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2005 LIHEAP Conference Unveils New Service Delivery Improvements

A Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program's (LIHEAP) Training and Information Conference was held on June 24th, 2005 at McCormick Place. The LIHEAP Conference included seminars on client advocacy, the new program year and updates from the utilities and IDHFS. Speakers and presenters included Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's Representative, Congressmen Danny Davis' Representative, client advocates, NICOR, Com Ed, People's Gas, CEDA, and The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (formerly known as The Illinois Department of Public Aid), with nearly all boasting of heightened technology advances that will greatly increase the quality and quantity of service delivery.

According to Com Ed spokesman, Rene Gonzalez, the new LIHEAP system, which takes effect on September 1st, will be web-based and everything from applications, pay-

tion data, reject information, and energy connections will be processed in real-time. The system will eliminate payment posting errors and will retain data for ten years.

Charles Jackson from DHFS also noted a redesign in the application form, simplifying utility protocols for account matching and improving LIHEAP.net's user interface and stability. Improving and expanding training opportunities for all LIHEAP.net users is also on the agenda, as well as devel-

oping measurement tools for client satisfaction and LIHEAP's impact on the self-sufficiency of families.

The conference adjourned with staff and clients being informed that 187,702 applications were processed (88,707 through CEDA) and 161,176 households were provided energy assistance in a time of need.

For more information on the LIHEAP program: (312) 456-4100 (inside the city of Chicago) or (800) 252-8643 (outside the city).



(Right to left) CEDA LIHEAP staff, Cynthia White, Cori Washington, and Jacqueline Vidana, at the 2005 LIHEAP Conference

**CEDA
MISSION:**

To work in partnership with communities to empower families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.

Community Action Partnership's President, Mr. Derrick Span, Visits CEDA for CAPLAW Conference and Luncheon

The Community Action Partnership (CAP) was established in 1971 and continues to make great strides towards its mission: To be a national forum for policy on poverty and to strengthen, promote, represent, and serve its network of member agencies to assure that the issues of the poor are effectively heard and addressed. CEDA works to fight poverty at the local level and is one of the more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) represented by the partnership that serves over 13 million people per year nationally.

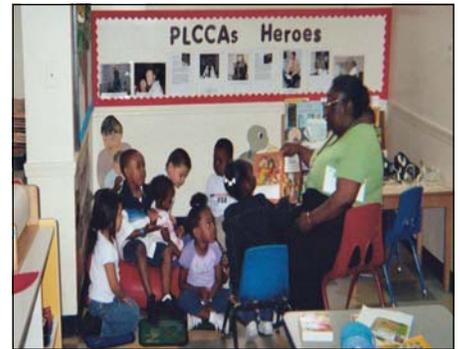
During a luncheon presentation at CEDA Central, CAP President, Derrick Span, informed CEDA staff of achievements, expectations and visions for the upcoming year on the national level. Mr. Span congratulated CEDA's success at developing the very first Illinois Fatherhood Initiative and stressed the importance of continued "creativity, visibility, and unification."

The Community Action Partnership and Community Action

Program Legal Services (CAPLAW), along with the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCS), the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Administration for Children and Families joined forces for the Community Action Unity Summit in Boston on July 21-22. This event is a first for the national partners and reflects a new spirit of cooperation and shared purpose within the movement. Mr. Span believes, "together, these organizations will maximize the synergy of the network; work toward achieving the goal of a National Symposium on Poverty in 2006; and provide a real direction for the Community Action network in terms of training, credibility, and accountability in the years ahead."

During his visit to Chicago in June, Mr. Span attended the CAPLAW National Training Conference. For the conference CEDA sponsored a bus tour which had participants from Community Action Agencies around the country.

The tour began at the Palmer House Hilton with stops at Grant Park, Millennium Park, Museum Campus (Soldier Field, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium), and Navy Pier. Next, was a trip through the Chicago Bronzeville neighborhood, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and U.S. Cellular Field. Finally, the group visited the Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action, Inc. and toured the PLCCA head quarter facilities, 24/7 Child Care Center, and CEDA Head Start Child Care Center.



