from Montana and Slovakia attend the event to learn more about our program.
- May 21st: Met with the Outreach Workers and Twyla Martinez from the Office of Health Disparities to evaluate the Health Disparities grant for the last time.
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Upcoming Events and News:

May 24-28th: I will be on vacation.

June 14th: Board Development Training for Nonprofit Organizations here in Sterling. Tom Westfall will facilitate this training.

June 9th: Rural Solutions Golf Raffle drawing here at the office at 2 p.m.

June 17th: Legislative Breakfast in Akron, 8:30 -12:00.

June 30th: Rural Solutions Annual Board Retreat. It will be in Fort Morgan at Elaine's Place, the restaurant adjacent to the golf course.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds
Executive Director