

KEOKUK COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Current & Upcoming News/Events

GENERAL ASSISTANCE:

- Keokuk County General Assistance has taken coordination of the county Salvation Army program after the passing of Jim Kerr in December 2005. Funds are available to help persons with such items as rent, utilities, food, gas for medical purposes, clothing, etc. Also look for “Kettle Campaigns” during the holidays as a fund-raising event. The county program keeps 70% of all money raised and the remaining 30% goes to the Salvation Army. The more funds we raise, the more money we keep! Contact our office at 641-622-2383 for more information.
- The next quarterly FEMA meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 24th, 2006 @ 1:00pm. It will be held in the 1st Floor office of the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors in the courthouse, Sigourney. The local Keokuk County FEMA program has been chosen to receive \$3,961 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; and, United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. A Local Board made up of representatives from Keokuk County General Assistance, Keokuk County Board of Supervisors, The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Sigourney Ministerial Association, and The Lord’s Pantry will determine how the funds awarded to Keokuk County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Keokuk County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Keokuk County General Assistance and The Lord’s Pantry participating. These agencies were responsible for providing a variety of services to Keokuk County including but not limited to assistance with food, lodging, rent/mortgage, utilities, mass feeding expenses, mass shelter expenses, etc. For a

list of eligible items, please see the contact information below. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds (or that have questions) must contact Jesse Hornback, Local Board Chairperson at the Keokuk County Courthouse at 641-622-2383 or by email at cpc@keokukcountyia.com for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Friday, March 17th, 2006.

MENTAL HEALTH:

- Keokuk County has completed its Mental Health Annual Report due to the Iowa Department of Human Services on 4/1/06. The Annual Report discusses progress made toward goals/objectives established in the 2003-2006 Mental Health Strategic Plan as well as other statistical information regarding the county Mental Health program. The Strategic Plan is developed every three years and establishes goals/objectives that Keokuk County would like to achieve over that three year period. These goals/objectives are a sort of “vision” that Keokuk County would like its Mental Health program follow. The next Strategic Plan is due to the Iowa Department of Human Services on 4/1/06 as well. This new three year period will be from 4/1/06 to 3/31/09. This document was approved by the Keokuk County Mental Health Stakeholder Committee on 2/10/06 after several months of development and then by the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors after a Public Hearing discussing the issue on 3/6/06. Both documents are sent to DHS for review. Both are also available to read on the main web page under the Information & Forms section. Please call our office with any questions at 641-622-2383.
- The Keokuk County Mental Health Stakeholders next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 6/23/06 @ 10:00am in the 3rd Floor Jury Room of the Keokuk County Courthouse, Sigourney. The Jury Room will be the new location of all future meetings unless otherwise specified. In addition, a meeting has been set up with interested Stakeholders for Friday, 3/17/06 @ 1:00am to address development of or enhancing of Keokuk County Mental Health Quality Assurance practices.