CAPLAW Conference Tour Stop at PLCCA/CEDA Head Start Child Care Center with Mr. Span



(Award Winners—Bottom-left to right: Albertine Patrick, Coordinator, Human Resources, CEDA Central; Mary Hamilton, Specialist, Blue Island Head Start; Charlene Hawthorne, Coordinator, Special Services; Harvey; Vanesta Rice, Teacher, Head Start; and Claudine Riley, WIC Interviewer, Harvey. Guests—Top-left to right: Jake Koepsel, CEDA Director, Human Resources; Alyce White; Sonya Rice; Carissa Hurley, Director, Blue Island Head Start; Joseph Riley)

Celebrating Experience at the Able Awards Gala

CEDA would like to congratulate our winners of the National Able Network Outstanding Employees Award who were honored at this year's celebratory luncheon held at the Palmer House Hilton's Grand Ballroom in May. Jake Koepsel, CEDA Director, Human Resources, defines such a distinction, "For 24 years, the National Able Network and NBC5 Chicago have sponsored the Outstanding Worker Award Luncheon program, which has recognized employees over the age of 50 who have served an organization well with excellent performance, reliability, willingness to learn new skills, and inspiration to other employees." Over 65 of Chicago's best employees were acknowledged with CEDA graced with five awards. We greatly appreciate Albertine, Mary, Charlene, Vanesta, and Claudine (bottom left) along with their outstanding endeavors, work ethic, and loyalty.

CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association Hosts 6th Annual Senior Information Fair

***“Hope = Health=
Everything”***

- Mack McGhee, Program Manager for CEDA’s Pinkney House, a home for Veterans

The need to address access to affordable senior health care was the adamant message coming from presenters and consumers at the 6th Annual Senior Information Fair in Ford Heights. Among the many contributors, Mack McGhee, Program Manager for CEDA’s Pinkney House, a home for Veterans, led attendees in an inspiring spoken word and chant.

The Senior Health Fair, designed for ages 55 and older, offered over 25 exhibitors representing affordable healthcare, legal assistance, banking, employment, health insurance, social security benefits, housing, and many other senior service needs. The event also provided free health screenings for glucose, blood pressure, prostate, COPD, and mammography. Well-Care offered application assistance for Medicare eligibility. Ford Heights residents were encouraged to attend through complimentary transportation provided by Bloom-Rich Township and were given a free buffet luncheon, raffle tickets, and door prizes.

Vendors presented brief

seminars about some common misconceptions about access to and the affordability of healthcare services. For example, Home Helpers discussed services for at home health care including transportation, cleaning, and shopping for the client. Victory Center, an Assisted Living Residence, presented affordable apartments using a sliding scale based on income, while Doctor’s Choice addressed the importance of home medical equipment through offering a 24 hour oxygen and medication service, weekend emergency service, as well as used equipment for those in need. Barbara Barron, Community Representative from VITAS, innovative hospice care and leading provider for over 27 years, shocked consumers when presenting statistics that “only 10% of clients utilizing hospice care are minorities. Care is available to everyone; medications are fully covered as well as all equipment, and clients receive a certified at-home nurse.”

Other exhibitors included Is There a Doctor in the House? (providing blood pressure screenings), St. James Hospital (free mammography), Home Physicians, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Suburban Access, Cook County Assessors Office, South Suburban Senior Services, Illinois Department of Aging,

American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, Harris Bank, as well as several others.

CEDA Bloom-Rich’s CDA continues to serve its residents through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Weatherization, Head Start, housing counseling, GED preparation, and literacy training. Bloom Township will be celebrating their Annual Senior Picnic on Thursday, August 4th, 2005 at Veterans Memorial Park from 10a.m.-3:00p.m.

For more information about the exhibitors at the Senior Fair, the upcoming Senior Picnic, or CEDA services in Bloom-Rich, please call Senior Advocate, Denise Chaffe at (708)758-2510.



Ceola Grasham, 83 year-old Ford Heights resident, receives a blood pressure screening from Scott Gillespie, Lab Technician from East Side Health Care and Is There A Doctor in the House?



