

(Continued)

Second Strategic Meetings: Fall 2003

The second meetings provided staff an opportunity to identify specific issues and concerns discussed at the first meetings. Staff then produced a list of the inconsistencies and concerns related to our data collection, leadership development, and professional development issues as well as a list of recommended solutions and actions.

The second round of strategic meetings produced some clear directives and examples of inconsistencies and malfunctions in the system and helped to provide a clear direction for Agency initiatives and actions.

Third Strategic Meetings: Winter 2003-2004

During the third meetings slated to begin shortly, staff will review the actions underway and/or under consideration based upon the feedback from the second meeting, will provide input regarding the support, learning and best hopes for these actions, and will conduct an environmental scan. The environmental scan will be conducted annually to help provide the Agency with an "early-warning system." Staff will identify emerging trends and issues related to their work, their field of expertise, and for the Agency. During this work, staff will identify potential opportunities and consequences these things might have on the future direction of the Agency.

Fourth Strategic Meetings: Spring, 2004

The fourth and final strategic meetings of the year will focus upon examining the action plans developed and the progress made to date, a further prioritization of our actions and efforts, and plans and suggestions for next year's round of strategic meetings.

New Arrival!

Carolyn Warkentin is now the proud Grandma of her first grandchild! Ava Elaine Warkentin, 7lbs. 6 oz., was born November 20, 2003 - 7:15 a.m. at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. Congratulations Carolyn!

Standards Committee on the Web

The Standards Committee now has a page on the Grant Wood AEA web site. The committee will review and summarize best practice in education evaluation, recommend a single set of standards and criteria for contracted staff, and recommend a professional growth system. To find information about the work and progress of the committee click on "Staff Information", scroll down and then click on "Grant Wood AEA Standards Committee." The FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section includes some common questions about the make up of the committee and the nature of its work. Staff members may submit questions by contacting any committee member.

Thus far, the Standards Committee has reviewed several articles describing current best practice in education evaluation. The findings and key points will be summarized in a paper by early January 2004. The paper will be made available to the Executive Team, Board of Directors and all staff at that time.

Several sets of standards and criteria have been collected for the committee to examine. A single set of standards and criteria will be developed to reflect the essential professional behaviors for all contracted staff that lead to the achievement of Agency goals. Draft versions will be communicated through email, print copies, and on the Standards Committee web pages. Input from contracted staff members will be critical as this part of the work progresses.

Staff members are encouraged to contact their representative or any committee member with ideas, suggestions, or questions.

Thank You...

From the Business Services/Human Resources Office:

A big THANK YOU to all who stopped in to see us at our open house! We enjoyed visiting with everyone! Included with this Bulletin Board is a listing of our staff, job titles and a brief summary of responsibilities. Please feel free to print it out for future reference.

Walking Works!

Because there are many benefits to regular exercise (it promotes greater overall health, cardiovascular fitness and weight management, and also helps to control rising health care costs), the Agency is promoting a walking campaign!

Did you know that walking is one of the easiest, most beneficial, and inexpensive forms of exercise available? Walking improves heart function, respiratory function, and bone density. It is a great way to redistribute body fat and burn calories. It is something that we can do almost anywhere and anytime.

To get started with your own walking program, please come to one of Grant Wood AEA's Walking Works kick-off sessions. At this session, you will receive information on the benefits of walking, tips to get started in your own walking program, a FREE pedometer (an instrument that records the distance a walker covers), and assistance programming your pedometer.

To be sure we have enough volunteers to accommodate the group size, please call Carol Potter at Ext. 6799 to register for the session you will be attending.

Walking Works Kick-Off Sessions

December 4: 3-4 p.m. - 6th St. (see monitor for room)

December 5: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. - 33rd Ave. (room number will be posted)

December 9: 10-11 a.m. - Coralville

December 15: 3-4 p.m. - Coralville

December 16: 8:30-9:30 a.m. - 6th St. (see monitor for room)

Make 10,000 steps your goal! Please join us to find out more and get started!!

If you have questions, please contact Susie Poulton, Ext. 6268.

