



**FATHERHOOD
DEMONSTRATION GRANT
NEWSLETTER**

Community & Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.

OCTOBER 2007

HEALTHY MARRIAGE SERVICES:

CEDA-Children and Family Services have continued Healthy Marriage Services for parents-couples of Early/Head Start children. These services may include Healthy Marriage curriculum workshops, Healthy Marriage assessments, treatment, and referrals, Healthy Marriage mentoring, or special events. Parent enrollment and information meetings have been held regionally and at Head Start sites since April 2007.

The pilot program for the curriculum based Healthy Marriage Workshop was completed at the Ed Presberry/Country Club Hills site on 09/04/07. The workshop group met weekly on Tuesdays to discuss relationships, communication, intimacy, and other topics. Yolanda Harris, LCSW and Rayford Pointer are the Healthy Marriage Facilitators for the workshop group. The group participation and response was positive, and the workshop group has resumed meetings using "The African American Marriage Enrichment Program" curriculum.

Additional Healthy Marriage Workshop groups are being formed at other Head Start sites. A Healthy Marriage Parent Meeting is scheduled for 10/10/07 at 5:30 pm at the Resurrection Procure-Maywood site. William Floyd, LCSW and Rayford Pointer have contracted with CEDA as Healthy Marriage Facilitators in order to provide services to all of the sites in the CEDA service area.

A Healthy Marriage Family outing was held on 09/27/07 at Medieval Times in Schaumburg. 82 parents and children attended this event, and enjoyed the food and entertainment.

Researchers have determined that having a healthy, happy, fulfilling marriage benefits all family members. Below are results from research by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Healthy Marriage Initiative.

Benefits of Healthy Marriages for Men:

Researchers have found many benefits for men who are in healthy marriages, compared to unhealthy marriages, including the following:

- Live longer
- Physically healthier
- Wealthier
- Increase in the stability of employment
- Higher wages
- Emotionally healthier
- Decrease risk of drug and alcohol abuse
- Have better relationships with their children
- More satisfying sexual relationship

ECONOMIC STABILITY-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:

CEDA-Children and Family Services have continued Economic Stability-Employment Services for parents of Early/Head Start children. These services may include job skills and job training services, job search and career enhancement education including job workshops, On-the-Job training, continuing adult education, and collaboration with the CEDA Workforce Development program. Parent enrollment and information meetings have been held regionally and at Head Start sites since April 2007.

Weekly Economic Stability-Employment workshops have been held at the Des Plaines and Cicero sites since August 2007. Additional workshops or events held throughout the CEDA service area have included Goal setting workshops, Starting your own business workshops, Financial planning seminars, Computer skills workshops, and Resume development workshops.

Chris Frederick ACSW LSW
Male Involvement Coordinator

Note: These services are provided to all eligible persons regardless of race, gender, age, disability or religion.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families – Office of Family Assistance