

Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For November and December 2009
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds

Highlights of November and December

- The Child Abuse Study Summit was held in Denver on November 5-6th. Northeast Colorado was very well represented. Thank you if you attended or sent staff to the summit. The Study is just about completed. The final report should be interesting.
- The State Strategic Use Funds (SSUF) grant and the NECLAG/ARRA grant is getting geared up to provide classes in the various counties. The grant will fund the Getting Ahead Program in the counties in NE Colorado. The Getting Ahead classes are now in progress in Morgan County. Most other classes will begin in January. The grant is a collaborative effort with the following organizations:
 - Rural Solutions in Logan County
 - Washington County Connections,
 - Resource Center in Yuma County.
 - Prairie Family Center in Burlington.
 - Morgan County Family Center.
 - Pam Gibbs, facilitator, in Sedgwick and Phillips counties.
 - Rose Padilla, facilitator, in Elbert and Lincoln counties.
- Centennial Mental Health has received a grant through the work of the First Lady of Colorado, Jeannie Ritter. I attended the second meeting for The "Centennial Mental Health's Communities Coming Together for Mental Health Initiative" in Yuma with community stakeholders who are interested in integrated mental health services in Northeast Colorado.
- The FDC training (training for family resource workers in our region) continues to go well. We meet twice a month in Akron.
- Rural Solutions received a grant through the Office of Suicide Prevention for Project Safety Net. This grant will provide more support for our current suicide prevention programs. In addition, Maranda and CMH staff will become ASIST trainers for NE Colorado. They will then provide ASIST trainings to professionals who work with people who may be suicidal. This training is expensive and intensive so we are excited to bring it to our region. This is a great collaborative effort with CMH.
- 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.
- The Personnel Committee met to review job performance evaluations for Jackie, Michelle, and Maranda and make staff recommendations for next year. Jackie has also started the job performance evaluation with Mickie as she has been employed for 90 days.

- I attended the Colorado Children's Trust Fund meeting in Denver. The Board asked me to continue with the Board for the next three years.
- The Workforce Center asked me to represent the community and be a part of a panel to interview potential employees. Interesting experience.
- We have been working with the Women's Wellness Connection to create a contract to work with women through the Community-Based Screening Navigation Pilot Project for Northeast Colorado. It is going to be a collaborative project with Rural Communities Resource Center in Washington and Yuma counties. We will work with women in the region for six months to help them access care through this program.
- We have also been working with the Second Wind Fund to complete a contract to begin an affiliate in Northeast Colorado. Maranda and I have spent quite a lot of time working on this project which we will complete in early January.
- On December 21-22nd we had two days of staff training.
- The Rural Solutions office was closed from December 23-January 3rd while we all took a few days vacation.

Financial News

- We began the Safety Net Grant in November, 2009. Total grant for year one: \$52,175.
- Our accountant Dave Kauffman completed our 990 tax return, due November 15th. He is doing a review of our financial records this year.
- We have continued with a new round of funding with the Rural Philanthropy Days grant for the next year to provide trainings and support to nonprofits in the region.

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 on November 20th. Around 15 nonprofits attended the training.
- We published a new edition of the RPD Newsletter for December.
- El Pomar is planning a luncheon for recipients of their grants in February. Courtney called and would like to provide training in the afternoon and co-sponsor with Rural Solutions. It is nice to be asked to collaborate with organizations such as El Pomar.

Fatherhood Initiative

- Please see Glenda's report.

Community Connections

- November 3:"Attended" Wind Energy Advisory Group Webinar meeting.
- November 5-6th: Attended Child Abuse Study Summit in Denver.
- November 13th: FDC training in Akron.
- November 16th: Met with Shawn Young 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.
- November 17th: Attended Centennial Mental Health Communities Coming Together meeting in Yuma.
- November 20th: Attended the NECALG Non-emergent Transportation Advisory Council meeting in Sterling.
- November 20th: Rural Solutions and RPD sponsored the QuickBooks Training in Yuma for nonprofits. Michelle attended the training.
- November 30th: Attended the Help for Abused Partners Outreach Luncheon in Julesburg to discuss programs of Rural Solutions.
- December 2nd: Rural Solutions Personnel Committee meeting.
- December 4th: FDC training in Akron.
- December 11th: Colorado Children's Trust Fund meeting in Denver.
- December 14th: Served on an employee selection committee for the Workforce Center to hire new staff.
- December 15th: Attended the Logan/Morgan County Education Consortium in Fort Morgan.
- December 17th: Hosted RPD yearly update Webinar to discuss successes of the RPD grant and work.
- December 18th: FDC training in Akron.
- December 21-22nd: Staff training days.

Upcoming Events and News:

January 27th: Progressive 15 Legislative Day in Denver.

January 28-29: Suicide Prevention Conference for Office of Suicide Prevention and/or Colorado Trust grantees in Denver.

January 19th: Nonprofit Board Member training with Tom Westfall in Yuma, 6-9 pm.

January 12th and 26th: Centennial Mental Health Communities Coming Together meetings in Yuma.

February 24th: El Pomar Luncheon and training in Fort Morgan.