



KANE COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL  
*making a difference ...together*



# Message of the Month

## November 2016

[www.kanecountymentalhealth.org](http://www.kanecountymentalhealth.org)  
Facebook: **We Support Mental Health**  
Twitter: **@KCMentalHealth**

### Kane County Mental Health Council

- The Association for Individual Development 630-966-4000
- Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center 630-859-6562
- Ecker Center for Mental Health Services 847-695-0484
- Family Counseling Service of Aurora 630-844-2662
- Family Service Association of Greater Elgin Area 847-695-3680
- Gateway Foundation/Aurora 630-966-7400
- Greater Elgin Family Care Center 847-608-1344
- INC Board 630-892-5456
- Kane County Health Department 630-208-3801
- League of Women Voters 630-365-2138
- National Alliance on Mental Illness, DeKalb, Kane-South, Kendall Counties, Inc. 630-896-6264
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Kane County North 847-410-9719
- Northwestern Medicine Behavioral Health 630-933-4000
- Open Door Clinic 847-695-1093
- Presence Mercy Medical Center 630-801-2657
- Presence St. Joseph Hospital 847-931-5521
- Renz Addiction Counseling Center 847-742-3545
- Senior Services Associates 847-741-0404
- Suicide Prevention Services 630-482-9696
- TriCity Family Services 630-232-1070
- VNA Health Care 630-978-9835

## Let's Explore Parent Engagement

**National Parental Involvement day is November 17, 2016.**

Whether we are medical, clinical practitioners, social service providers or educators, employing strategies that engage the partnership of the stake holders, in this case family members, will make a difference in the outcome of the shared goals. "When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more."<sup>1</sup>

The research and guidance summarized in *Parent Engagement: Strategies for Involving Parents and Prevention in School Health*, explored many resources that demonstrated policy, practices and strategies that enhance authentic partnership and engagement with parents and other primary caregivers.<sup>2</sup> Strong partnerships with families were shown to increase parent engagement resulting in positive outcomes in the educational and health habits of families. Successful partnerships start with intentional planning by a leadership organization that includes parents, providers and support staff at every level to develop strategies to connect, engage and sustain engagement.

### Connect:

Respectfully learn through conversation and active listening what is important to the family members. What do they see as the qualities which strengthen their family? What are the family values and goals? Those goals are accepted, valued and treated with compassion.<sup>3</sup>

### Engage:

Families are encouraged and supported in acquiring the knowledge at the level at which they choose and at which they are comfortable.<sup>3</sup> Families are provided consistent information of what is needed to support their child in staying healthy, attending and developing new skills.

### Sustain:

Parents and providers are part of the process of evaluation, review, planning and the making changes to improve the shared outcomes. Families are fully informed of the decisions to be made and have a voice in the continued plan of action.

Family involvement is the very basic goal for positive outcomes. Authentic, respectful, intentional strategies for Family Engagement will bring the lasting positive outcomes for health and life long learning.

*Mary McCarty, Mental Health Coordinator, Two Rivers Head Start*

### **Info Corner:**

1. New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement: <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED536946.pdf>
2. Parent Engagement: Strategies for Involving Parents and Prevention in School Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/>
3. Defining Patient and Family Engagement in the Intensive Care Unit: <http://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1164/rccm.201410-1936LE#.WAKD3PkrJG9>

For information on Layperson Guide to Mental Illness [click here](#)  
To request a Layperson Guide to Mental Illness presentation,  
contact: Alexis Slivka: [slivkaalexis@countyofkane.org](mailto:slivkaalexis@countyofkane.org)