Congressman Ray LaHood Supports CEDA

Congressman Ray LaHood (left, with CEDA President/CEO, Robert Wharton) took time out of his busy schedule to visit CEDA Central, as well as sites in Robbins and Chicago Heights.

In Robbins, Congressman LaHood set out to learn about the programs and services by meeting with senior citizens and clients

from the Head Start Program. In Chicago Heights he toured The Pinkney House, a transitional housing program for U.S. Veterans as well as a new home under construction through CEDA’s Neighborhood Development Corporation. The Congressman expressed great support for CEDA’s programs and looks forward to working with us more in the future.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES PREMIER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

RECRUITMENT KICK-OFF 2005

This year's *Recruitment Kick-Off* marked the 40th year of Head Start education for children ages 0-5 years old. We displayed several posters and distributed over 13,000 flyers in the communities to assist with our recruitment efforts. Because of the intense recruitment process and the hard work of our dedicated staff, over 700 new families expressed an interest in our Early/Head Start and full day child care programs. As a result, we are excited about the upcoming school year and the expectation of having full enrollment on September 6th, 2005, and throughout the school year.

HEAD START FATHER OF THE YEAR



(Left to Right) Robert Wharton, CEDA President / CEO; Shawn Taylor Sr., 2005 CEDA Head Start "Father of the Year", and wife; Unita Sims, CEDA Vice President of Children's Services

In February 2005 CEDA Early/Head Start held its Male Involvement Conference at the Oak Lawn Hilton. Thirty-one fathers from our Head Start program had the honor of being recognized as Father of the Year at their respective sites. Shawn Taylor, a father from our Chicago Heights St. James Head Start site, was awarded top honors as the 2005 CEDA Head Start Father of the

Year. There were 250 people in attendance, which included parents, staff, community agencies, and regional office representatives. The event was a huge success and a tremendous opportunity to showcase CEDA Early/Head Start's continued commitment to enhance the lives of our families by strengthening and increasing male involvement.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

In May 2005 Children's Service hosted their annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon at the Condesa del Mar. The luncheon was held to recognize the CEDA Early/Head Start staff for their contribution and support to the success of the Children's Services program. Nearly 400 people attended. The afternoon included CEDA's own American Idol contest. Several of the staff had the opportunity to expose their singing talents. LaToria Terrell from the Blue Island Head Start site was voted the CEDA's American Idol.



One of the longtime employees, Mrs. Venesta Rice, decided to ease into a new life of leisure and comfort. She was honored for her many years of service and upcoming retirement. Mrs. Venesta Rice has been with CEDA for 36 years. During her tenure she has held several positions but most recently she was a teacher at the Chicago Heights St. James Head Start site. We want to thank her for her commitment and a job well done.



Retired Honoree - Mrs. Veneste Rice

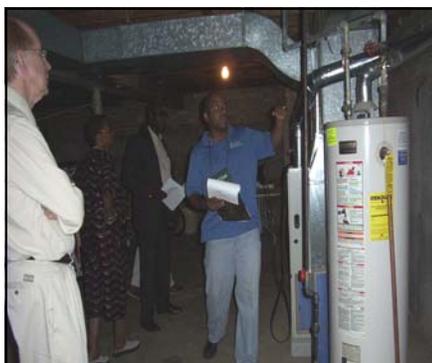
CEDA Board Members Enroll in Weatherization 101



Phase 1—James Caffey demonstrates for Board members, Sarah Bolton-Head and Earl Collymore, the use of a blower door for air sealing during a site assessment.



Phase 2—Kevin Helwig, DNR Contractor of the Year, reviews with Earl Collymore and Sara Bolton-Head, CEDA Board members, work done on an in-progress home.



Phase 3: Rondell Jenkins shows Board Members, Sara Bolton-Head and Earl Collymore, and Mark Enenbach, CEDA V.P./C.O.O., the process of final inspection of all work performed.

“Weatherization has come a long way since its days of being referred to as ‘Winterization’ back in the 1970s,” according to 20 year veteran, Robert Crudup, one of CEDA’s Weatherization Field Supervisors. “We now know that it is more resourceful to make other alterations besides replacing windows. With the introduction of the blower door about three years ago, what we do to homes has literally been reinvented.”

