



3435 Liberty Drive
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e-news

October 2006



ICAA Winter Membership Conference

This year the ICAA Winter Membership Conference will be held December 11-12 at the Embassy Suites Lakefront in downtown Chicago. This venue offers many amenities including made to order breakfast and a manager's reception every evening.

In addition to regular ICAA, ICADC and ICAF business there are workshops and focus groups scheduled. The Head Start PRISM workshop is being presented by HHS Region V and will answer questions about the 2007 PRISM. The Diversity workshop is being presented by Jon L. Walker, a registered master trainer from Texas. Mr. Walker recently spoke at the Head Start conference in Peoria and is excited to interact with the Community Action Network again. His workshop is sure to be compelling and worthwhile. The Micro-Enterprise Development workshop will provide agencies with information on how to generate unrestricted funds. This development workshop is geared toward Executive Directors and administrative staff. The Fiscal workshop will be presented by Sikich, LLP and will cover important information on financial management, red flags, internal controls and audit reports for fiscal staff and Executive Directors.

This year we are asking the Membership's input on what topics should be covered in the Focus Group (formerly Forum) discussions. The following Focus Groups are being convened: LIHEAP, Weatherization, Head Start, Housing and Executive Directors. If you would like to suggest a topic to be discussed please forward your suggestions to sratcliffe@icaanet.org.

Keep an eye out for additional information about the Winter Conference. A registration form appears on the last page of this newsletter for your convenience. See you in Chicago!

Utilities Still Blocking Percentage of Income Payment Plan

Despite three years of advocacy and a clear commitment from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to implement a Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) pilot project, the regulated utilities are still blocking attempts to move the plan forward. The utilities are still insisting on their proposal which seems to be little more than a plan that would guarantee that the state would have to pay 100% of all the arrearages of the participants in the pilot project. Both the Department and ICAA have insisted that this is not an option.

ICAA has continued to negotiate a pilot project designed on the Affordable Energy Plan that was first proposed three years ago. While this has been frustrating, ICAA will continue to work with other advocates and the Department to come to a reasonable solution. These negotiations are expected to resume once the election is over.

Appeal to the Energy Committee

ICAA is seeking to utilize the energy committee and other interested CAA staff to assist in ICAA projects designed to build the capacity of the network and to advocate on behalf of the network.

Best Practice Toolkits

ICAA proposes to develop best practice guides or tools that will assist the agencies in the following areas:

- Outreach
- Coordinated intake and referral processes
- Collaborations with other community-based organizations
- Training guidelines for staff

The purpose is to prepare agencies for the Department's performance evaluation process and share best practices in the network to strengthen the programs of all of the agencies.

Statewide Report on LIHEAP and Statewide Report on Weatherization

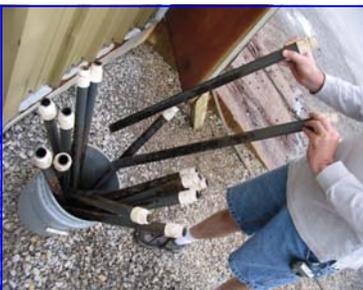
ICAA will produce two reports, one for LIHEAP and one for Weatherization. Each report will describe the impact of these programs in the state of Illinois and will be based on fiscal year 2006 data. ICAA would like to utilize the committee to review/oversee the development of these reports and serve as a resource to obtain local success stories and other agency data pertaining to the programs. ICAA will also be partnering with the University of Illinois in conducting some of the analysis of the data including calculating a formula for return on investment, particularly for Weatherization.

The members of the Energy Committee include:

Kris White	Will County
Tina Lovejoy	WIRC
Rebecca Millburg	Sangamon County
Joe Broers	Illinois Valley
Becky Pruden	Two Rivers Regional Council
Quintilla Batiste	Shawnee
Rhea McCarty	CEFS
Kathy Walk	CEFS
Roshelle Gardner-Williams	Madison County
Brian Kuglich	Dupage
Mark Bixby	Rockford
Brenda McDade	ERBA
Dennis Stevens	ERBA
Diane Lopez	Project Now
Nancy Kane-Richards	Community Contacts
Lynne Neslund	Community Contacts

Please contact Michelle Pulce at ICAA, 217-789-0125, if your agency would be interested in participating in these projects.

RCAP



Backwash tubes

Illinois RCAP assisted the Village of Ridgway with their interim plan to eliminate arsenic from their drinking water. RCAP assisted with the media change in one of the pressure filters (Photos, backwash tubes from inside of filter bed, and tube attachment manifold at bottom of filter) and reviewed the engineering of the pre-oxidation treatment that would convert arsenate into arsenite. Once oxidized the arsenic has an affinity for iron and precipitates out of the water. Ridgway's water supply contains iron but not enough to achieve the desired results. With some fine tuning the water supply is now with in the IEPA limits for arsenic in drinking water. RCAP continues to work with the Village of Ridgway on administration of their



Tube attachment manifold

design grant for a new water treatment facility.

HUD Peer to Peer Conference



Rep. Wyvetter Younge addresses the Peer to Peer attendees

The Holiday Inn in Collinsville was the site of the Eighth Annual HUD Peer-to-Peer Homeless Provider conference on September 13 and 14. ICAA HUD and ICAA hosted approximately 245 providers of emergency, transitional and permanent housing, and supportive services in one of the best events since the conferences began in 1999. Peer-to-Peer is funded by the HUD Regional Office in Chicago.

