

# Marriage and Family Counseling Service

July/August 2017  
Quarterly e-Newsletter  
Rock Island, IL



## Early Intervention International Play Groups

With an initial grant from Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, MFCS began a partnership with the Child and Family Connections agency to offer specialized play groups for children ages 1 - 5 from Spanish-speaking homes.

During the second pilot offering, Xochi Herrera Pannell and Lisa Viaene discovered that several Asian parents appeared with their children. Through sign language and a minimal amount of English, the Play Group worked! Thus, the name of the group was changed from Hispanic Play Groups to International Play Groups.

Early Intervention Play Groups Project (EIPG) is a new initiative in Illinois and was identified by the state as an unmet need for all children. For budgetary reasons, the state never initiated the Early Intervention Play Groups program for non-English speaking parents.

This project provides services to identify infants and toddlers who are at risk of developmental delays. The project also assists parents to learn play skills that are essential to their growth and development

The EIIPG is offered free to parents and children birth to five years of age. Entire families attend the groups. The professional staff consists of one counselor from Child and Family Connections, Lisa Viaene, one counselor/translator from Marriage and Family Counseling Service, Xochi Herrera Pannell, and a baby sitter.



Xochi Herrera Pannell



Early Intervention Group

## 2016-2017 Leadership:

Karen Brooke  
President

John Horn  
Vice President

Laurie Skjerseth  
Secretary

Jerry Goddard  
Treasurer

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## 50th Anniversary Committee:

Marsha Pedersen, Chair

Chuck Austin

Mike Drymiller

Jerry Goddard

Jim Horstmann

John Horn

Laurie Skjerseth

Lance Willett

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## Grants

MFCS received \$5,950 in grants during the summer, according to Lance Willett, 2016 - 17 Chair of the Development Committee. These grants added to the work of the agency. one new foundation grant was added to the roster this past year: the Junior Board of Rock Island. Their grant was for the Early Intervention International Play Groups. (EIIPG).

The Rock Island Community Foundation, \$2,450, EIIPG  
Doris and Victor Day Foundation, Leadership Workshops, \$2,000  
Junior Board of Rock Island, \$1,500, EIIPG

## Ceren Karahan, Summer Intern

The summer, Ceren Karahan, a Master's degree student in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Bilgi University in Istanbul, Turkey, has been observing the therapy sessions at the agency. Ceren is a student of Yudum Askyll, a former supervisee of William Hiebert, and one of Ceren's current supervisors.



Ceren Karahan



Thanks to Laurie and Nathan Skjerseth, Anne Watkins, and Mike and Mary Drymiller who have hosted Ceren during her stay in the Quad Cities.

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## New Board Members and Board Retreat

Joining the 2017 - 18 Board of Directors this fall are Alan Carmen (Rock Island), Tim Long and Scott Tuunicliff (Davenport). Welcome!

All Board members will be on a retreat on September 20, led by Dr. Michael Pater from Atlanta, who is in town to present to other programs. The retreat, the first ever for the Board, will be designed to help the board determine its focus for the year and how to effectively achieve and support the agency's mission.



Tim Long



Alan Carmen



Scott Tuunicliff

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## 2017 Annual Appeal

The 2017 Annual Appeal will be beginning later in the fall for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year. Birdies for Charity will announce their results soon. Those who contributed through the United Way campaign will announced later.

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## Conflict and Resiliency Workshop

Dr. Michael Pater, Atlanta, returned to the QCA to conduct a workshop on management for the directors of not-for-profit agencies and clergy on September 21 and 22. The workshop, entitled "Conflict and Resiliency" and will be presented on Friday, September 22. On September 21, Dr. Pater will present a management workshop for all of the Doric and Victor Day Foundation 2017 grant recipients.



Dr. Michael Pater