



Jim Kreuser, County Executive

1010 – 56th Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140
(262) 653-2600
Fax: (262) 653-2817

March 5, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jennie Tunkieicz
262-653-2831

Kreuser announces new Gang Intervention Supervisor

Kenosha – County Executive Jim Kreuser announced that Donna Rhodes begins today at the Kenosha County Division of Children & Family Services as the new Gang Intervention Supervisor.

Kreuser said he recognized immediately after becoming County Executive in June 2008 that there needed to be a focused and collaborative effort to reduce youth involvement in gangs and to address alcohol and other drug use among youth across Kenosha County.

The Gang Intervention Supervisor position was created to help lead, coordinate and facilitate Kenosha County's gang intervention efforts by focusing on the goal of reducing youth involvement in gangs.

“We needed someone who will work with people in the neighborhoods, law enforcement, schools, churches, local officials and community groups to make sure we are all working together with the common goal of leading youth away from gangs and toward becoming productive citizens in our community,” Kreuser said. “Donna has extensive knowledge of the gang problem in Kenosha County and she knows how to bring people together to work on our common goals.”

Rhodes has worked with delinquent youth and their families for 20 years as an employee of Professional Services Group. During the past 14 years, she has supervised programs aimed at successfully intervening in the lives of delinquent youth, such as Monitored Home Detention, Comprehensive Day Treatment Services, Electronic Monitoring, the Intensive Aftercare Program, and the Truancy Reduction Specialist Program.

“It is also important to me that these efforts have targeted and measured outcomes,” Kreuser said. “We’re not just going to say we’re addressing gang activities, we’re going to have to be able to show results. We are going to focus on the actions that are working and end the practices that aren’t working.”

Kreuser added, "This new position should also send a clear message that gangs are not going to be tolerated here. We love our children in Kenosha County and we're going to fight for them by helping them find positive activities to pursue. We're going to find out what services families and neighborhoods need so that Kenosha County will become an even better place to live and raise a family."

Rhodes has a Bachelor Degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and is certified by the State of Wisconsin as a Social Worker. She has worked at Professional Services Group since 1989 and was promoted as a supervisor in 1994. She has also successfully written 10 awarded grants.

"This position is an exciting opportunity to continue working to improve the community that I have been devoted to for twenty years," Rhodes said. "My passion has always been juvenile justice and improving the lives of the youth of Kenosha. Having worked in Kenosha for many years gives me the advantage of knowing many youth and families and being familiar with the neighborhoods targeted by this initiative."

Among her professional collaborations are: Concerned Citizens Coalition 2003-present; Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee 2004-present; Kenosha Unified School District Strategic Planning Committee on Disengaged Youth 2006; Kenosha Unified School District, Hillcrest School Site Planning Committee 2008; and Families and School Together (FAST) Team.

###