ICAA's John Colgan, HUD Regional Director Joseph P. Galvan, HUD Community Planning and Development Director Ray Willis, Madison County Board Chair Alan Dunstan, and St. Clair County Community Action Division Manager Althea Bush were among those that welcomed the enthusiastic crowd. Representative Wyvetter Younge from East St. Louis gave the opening keynote address.

Nan Roman, Executive Director of the National Alliance to End Homelessness gave the main keynote address on the afternoon of the first day. Conferees found her remarks informative and inspiring. Opening the second day was Bill Pluta, Manager of IHDA's Office of Housing Coordination Services. Mr. Pluta gave those present a preview of the forthcoming request for proposals for the state's new Rental Housing Support Program.

Other than the always highly rated Consumer Panel, the three top-rated workshops (based on the average rating per participant) were:

1. Harm Reduction Approaches in Permanent Supportive Housing – Ed Stellan, Director, Resource and Community Development, Heartland Health Outreach, Chicago, Illinois; and Fred Maclin, Housing Programs Manager, Christian Community Health Center, Chicago, Illinois
2. Law Enforcement and Continuums of Care: a Great Partnership – Sgt. John Albrecht, Joliet Police Department, Joliet, Illinois; and Maureen Pool, Continuum Coordinator, Will County Center for Community Concerns, Joliet, Illinois
3. Framework for Understanding Poverty – Christine Westerlund, Training Specialist, Illinois Community Action Association, Springfield, Illinois.



Don Harris and Dan Little speak about Rural Housing Development

Other workshops covered a wide range of topics including Collaborative Supportive Housing, Crisis Intervention Teams, Coordinating Clinical Care and Housing, Social



Attendees listen to the always popular Consumer Panel

Entrepreneurship, Eviction Prevention, Housing Development in Rural Areas (featuring Dan Little, MCS Community Services; and Don Harris, ICAA), Universal Design and Persons with Disabilities, Layered Financing, HUD Technical Issues, and Prisoner Release into the Shelter System.

The session, Clients with Disabilities, Information and Referral and Advocacy was quite unique, focusing on the difficulties encountered by Anita Mazique, a hearing impaired woman from Hoffman Estates, as she sought housing for herself and her profoundly handicapped young son. Conferees discussed possible steps toward resolving Ms. Mazique's continuing dilemma and gained a new appreciation of the needs of persons with disabilities. Supplementing Ms. Mazique's presentation was David Rodgers with Oakton Community College in

Des Plaines, Illinois.

Agency tours took conferees to visit seven local sites in Madison and St. Clair Counties.

David Harrison from Madison County Community Development and Beverley Evansco from the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department provided invaluable assistance in planning this year's conference. Planning for next year will begin in earnest in January.



Bill Pluta discusses the Rental Housing Support Program.

ICAA Winter Conference

Monday, December 11

Tuesday, December 12

Registration

Full Conference Registration is \$220.00 per attendee
 One day registration is \$150.00 per attendee
(indicate which day attending)

7:45-8:30 **Registration**

8:30-9:00 **Opening Session**

9:00-9:45 **Legislative Committee of the Whole**

Get an update on important Community Action Legislation. Know the facts so you can act!

9:45-10:30 **ICAA Business Meeting**

Important ICAA Business will be reported at this meeting. See what your Association has been doing on your behalf.

10:30-11:15 **ICADC Business Meeting**

All new and old housing projects will be discussed.

11:15-11:45 **ICAF Business Meeting**

All are invited to learn about how ICAF can benefit the Community Action Network.

11:45-1:15 **Lunch**

Jon L. Walker, Professional Registered Master Trainer will be the keynote speaker.

1:30-3:30 **Workshops *sign up for one***

- Head Start PRISM Workshop**
HHS Region V will present a workshop all about the 2007 PRISM and what you need to know.
- Diversity Workshop** - Working with multi-cultural populations can be challenging. Attend this workshop to be engaged and enlightened.
- Micro-Enterprise Development - A Means to Unrestricted Cash**
This workshop will provide information on how you can transform your existing CAA programs into profit generating ventures.



1:30-3:00 **ICAA Board Meeting**

3:00-4:30 **ICADC Board Meeting**

4:30-5:30 **ICAF Board Meeting**



8:30-10:30 **Fiscal Workshop**

Sikich, LLP will cover financial management, internal controls, audit reports and red flags for Executive Directors and fiscal staff.

10:30-11:45 **Focus Groups**

A time to network with colleagues about the day to day challenges facing Community Action Professionals. The following focus groups will be offered:

- LIHEAP
- Weatherization
- Head Start
- Housing
- Executive Directors

Indicate which focus group you will attend by checking a box

11:45-12:35 **Lunch and Focus Group wrap-up**

Hotel Information

A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the **Embassy Suites Lakeland** for the nights of **December 10-11, 2006** at a rate of **\$139/single and \$159/double** under Illinois Community Action Association. **Availability and reduced rates are not guaranteed after November 17th** Please call **312-836-5900** or **888-903-8884** for reservations.



Name	
Agency	
Address	
City	
State	Zip
Phone	Fax
E-mail	

Special Needs (dietary, wheelchair access, etc.)

Don't forget to register for your workshops and focus groups!

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Full Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$220.00 |
| Monday only | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$150.00 |
| Tuesday only | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$150.00 |

*Please mail or fax registration to
 The Illinois Community Action Association by
 December 1, 2006*



Illinois Community Action Association

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Questions? Please call Sara Ratcliffe, 217-789-0125

