

Collaborative Adventures



Volume 7, Issue 3
June 2009

Welcome Aboard New System of Care Sites

By: Janet McIntyre

It's the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of State Fiscal Year 2010 on July 1 and we are very happy to extend a warm welcome to the four new system of care counties in Indiana! You will find a large community of colleagues among the folks who have been doing this incredibly challenging and rewarding work for many years, who stand ready to offer help and support through the system of care listserv and regional NEWS (networks for empowering wraparound support) groups. And of course the TA Center is here to provide the training and coaching your community needs to create and sustain a vibrant system of care for children, youth and their families. This year we are happy to welcome Johnson, LaPorte, Wayne and Whitley Counties to the fold. As always, we have a bit of information about these counties including a fun fact or two to help everyone to get to know them better. We look forward to seeing the new representatives in person at the System of Care site meeting on July 6. In the meantime, feel free to call or email your SOC Coach with any question or concern! Chris and Rachel are more than willing to help in any way they can.

Johnson County

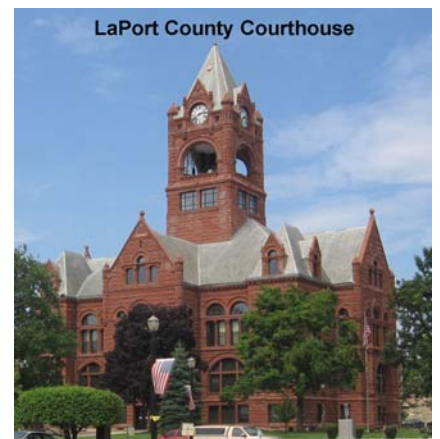
Of the four new sites Johnson County has the largest population with 139,158 residents as of 2008. It is either the second or third fastest growing county in Indiana, depending on which source you cite. Established in 1822, the county was named for IN Supreme Court Justice John Johnson. The median household income in 2007 was higher than most Indiana counties - \$60,381. The largest city in Johnson County is Greenwood with 46,389, but its County Seat is the very picturesque Franklin, with just 22,000 residents. In its 322 square mile area, the county boasts 6 school corporations and the well known 4 year institution, Franklin College. Johnson County is adjacent to Marion County (Indianapolis) and boasts no less than 7 Japanese corporations in Franklin alone! The racial/ethnic make-up of the county is 96% white, 1.6% Black, 1.5% Asian, and 2.2% Latino. Johnson County has a number of famous former residents, but 2 standouts are William Merritt Chase, the famous artist who lived from 1849-1916 and moved on to finish his career in New York City, and Paul Vories McNutt, the 33rd Governor of the state of Indiana who was also the youngest Dean of the IU Law School, Ambassador to the Philippines and Commander of the national American Legion. A favorite annual event in Johnson County is the Heartnut Heritage Festival at Johnson County Park, honoring the pioneers who settled in the county. More than 10,000 people attend the 3 day celebration that includes a fur trapper rendezvous and French and Indiana War re-enactment.



The System of Care Coordinator in Johnson County is Tiffany Sturdevant and she has been hard at work for several months preparing the site to become an access point for the Community Alternatives (CA-PRTF) Grant as well as a new system of care site. The SOC coach for Johnson County is Chris Cook.

LaPorte County

Formed in 1832, LaPorte County received its name which means "the door" from French explorers or settlers who gave it this name because of a wide clearing through the area that represented the "door" to the west for many pioneers. Before white settlement, all of the county's land belonged to the Potawatomi Indian Nation whose residents were removed to Kansas in 1838. LaPorte County has a population of 110,888 as of 2007. It is a beautiful county, with Lake Michigan and the 15,000 acre Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore forming its northern boundary and many



scenic smaller lakes and beaches throughout the county. The largest city in LaPorte County, Michigan City with 31,851 residents, is situated on Lake Michigan. However the County Seat is centrally located in the county and is also called LaPorte. The city has about 22,000 residents. LaPorte was the home of the first medical school in the Midwest and was also the home of current U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. during his years at LaLumiere Catholic Boarding School in LaPorte. Roberts' family lived in Long Beach, IN, also in LaPorte County. Median household income in LaPorte County is \$44,620 and the racial make-up is 87% white, 10 % black, and 4% Latino. LaPorte County is the largest in area of the new sites and one of the largest in Indiana with nearly 600 square miles. Though considered by some to be part of the greater metropolitan Chicago area (sometime called "Michiana") and situated only 30 minutes west of the city of South Bend, this versatile county boasts 25 orchards that grow everything from peaches to Christmas trees.

The System of Care Coordinator for LaPorte County is Bob Craft and the SOC coach for the county is Chris Cook.

Wayne County



Situated right across the "border" from Ohio, Wayne County is in the far east central part of Indiana. The county was named for General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. Its size in square miles is 404 and its population is 67,795. One claim to fame for Wayne County is that it is home to Hoosier Hill, the highest elevation in the state of Indiana at 1257 ft. above sea level. Due to its central location, Centerville was selected county seat in 1818, however in 1873 there was a "war" between Centerville and Richmond to become the county seat and Richmond won the "battle". Richmond was settled in 1806 by Quakers from North and South Carolina who were abolitionists. The home of Levi Coffin, a Quaker businessman in Richmond became a large and well known stop on the Underground Railroad which helped American slaves escape from the South to freedom in Canada. One of the slaves who stopped here was immortalized as "Eliza" in the famous book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The Quakers

also established the highly respected liberal arts school, Earlham College in Richmond. Richmond boasts one of only 130 All-American Rose Display Gardens in the United States. The median household income in Wayne County is \$35,555 and the racial make-up is 92% white, 5% black and about 2% Latino.

The new System of Care Coordinator in Wayne County is Amanda Harris, who has, like Tiffany in Johnson County, been working very hard to develop her system of care site while helping the county become an access point for the Community Alternatives Grant. The SOC Coach for Wayne County is also Chris Cook.

Whitley County



Whitley County is the smallest in both size (338 square miles) and population (32,667 residents in 2008) of the newly funded system of care sites. It has grown in population more than 4% since the 2000 census. Though it is situated in the Ft. Wayne metro area, it also has a very low density of population – just 92 people per square mile. Whitley County was founded in 1838 and named for Col. William Whitley who was killed in the War of 1812. Its County Seat is Columbia City with a population of 7,671. The median household income in Whitley County is \$57,903 – one of the highest in the state. The majority of Whitley County's residents are of German descent and the racial makeup is 98% white, with fractional numbers of people who are black, Asian, or other racial groups.

Cami Herron is the new System of Care Coordinator for Whitley County and she is happy to join the growing family systems of care sites funded through Bowen Center. Rachel Lewis is the SOC Coach for Whitley County.