Paul and Family Living Educator Carol Bralich co-facilitated a Real Color’s® training for 11 staff from the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department. This is a dynamic workshop experience that increases participants ability to recognize their strengths and the strengths of others, build rapport quickly with others, understand how others process information, and how to use their communication to connect with others.

Of the nine participants that completed evaluations, 88% increased their ability to recognize their strengths and 100% increased their ability to recognize the strengths of others. 67% increased their ability to build rapport quickly with others. 89% increased their ability to understand how others process information and 100% increased their ability to modify their communication to connect with others. 100% evaluated Paul and Carol’s facilitation of the session as good or excellent. When asked how they will use what they learned, one participant commented that they will “keep in mind other’s strengths when communicating and try to be more aware of how they react to different scenarios.”
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Steph Plaster
262-335-4477

Thinking Outside the Barn: Stephanie partnered with the Land & Water Conservation Division to host a workshop for successful forage and crop farming in Southeastern Wisconsin at Cabelas on March 8. Topics included: herbicide use, nutrient management, local farmer-led conservation, soil health, and pest management. All attendees were asked to evaluate the speakers and topics on a 1-5 scale (1 = needs improvement, 3 = average, 5 = excellent). All of the speakers averaged 4.52 on their presentations and 4.45 on the usefulness of their topics (n = 29). Over 90 percent of attendees reported an increase in knowledge from the workshop (n = 29). Participants said they plan to use the information they gained from the conference to adopt the following ideas or practices: follow new NMP regulations, use more cover crops (4), improve organic matter, nutrition and herbicide use, use information in sales approach with clients, and plan to scout my fields.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Brianna Stapleton Welch
262-335-4478

4-H Communication and Arts Festival: On March 25 at UW-Washington County, 160 youth displayed their talents and skills in nine different communication and arts categories and received valuable feedback on their work from 19 judges. One parent wrote “My children really felt proud and accomplished to have participated.” Confidence in one’s abilities is demonstrating mastery, an essential element of 4-H.

This is the third year the event has included hands-on activities or a workshop to provide an opportunity for youth to try out another art form or communication skill they haven’t done before. This year we partnered with Schauer School of the Arts to provide two Irish dance workshops, which were very well received.

4-H Program and Volunteer Coordinator Megan Buehler worked with a committee of youth and adults to plan the event. This group makes changes to continually strengthen the event and oversees the various areas the day of the event.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATION

Carol Bralich
262-335-4479

Early Childhood Professional Development: The purpose of the Child Care and Education Network of Washington County (CCEN) is to have a collaborative community network that ensures a safe, high quality child care and education system. Carol, as chairperson, coordinated a 3 ½ hour Registry approved program, “Child Development: A Sensory Processing Perspective,” for early childhood educators and child care professionals on March 18th at the Family Center. The keynote, Kim Harrison, engaged 65 participants in sensory-based strategies to help improve children’s focus, including children with sensory processing disorder. Ten family serving agencies presented valuable resources for child care providers and their families. Carol also facilitated a needs assessment activity to help plan future programs.

On the pre-then-post evaluation, the results showed that only 10% of the participants were confident before the session and 82% indicated that they are now more confident in identifying behaviors related to sensory processing difficulties. Participants shared specific future actions: use calming strategies, sensory bins and pre-teach behaviors.

NUTRITION EDUCATION [FoodWise/SNAP-Ed]

Renee Vertin
262-335-4841

Through Multi-level Program efforts, FoodWise partnered with several local businesses to broaden its educational impact with learners.

- Kilian Management Services worked with Renee to coordinate group educational sessions for Pre-vocational Trainees of The Threshold Inc. Sarah Faust and TTI’s Employment Services Manager collaborated to ensure learners and iPads were available at McDonald’s, north side West Bend (WB); FoodWise used technology to access online nutrition information, helping learners make healthy choices. Five more groups will participate in a similar program, March - Sept. A cover story & photos of the first group were featured in the Sat., 2/25/17 edition of the Washington County Daily News. Full article: washington.uwex.edu
- Modern Woodmen of America’s goal & SNAP-Ed’s framework are congruent: to help youth make healthy choices where they live, learn & play in their communities. A WB Office Rep met with Sarah & Renee, & agreed to provide jump ropes, nutrition/activity tip sheets, & bookmarks for youth at Summer Programs of WB & Hartford Rec Depts.