ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

Advocacy Update
By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

Ah, the lazy days of summer. School’s out, vacations and backyard BBQs are happening, people are relaxing by the pool and everything is bright and sunny. Right? Well, maybe for some. For others, the summer brings crippling heat with no relief, kids unsupervised because day care is unaffordable, and increased hunger with no school meals for three months. But you already know this.

Advocacy doesn’t get a vacation, even though the Missouri session is over and the national legislature will soon be on a summer break. Governor Greitens signed the MORx prescription assistance bill (thank you!), but vetoed HCB3 which would have maintained support for thousands of seniors and disabled Missourians. He also restricted an additional $250 million in the 2018 state budget, so there is more work to do. This is the perfect opportunity to invite congressional members, both state and national, to your backyard BBQ (or local event by any other name). Offer them a cold glass of lemonade, a fresh-grilled hot dog, and show off the great things you are doing. Remind our friends on the Hill, and help make some new ones aware of the impact of Community Action in their community and in the lives of their constituents.

They want to hear from you. And you really want to talk to them. You want them to know and understand. To paraphrase Jacques Cousteau and Baba Dioum from the world of nature conservation: people protect what they love, they love only what they know, and they know only what they are taught. Do your legislators know you and your work? Do you want them to? Are you willing to help teach them?

Thanks for all you do every day, but don’t keep it a secret. Keep up the great work, and keep telling our story!
Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Next Generation (NG)
By: Brian Valentine, Program Director, bvalentine@communityaction.org

Last month Missouri CAN had full network participation in the NASCSP Annual Report Training. During our time together, we reviewed each module of the report while addressing questions/concerns. Attendees worked on case studies utilizing their newly-gained skills in order to familiarize themselves with the format. Our second day was spent designing an action plan for the Outreach Managers Professional Alliance and Internal ROMA Consultants Professional Alliance. This dialogue led to two additional work groups focusing on CSBG RFA Work Plans and creation of a presentation, to be used agency wide, for more awareness about CSBG reporting. Copies of the slide presentation are available upon request; please direct all inquiries to Brian Valentine.

Family Development Credential (FDC)
By: Brian Valentine, Program Director, bvalentine@communityaction.org

The Family Development Credential (FDC) teaches CAA staff to help families set and reach their goals for achieving healthy self-reliance. Missouri CAN will be hosting the following FDC training events in September:

- FDC Portfolio Advisor Orientation: September 6, 2017
- FDC Missouri Update: September 12, 2017
- FDC Instructor’s Institute: September 26-28, 2017

Registration is now open on Missouri CAN’s website. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Valentine.

MIS Onboarding Team Update
By: James Rogers, Information Systems Manager, jrogers@communityaction.org

The first group of administrators (CAASTLC, CAPSTJOE, CMCA, CSI, MOCA, NECAC, and WCMCA) completed training on June 16, while these seven agencies participated in user training on June 23. The ability to update information, navigate between different clients and programs using widgets, and the verification process were all cited as major improvements over the previous version. Users also mentioned the intuitive nature of the new reporting tools, along with a streamlined look for the report formats as a result of new graphic and other options.

On July 3, our three pilot agencies (CAASTLC, CSI, and MOCA) began our MIS simulation, which allows the team to verify all aspects of the system component modules. Many thanks to the pilot teams, who are ensuring that the agencies have a seamless transition to the new system that is reliable and surpasses current performance standards.

Community Action Network Days – Royals & Cardinals Events in 2017
By Jessica Hoey, Outreach Director, jhoey@communityaction.org

While the Pittsburgh Pirates handily defeated the St. Louis Cardinals at the first of our two Community Action Network Days on June 24, the nearly 250 CAA staff, friends and family who attended the event enjoyed picture-perfect weather.

Tickets for the Kansas City Royals game in mid-July are still available! If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact the Missouri CAN office or the single point of contact at your local agency ASAP. The Royals game is on Saturday, July 15 against the Texas Rangers @ Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City at 6:15 p.m.
Communications Work Group Kick Off
By: Jessica Hoey, Outreach Director, jhoey@communityaction.org

Agency marketing/communications staff gathered on June 21 at the Missouri CAN office to define the purpose of this new hands-on peer work group, discuss best practices in marketing/communications, and share knowledge and resources across agencies. By the day’s conclusion, participants had determined the following goals for the work group moving forward: 1) Build the capacity of marketing/communications staff at Missouri’s Community Action Agencies to develop and implement best practices in marketing/communications strategies and 2) Develop a consistent/unifying message for Community Action throughout the state. Many thanks to the staff who traveled from around the state for this inaugural event. We look forward to seeing you again once a new Missouri CAN Strategic Communications Manager is hired.

