


County Scotland
Department of Social Services

Submitted By April Snead

Title Director

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Project Title CSU Family Fun Day

Category Profiles in Community Collaboration
(Please select one)

Project Description and Summary

What did you do?

Describe your program or project. What did you do? What is the history behind the program/project? What did you hope to accomplish? What was your timeline? Your budget? How did you identify your objectives? How well did you use available resources?

Years ago, the Children Services identified the need to promote child abuse prevention to as many citizens as possible throughout the year and especially during the month of April. While education was prevalent among professionals in the community, the need for further education of citizens, especially parents, remained. To provide this and reach as many residents as possible, the Children Services Unit began a free Family Fun Day on a Saturday during the month of April. During the event, many

community partners participate and provide activities for parents and their children. A few of those partners include law enforcement, EMS, fire stations, MH agencies, the Health Department, mentor services, etc. Activities often include school bus safety tours, the opportunity to explore fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances, car seat safety checks by the Health Department and the “smoke house” to show children how to escape a burning house or building. Other community agencies and service providers set up booths with referral information. Throughout the day DSS provides parenting tips and quick reference guides for posting in homes as related to child abuse prevention, among other information. There is a limited budget for the project each year, however the Department provides food, drinks, prizes and space for the event. To supplement the event, the Department partners with Dominoes to provide free pizza as well. Other partners also provide handouts, prizes, and giveaways for citizens.

Project Success and Impact

What was the outcome?

Was your program/project a success? What was the impact? How did you measure the impact? How widespread is the impact of your program/project? How were you able to overcome obstacles and challenges? Did your program/project meet your established objectives?

The objective of Family Fun day is to provide a wide range opportunity to promote child abuse prevention and education. It also allows other agencies to educate the community, children, and families to make them a friendly face in the community. This is an annual event. As all citizens are invited, promotion for the event is widespread. The Department advertises through fliers sent home with school children, fliers for a agencies involved to post, and local radio announcements. Attendance at the event reflects this, as the grounds are full. Attendance at the event measures the success of advertising and community involvement. Any caregiver walking away with parenting tips, resources, and more knowledge of the services within their community has an impact and is considered a success. Departmental staff not in the Child Services Unit volunteer to help on this day, as the importance is recognized throughout the agency and our community. While other events in the community provide family friendly activities, no other events focus on parenting education and

community resource referrals. As with any event, planning is key. The Children Services Unit must “make time” to plan and coordinate this event while continuing to maintain their regular job duties. Ensuring the community is aware and partners are involved is vital for success. Social workers regularly meet to plan and assign duties to ensure all necessities are in place. This strategic planning has proven to be successful as the event continues to “wow” attendees and is appreciated by the community. As the county is placed in a rural, economically challenged community, the Department must often create opportunities to educate the community. The Children Service Unit consists of only eighteen employees. These employees have dedicated the time and extra effort to ensure parents are provided a safe, family centered outlet for education. Family Fun Day has been promoted for twelve years and continues to be a great success!