On July 12th, CEDA Board Members of the Energy Task Force, Mr. Earl Collymore and Ms. Sara Bolton-Head, took a field trip to get a truly hands on, front-line experience of how the service has evolved. The tour consisted of a presentation and three site visits including: 1) A house currently under the assessment stage, 2) an in-progress home and 3) a site undergoing final inspection of all work performed per work order (see left).

The presentation explained that Weatherization is a federal, state and locally funded program. John Hamilton, Program Director, emphasized that “CEDA weatherizes approximately 3,300 homes each year as we help people by making their homes more energy-efficient and by teaching them how to reduce their energy usage.” Homes are made more energy efficient, safe, and more comfortable through measures like insulation, air sealing, heating system improvement, and health and safety items. The misconception that Weatherization is a window replacement service was made clear during the tour. The board was shown that the program does not do home rehab such as painting, plastering or services that are unrelated to energy conservation.

Current Weatherization procedures include an initial assessment in which staff begin by measuring the home’s square footage,

sketching the home, windows, roof, etc., and checking gas lines and flue vents for unsafe conditions. Heating systems may need replacement or simply a clean and tune. Then, a combustion analyzer is used to test for levels of carbon monoxide, temperature, draft, and combustion efficiency. Finally, the blower door test is performed. Installed snugly in the front door opening, the blower door depressurizes the house which pulls outside air in through the leaky areas of the home. Assessors can then determine areas that need sealing, i.e. electrical and plumbing openings through floors, garage doors, attic areas, crawl spaces, and joints or cracks in the home’s exterior.

The second tour stop included a furnace clean and tune, diagnostic/air sealing, and the use of the HEPA vacuum. The HEPA vacuum is a special filtration mechanism for unsafe lead dust from paint that may circulate during work (all homes built before 1978 most likely have some amount of lead paint).

Finally, the Board witnessed a final inspection at a site that had received a new flue liner (smaller than the original) sized to work with a new high-efficiency furnace, a chimney liner cap (preventing water and debris from infiltrating the chimney), additional insulation, and health and safety measures including smoke and carbon monoxide, a fire extinguisher, and new gas line sediment trap and shutoff valve.

Future goals include the use of an infrared gun during inspection and providing service to more multi-family homes. The Weatherization Department looks forward to celebrating its efforts in October during National Energy Day. For more information and application materials, please call (312)795-8998.

Children out of School Can Count on the Summer Food Service Program

The dedication of one of CEDA's Children's Services, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), ensures that approximately 60,000 or more nutritious meals will be served to low-income children this summer when schools are not in session. Service providers diligently engage in a continued effort to increase participation in SFSP as it is one of the most needed but under-used Federal food assistance programs. Although over 20.8 million eligible children get free or reduced price school meals during the regular school year, only 2.1 million participate in the SFSP, and an additional 1.4 participate in the National School Lunch Program during the summer months. Fortunately, through continued support from WGN—Neediest Kids Foundation, CEDA was awarded a \$50,000 grant for its 5th consecutive year. The Neighborhood Center of Cicero also contributed \$10,000 to the



Jarriesa, Tiesha, and Ziesha finishing lunch at Harvey courtesy of The Summer Food Program

program enabling the expansion of meal serving sites throughout Suburban Cook County. Due to the demand and need of the communities, this year meals are provided at 19 different locations with an ex-

pansion in the Southern suburbs. CEDA has also been involved with providing meal service to the children of migrant workers at the Arlington Heights Race Track. They were also linked with the additional resources of the University of Illinois Extension Services, outdoor gardening and participation in a

lending library program to improve their reading, math and language skills. To enhance Summer Feeding Program participation for the children and to keep their minds occupied, the Program Director, Suman Sood, also collaborated with the University of Illinois Extension Services to provide other educational and recreational experiences to children at the four South Suburban sites (e.g. 4H curriculum and field trips to the farms etc.) This is also possible through the WGN grant. The Summer Food Service Program not only feeds the hungry children, but seeks to train and employ youth workers at several sites.

