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Community team focuses on care and collaboration

By Enterprise Staff

Park County has a crew of professionals concerned about the needs of children, and are working toward making that support more available and easier to access.

The Park County Pediatric Community Care Team is a collaboration of organizations providing medical, social, and educational services to children and families. Their vision is for every child in Park County to have the support they need to reach their potential. The team's aim is to improve access to pediatric services, provide resources and information to children and their families and develop new programs and improve or expand existing programs to meet the needs of Park County's youth.

The team was started in June of 2007 to form a network in Park County with the goal to improve delivery of services for children and families through educating one another, the community and parents, in addition to streamlining services to reduce or eliminate redundancy. It recognized a need for change in the ways service providers work together and communicate.

The members of the network include Livingston HealthCare, Park County Special Education Cooperative, Family Outreach, Inc., Community Health Partners, HRDC Head Start, Park County DPHHS Child and Family Services, Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch, Barbara Stewart — community member, Park County Health Department Nursing Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Park County.

The team strives to have comprehensive knowledge of all services and opportunities for kids and families in Park County so they can act as a centralized hub for information and referrals.

PCPCCT provides "Ready, Set, Grow!!!" a child find event started in the fall of '07, serving 56 Park County children from birth to 6 years with a comprehensive screening for school readiness and identification of areas for growth. The event will be repeated this month, Sept. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Washington School.

The team received a federal grant to fund network development. It drafted the Park County Pediatric Resource Guide, and has been conducting on-going monthly small scale child find screenings open to any Park County child. The screenings take place on the last Thursday of each month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Services building of Livingston HealthCare on Robin Lane.

The organization is currently preparing for a county wide pediatric needs assessment to be carried out this month and next. For the assessment, it will be conducting a survey of children and families in Park County and looking at their social, emotional, physical, and educational needs. The results will allow PCPCCT to focus its efforts into improving services for kids and families.

For more information, contact Coordinator Angela Gibler at 220-0026 or angela.gibler@livingstonhealthcare.org.