



PICKAWAY COUNTY ESC MCKINNEY-VENTO NEWSLETTER



McKinney-Vento

Serving Students In Transition

PROJECT D.R.E.A.M

Project D.R.E.A.M has come about thanks to our grant. The purpose of Project D.R.E.A.M is to focus on the whole child in the county, provide wrap-around services, and meet the needs of students in a safe and healthy environment in which they feel supported and empowered. With Project D.R.E.A.M we are able to provide support to each district's homeless students to increase attendance, provide support to families, provide professional development to districts on awareness and coding of homeless students, and work to bring in community partnerships to help obtain the outcomes of the project. According to research by ODE, "When students are healthy, feel safe, have strong supportive relationships, are challenged and experience success, and are engaged in learning that is relevant and meaningful, they are more likely to enjoy learning, develop positive social skills and achieve greater academic success.", with this research the Project was able to be developed with all of this in mind. Working on this project is Kelcie Pierce, M.Ed., Academic Liaison and Dawn Whiteside, M. Ed., LICDC, LPC, Registered Play Therapist, Family, Community, and Counseling Liaison. If you would like to contact either individual you can reach Kelcie Pierce at 740-701-9386 or kelcie.pierce@cvcisd.com and Dawn Whiteside at 740-542-0797 or dawn.whiteside@cvcisd.com. We are so excited for this Project and hope you all feel the same. We will continue to update everyone along the way on how this Project is going!

MARCH NEWSLETTER UPDATES

Over the last month we have had an increase in the number of homeless students and families. Due to this there has been an outpouring of support from school staff and the community to help support a couple families that suffered tragic losses. It has been moving to see the community come together. The impact that it has made in those family's life will be remembered for a lifetime. This grant has allowed me to make contacts and advocate for families and students in Pickaway County. Whether it is taking a family food, calling for a doctor appointment, advocating for housing, helping to walk the parent/guardian step by step when they feel overwhelmed, truly listening and being empathetic to their needs, or finding additional resources.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or needs at 740-474-7529 or my cell 740-542-0797. I will help you in any way I can or find the information that you need.

Each liaison attends the Community of Practice meeting monthly and we find that multiple liaisons are seeing the same thing across the state, "The numbers of the homeless students and youth are not accurate." I am sure that everyone is familiar with The McKinney Vento Act. I am including a specific part to go over this month Part B (first part, highlighted)

THE MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

(B) includes

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospital

*Children and Youth who are sharing housing with others, even if it is family, are considered homeless. (Doubling Up)

Example: Mother and 3 kids move into grandma's house due to eviction of apartment. The mom is taking care of grandma while they live there. This would still be considered homeless. Accurate reporting is crucial for these students but also for you schools to get proper funding dollars.

** Each case must be looked at individually if you have questions please let me know.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: THE CORNER CLOSET

The Corner Closet, located at 499 E. Franklin Street (corner of E. Franklin and Mingo Streets), is a free clothing store for those in need in the community. Staffed by volunteers from area churches, the current hours are Wednesdays from noon to 6 pm and Thursdays from noon to 4 pm. Clothing, shoes, and accessories of all types and sizes are available. If someone needs assistance or has questions, they can contact the church at 740-474-4796. Donations of clothing are temporarily suspended until quantities are reduced. Come check it out!