"This effort has allowed for continued service to children within schools, churches, community centers, park districts and provided additional opportunities to further enhance education throughout the year without a break," according to Suman Sood. For more information about participating or sponsoring this program, contact Suman Sood at (312) 907-7426.

Beaumont Foundation Bridges Digital Divide in Harvey

The CEDA Center for Community Action in Harvey offers a free computer camp for children ages 7-10 through July courtesy of an equipment grant from the Beaumont Foundation. Lunch is provided through the CEDA Summer Food Program (see above).



Computer Campers at Harvey Center for Community Action

The eager participants learn how to access child friendly and safe websites, use computer games to improve their reading, math and spelling skills, and create crafts using the computer.

"We like to do book reports, make bookmarks and t-shirts, and play games on funbrain.com! I know what 12x12 is!!" - Taylor Gardner, 3rd grade Computer Camp Participant

Please contact Carolyn Taylor, Office Manager and Computer Camp/ Class Instructor, for more information on these programs or others at (708) 339-3610.

Also thanks to an equipment grant from the Beaumont Foundation and support from the local Board, graduation was recently held for participants enrolled in the Introduction to Computer class located at the CEDA Center for Community Action. Participants successfully mastered basic



Harvey Computer Class Graduates

components of the computer, creating, editing and saving documents, establishing e-mail accounts, and conducting an on-line job search.

CEDA Northwest Self-Help Center, Inc. Wins State Award for Food Connection Program

The Food Connection Program, a CEDA Northwest emergency assistance program that provides food and personal help for low-income people to alleviate their immediate crisis, was awarded the State "Best Practices Award" by the University of Illinois at Springfield. The award was developed by the University and the Illinois Community Action Association to recognize outstanding programs that generate successful outcomes and exhibit innovation, replicability, collaboration and impact in the community.

The hallmark of the program is the extensive collaboration made by staff to create partnerships with a network of individuals and organizations. "Two-thirds of the support is made up of donations and volunteer support," said Ron Jordan, Executive Director of CEDA



Food Connection Coordinator, Jim Shatus (left), and Executive Director, Ron Jordan, with their "Best Practice Award"

Northwest Self-Help Center. "In the past year, community members contributed 100,000 pounds of donated food, which provided emergency assistance to 1,400 individuals." Dorothy, a single parent re-

ipient of the program said, "The Program helped me to feed my family when I was in crisis. I am thankful that I was helped through a very tough time."

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights is one of several partners involved in the Food Connection Program. Chris Melby, Church Volunteer said, "By combining our time, efforts, and talents with CEDA we are able to help feed the hungry in our neighborhoods." The Church also provides food for CEDA Northwest's Transitional Housing Program for homeless families and funding to help CEDA form a partnership with the Chicago Food Depository. To learn more about the Food Connection Program or other services at CEDA Northwest, please contact Ron Jordan at (847)392-2332 x230.

UPCOMING CEDA EVENTS

CEDA's Revolving Loan Program at the Small Business Expo

Friday, August 12th at the UIC Pavilion

Sponsored by Ms. Rice and the City of Chicago Treasurers Office

Celebrating 39 Years of Service in the Community

CEDA Float in the Bud Billiken Parade

Saturday, August 13th—Celebrating 40 Years of Servicing the Community

Community Nutrition Network's (CNN) 19th Annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Thursday, September 15th from 11am-2pm at Marie Ashton's Place in Willowbrook

The 2nd Annual CEDA Southwest Development Association's

Cruise on the Odyssey at Navy Pier

Saturday, September 17th from 11am-2pm

Tickets are \$65 - call (708)458-2736 for reservations

The 14th Annual "Look Who's Cooking" Event

CEDA Northwest Self-Help Center

Tuesday, September 20th in the Grand Ballroom of the Chevy Chase Country Club

The event celebrates the 10th Anniversary of The Wright House Transitional Housing Program.

Guests who have completed the program and have purchased their first homes will be honored.

Southwest's Development Association's Annual Neighborhood Forum

Wednesday, September 21st at 8:30pm at Niko's

This year honors an FCD client receiving The Family Distinction Award



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