BVCS Early Childhood Iowa

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The Buena Vista County Coalition met on October 19, 2017 to build on the awareness for the needs of children, youth and families living in Buena Vista County. Information will be used for the BVCS ECI Community Plan, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa upcoming RFP and Decat/CPPC programs.

The attendees reviewed Child Abuse, Child Care, Foster Care, population, Family Investment Program, Unemployment, Iowa Youth Survey (Buena Vista County), Juvenile Delinquency, Mental Health, Health, Dental, Hunger, and \*ALICE data.

Fifteen attendees were present from various service organizations including: Family Crisis Center, CASSA, Child Care Resource & Referral, Decat/CPPC, Lutheran Services in Iowa – Foster Care Program, Lutheran Services in Iowa – BHIS, Parent Partners, Plains Area Mental Health, Buena Vista Regional Medical Center, and Buena Vista Public Health & Home Care – Family STEPS, SALUD, . A Consensus Workshop was facilitated by Annette Koster, BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Program Director.

Attendees were asked to review data and provide what astonished them about Buena Vista County. Consensus for the most pressing needs at this time, related to the data reviewed, are Health including: Health Care, Substance Abuse, Mental Health; Race & Ethnicity; Nutrition and Food Insecurity; Child Care; and Community Services for Youth/Family.

**Health, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse**

* According to the \*ALICE report health care cost are high, families have little to no savings. Health care takes the largest portion of income, not leaving funds to pay for other household expenses.
* According to the Rolling Hills Community Services Entity FY 2105 report, a total of $170.00 was used for mental health education and training.
* Vital Statistics of Iowa In Brief 2016 Data - Suicide is one of the top ten causes of death in Iowa, five or fewer in Buena Vista County. Iowa Youth Survey - 13% of 6th, 8th, & 11th graders responding to the survey in Buena Vista County reported that during the past 12 months, they have seriously thought about killing themselves, the same as the state average.
* FFY 2016 EPSDT Dental Services Report age 0-14 only half of the population eligible for dental care are actually receiving dental care. Half of the towns in Buena Vista County fluoridate the water, according to the Fluoridation Report.
* In 2016, BV County had 72 confirmed cases of Denial of Critical Care (Neglect) according to the Iowa Department of Human Services. The data counted each confirmed or founded abuse, it did not count children, but all allegations of neglect and abuse for each child.
* What occurred in 2014 to increase the number of children coming into Foster Care? In 2014 there were 122 children. The average from 2008 through 2016 was 103 children. In 2016, 109 children were in Foster Care. Buena Vista County currently has 10 Foster Care Families, not all may be active, and some may be Respite Care for family only.
* The Iowa Youth Survey showed that 7% of 11th graders got alcohol from a friend who is over 21 years old, compared to 3% statewide.
* 22% of 6th, 8th, and 11th grade students reported they bullied someone else at school, in the past 30 days, the state average was 14% according to the Iowa Youth Survey.
* Concern over Medicaid funding cuts across the state.

**Child Care**

* Need for Infant Child Care, The number of Registered Child Development Homes in Buena Vista County is 11. Registered Child Development Homes can care for 4 infant under the age of 24 months, possibly 44 slots available (not including center care). Only 48 12 months and younger open spots both in-home and centers. Vital Statistics data from the Iowa Department of Public Health, shows the population of live births in 2016 was 315 in Buena Vista County.
* 75.2% of Buena Vista County families are working with children under age 6 the same as the statewide average.
* Only 20 out of 35 child care programs accept DHS Child Care Assistance.
* \*ALICE Report income in the Household Survival Budget doesn’t allow for 1 infant and 1 preschooler to be in child care.

**Nutrition & Food Insecurities**

* Total Food Assistance Recipients for the State is down from last year (Iowa Department of Human Services – Food Assistance Report Series F-1, Report for June, 2017. Buena Vista participation rate is at 45.6% as of June, 2017. December, 2015 participation rate was at 54.8%.
* Public School Districts Free and Reduced Lunch programs **Storm Lake 73.69**, Albert City–Truesdale is at 52.75, Alta 44.57, Newell-Fonda 48.65, Sioux Central 36.36, total average for Buena Vista County Public Schools is 61.11.
* \*ALICE Report 12% of Buena Vista County is in poverty, 23% are at the ALICE Threshold – households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county, and 65 % are above \*ALICE. Combining the total of poverty and ALICE 35% in Buena Vista County equals the population struggling to afford basic needs.

**Race & Ethnicity**

* All non-Caucasian races increased from 2000 to 2010 (see table below). Data for Decision Makers, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

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| Race Groups | 2000 | 2010 | Race Groups | 2000 | 2010 |
| White | 88% | 80.7% | Black or Af Am | 0.4& | 2.7% |
| Asian/ Pac Is | 4.3% | 5.6% | American Indian | 0.1% | 0.3% |
| Hawaiian | 0% | 0.5% | Other  | 5.8% | 8.5% |
| Other  | 5.8% | 8.5% | Hispanic Origin - can be of any race | 12.5% | 22.7% |

* Population change up in Buena Vista County according to the United States Census Bureau (Quick Facts). Buena Vista County increase .04%, Crawford County -0.9%, and Sac County -4.6%.
* Why does the overall number of Juvenile complaints decrease with Caucasians, African American stays the same, Hispanic stays the same, and Native stays the same?

**Community Youth Services**

* According to the Iowa Youth Survey 21% 6th, 8th and 11th graders cut more school, in a 30 day period, compared to 15% statewide.
* 27% of 6th, 8th, and 11th graders do not participate in extra-curricular activities at school or outside of school (sports, music, clubs, 4-H, scouts, etc.) the State percentage is 22% Iowa Youth Survey 2016.

\*ALICE an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, are households that earn more than the U.U. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold).

Meeting set for November 9th at 10:00 am to review community needs assessments, and review what services may be needed to assist children and families is Buena Vista County.