Missouri CAN Welcomes a New Board President
By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

Pam LaFrenz, MVCAA, retired on June 30, after 35 years at MVCAA and more than 40 years in Community Action. Pam has served on the Missouri CAN Board of Directors for many years, and was the Board President at the time of her retirement. Pam continues to serve on several Head Start boards and councils.

Joel Evans, DAEOC, former First Vice-President, was confirmed by the Board of the Directors as the new Board President at the May 2017 meeting. Angela Hirsch, CMCA, moved from Second Vice-President to First Vice-President, and the Board elected Cenia Bosman, CAASTLC, as the new Second Vice-President.

Missouri CAN Staff Update
By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

We are pleased to announce the hiring of our new Administrative & Membership Assistant, Jennifer Perkins, who will be joining our team in July!

We are also looking to fill two vacant positions: Strategic Communications Manager and Training & Events Manager, as well as a newly-created Fiscal Assistant position. Please see the Our Team page of our website for details.

Agency Visits

During the month of June, Missouri CAN staff continued our visits with multiple CAAs throughout the state.

- Brian Valentine, Aubrey Schrader, and Becky King enjoyed Northeast Community Action Corporation’s event, Community Action in the Park, in early June. The plethora of services provided by NECAC were highlighted for community members.
- Aubrey Schrader visited DAEOC’s Head Start/Early Head Start ribbon cuttings in Senath and Kennett, Missouri. These beautiful new buildings feature multiple classrooms, state-of-the-art kitchen facilities, and many opportunities for children to play while they learn. Highlights include computers for older children, new outdoor equipment and shaded canopies, and multiple themed stations within each classroom.
• Jessica Hoey and Mary Bifulco met with Megan Corbin of CMCA’s community organizing team to learn best practices related to Missouri’s Community Action Poverty Simulation. After the meeting, Jess and Mary enjoyed a tour of CMCA’s Boone County Family Resource Center in Columbia.

• Kurt Brewer and Aubrey Schrader had the honor of attending the retirement party for Pam LaFrenz at MVCAA on June 30. Stories were shared from Pam’s career spanning 35 years at MVCAA and more than 40 years in Community Action, and Kurt presented Pam a retirement plaque from the Missouri Community Action Directors Association (MCADA) in honor of her years of service to Missouri CAN.

There is nothing better than an agency visit to help new staff learn (and to remind all of us) about the great work you’re doing every day, and to discover what we can do to better serve you!

Facebook: facebook.com/MoCommunityAction Twitter: twitter.com/Missouri_CAN Blog: MissouriCAN.org/blog

Activity Calendar

ON THE CALENDAR

MIS v6 Train-the-Trainer Training (Group 2)
July 10-14...Columbia College, Jefferson City

MCADA
July 12...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Board
July 13...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Kansas City Royals Game Day
July 15...Kauffman Stadium, Kansas City

RDPA – Resource Development Professional Alliance
July 18...Missouri CAN Office

EHPA - Energy and Housing Professional Alliance
July 19...Missouri CAN Office

CKMW – Citizens to Keep Missourians Warm
July 20...Missouri CAN Office

MIS Onboarding Team
July 25...Missouri CAN Office

OMPA - Outreach Managers Professional Alliance
July 27-28...Missouri CAN Office

HRPA – Human Resource Professional Alliance
August 3...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA
August 9...Missouri CAN Office

IRCPA – Internal Roma Consultants Professional Alliance
August 10...Missouri CAN Office

MEP – Missourians to End Poverty
August 16...Missourian CAN Office

OPPA – Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance
August 17...Missouri CAN Office

National Community Action Partnership Annual Convention
August 28-September 1...Philadelphia, PA

Labor Day
September 4...Missouri CAN Office Closed

View additional details and register for events on the Activity Calendar at MissouriCAN.org/calendar.

Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director
July 6, 2017