



eCornerstone

www.iphca.org/eCornerstone/implement.htm

Teen REACH to be Added to eCornerstone!

The Illinois Department of Human Services is pleased to announce that the eCornerstone system will be modified to include new functions for Teen REACH users.

Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope) responds to the ever increasing need for out-of-school programs by offering services to high-risk youth between the ages of six and 17. Illinois is unique in its efforts to implement such a comprehensive program, and has garnered overwhelming interest and commitment from a diverse group of organizations across the state, including many non-traditional human service grantees. Established by the Illinois Department of Human Services in 1998, the initiative has grown from 37 programs in FY 1999 to 108 programs today. Services are provided at 260 sites statewide, and 31,500 youth are served annually.

The eCornerstone system will be modified to assist Teen REACH users in three broad categories:

1. Program Planning
2. Attendance
3. Academic Progress

Program Planning

The new functions related to program planning allow program administrators to define both a schedule of events that will be offered at each location, and the event type. After the schedule has been defined, attendance can be recorded against these events.

Attendance

Teen REACH is an attendance-based program, meaning the program is interested in tracking the daily events of their participants. Teen REACH is interested in ensuring that their participants have access to a diverse set of events including academic achievement, life skills, parental involvement, mentoring, and sports/recreation. The system will track this kind of information by allowing a program administrator to designate the type of event when the schedule is created.

PLEASE NOTE: Important information regarding the eCornerstone system is communicated through emails from ecornerstonesupport@iphca.org, and is posted on the Illinois Primary Health Care Association's eCornerstone Web site at <http://www.iphca.org/eCornerstone/implement.htm>. **As you receive information, please read it carefully, and share it with other eCornerstone users at your site.**



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The new attendance functions allow Teen REACH staff to record what events were attended by any Teen REACH participant on a daily basis. The Teen REACH program will use this information to ensure that Teen REACH participants are indeed accessing the diverse types of events required by the program.

Academic Progress

Finally, the new academic progress functions allow Teen REACH staff to record information related to a participant's academic record in the system. Initially, the information recorded will be limited to a general assessment of progress, rather than recording each individual grade. This data will be used to determine if a participant's academic record is improving, staying the same, or declining. Teen REACH will use this information to show how the program has improved the academic achievement of their participants.

Benefits to Teen REACH Users

Teen REACH agencies will soon see that a user-friendly, uniform data-capturing system such as eCornerstone holds many benefits for its users. eCornerstone will enable agencies to use and manage data for collaboration with local partners, and will provide information for RFPs, program evaluation, and program planning.

Not only will Teen REACH agencies now be able to accumulate vital information, it will be done efficiently. Users will see a reduction of paperwork, and staff will be able to better utilize their time. A web-based, user friendly system such as eCornerstone will help avoid duplication of enrollments and work efforts. Additionally, the eCornerstone system offers convenience in that it is easily accessible from on-site computers.

Finally, the eCornerstone system adapts readily to change. Input will always be sought from Teen REACH agencies on ways the system can be further enhanced to benefit users. Because of its web-based nature, system modifications are easy to implement and cause minimal interruption for users.

Timeline for Teen REACH Users

eCornerstone will be piloted in several locations in the summer of 2004. The system will then be available to all other Teen REACH sites over the course of several months following the pilot.