



Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau February 2017 volume 6 • issue 1

Workshops Aim to Reach “Beyond the Influence”

Providing needed information about the nature and solutions to the ongoing substance abuse problems in Porter County.

The four workshops scheduled for 2017 are focused to help youth, parents, and all community members move their lives beyond the influence of the substances that can derail the lives of young people.

“Anyone who has interaction with youth who may have issues with substance abuse can benefit from these preventative workshops,” says Tom Moeller, FYSB Clinical Services Director. “This includes parents, educators, social service professionals, and any other local resident that interacts with kids, particularly those in middle school. Parents and community members are the best anti-drug influence in a teen’s life.”

These FYSB workshops are supported by a grant from the Porter County Substance Abuse Council, whose mission is “to reduce youth and adult substance abuse by assessing for, promoting through, and educating about effective community based programs.”

“The focus of the 2017 FYSB workshops on reducing substance abuse with area teens is a natural fit for the Substance Abuse Council,” said council Executive Director Dawn Pelc. “Our partnership with FYSB for this effort means more people in the community will learn important information about how to deal with these critical issues.”

Our first workshop this year “Heroin and Other Opiates” is scheduled from 6 to 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 8, and led by Porter County Coroner Chuck Harris. He notes “In this workshop community members will gain a clear understanding of the drug epidemic in Porter County and gain valuable resources on how to protect your children from becoming peer pressured into substance abuse.” See green box at bottom of page for registration information.

Upcoming workshops include “Prescription Drugs And The Link To Heroin, A Personal Account Of Life As A Heroin Addict,” presented by Herb Stepherson on Tuesday, March 14; additional workshops planned in 2017 include topics about the use of marijuana and synthetic drugs, times and dates to be announced.

There is no fee to attend these workshops, but space is limited so RSVP early if you want to attend. Refreshments of cookies, coffee, and lemonade are provided at each workshop.



The Family & Youth Services Bureau has hosted workshops for many years on topics of interest to community members, parents, educators and social service professionals. In 2017, the topics will focus exclusively on substance abuse issues in our community.



Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, February 8 Chuck Harris presents
Heroin and Other Opiates

Tuesday, March 14 Herb Stepherson presents
Prescription Drugs And The Link To Heroin

Two additional workshops planned for later in 2017

Workshops are scheduled from 6-7:30 pm

Days/times may be changed, check back for updates

Limited spaces available for each workshop;

RSVP for the February 8th workshop by Tuesday, February 7th to 219-464-9585 or kunderwood@fysb.org; please include your name and contact information.

Please contact 219-464-9585 or kunderwood@fysb.org to be added to the mailing list for these workshops. No charge to attend.

5th Annual Chalk the Walk

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Has it really been 5 years? Yes, the first Chalk the Walk was held five years ago in June of 2013. It continues to be a fundraising and awareness building event for the Family & Youth Services Bureau. Chalk the Walk also offers local businesses and organizations the opportunity to promote their message, and gives area artists of all ages the chance to have their artwork featured in a public space. And the artwork lasts for weeks!

All sponsors receive 3 x 3 foot spaces to create a chalk drawing on the Porter County Courthouse sidewalk, including a box of brightly colored chalk. Sponsorships start at \$150.00.

Artists who are looking for a sponsor do not pay at all!

Are you interested in being a sponsor or an artist for this event? Please contact Jackie Gray at 464-9585 or jgray@fysb.org, or check our website for further information: www.fysb.org.



Our Mission is to assist youth and families through supportive services that create a positive change for Porter County.

The Family & Youth Services Bureau will ensure that no person shall be excluded from or denied participation in services based on the grounds of race, age, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, protected class, or any other protected class as defined by current law, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that directly or indirectly receives state or federal support.

New Director for Porter County CASA Program

Sarah Fink began volunteering with the CASA program in 2011 and was later hired as Staff Advocate, working in that capacity until her recent transition to Director of the Porter County CASA Program. Sarah replaces Claudia Clark who retired in December 2016 after working more than 20 years with Family & Youth Services Bureau.

“One of the goals for this coming year will be to create a greater awareness in the community of CASA’s presence and mission to represent abused and neglected children in court.” Sarah notes. “We have a dedicated group of 40 wonderful volunteers, but we simply need more.” Last year Porter County CASA served a total of 372 children, but were forced to create a waiting list for some of the children to receive a CASA, due to the gap in the number of children and the number of volunteers available to advocate for them.

Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer!



Contact Sarah Fink at 219-464-9585 or sfink@fysb.org for more information about the CASA Program

Featured Donor Blachly, Tabor, Bozik & Hartman, Lawyers on the Square



- Family & Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors**
- Bonnie Sullivan, Chair**
 - David Butterfield Vice-Chair**
 - Patrick McGinley Secretary/Treasurer**
 - Vickii Brock**
 - Kathy Evans**
 - Paul Knauff**
 - Connie Rudd**
 - Jon Rutkowski**
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The law firm of Blachly, Tabor, Bozik & Hartman, also known as Lawyers on the Square, has been a generous supporter of Family & Youth Services Bureau for many years. In addition, they were one of the first businesses to sign on as a sponsor for the inaugural Chalk the Walk event in 2013. Every year at that event they choose to let their artwork be done by local kids. We appreciate Blachly, Tabor, Bozik & Hartman, for all you do for FYSB and for so many others in our community!

Featured Board Member

David Butterfield

A life long Valparaiso resident, Dave Butterfield is currently an attorney, and spent 20 years as Mayor of Valparaiso.

He joined the Family & Youth Services Board because he always admired the work done by FYSB to help those in need.

"This agency has a very positive impact on many families. It helps those families who may otherwise not be able to afford essential counseling or mentoring services."

How does Dave spend his off-duty time? Golfing, volunteering, and spoiling his grand daughter, of course! We thank Dave for spending some of that time with FYSB!



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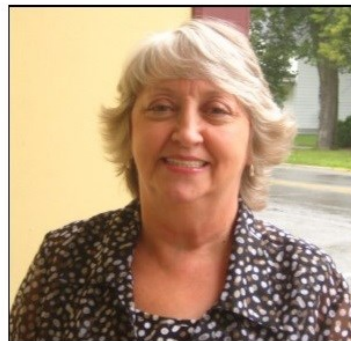
Featured Staff Member

Melanie Dooley

For the first seven years employed by FYSB Melanie worked as a Family Support Specialist, and since 2012 she has been the Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Services. As part of this department, Melanie oversees the Healthy Families Program and The Tot Shop.

She finds it most rewarding when she sees the growth in her staff and the families they serve.

Although she was born in Indiana, Melanie grew up in the San Diego area and today in her spare time enjoys spending time with her twelve grandchildren, camping and traveling.





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Help us thank our partners



The Family & Youth Services Bureau provides
over 20 programs and services for the community
at the following locations

253 W. Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-464-9585

6469 Central Avenue
Portage, IN 46368
219-763-6623

257 W. Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-464-9585

1660 S. State Rd. 2
Valparaiso, IN 46385
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If you have a name or address correction
or would like your name removed from our mailing list,
please contact us at 219-464-9585 or info@fysb.org

Reaching Out is the newsletter of the
Family & Youth Services Bureau
published three times yearly
253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383