



# MEDIA ADVISORY



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## Healthy Child Care Illinois Program to End June 30th

The McLean County Health Department was recently notified by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) that as of June 30, 2016 the Healthy Child Care Illinois program, which supports the Child Care Nurse Consultant position and services at the health department, will end. The Child Care Nurse Consultant provided McLean, Ford, DeWitt, and Livingston County childcare centers with consultation services, training, and education on a variety of health and safety topics for staff, parents and children.

In response to the notification of the program's elimination and the resulting loss of Childcare Nurse Consultant services, the health department is exploring alternative options that would allow a more gradually transition period during which resource materials could be developed and shared with the child care centers. Explains Walt Howe, McLean County Health Department director, "We want to assure that the medical consultation services offered to child care centers by this program continues to be available. This program has offered a valuable safety component to child care programs for over 18 years and to abruptly discontinue this program without a backup plan would be a great loss to child care centers and could possibly put vulnerable children at risk".

It is anticipated that more information regarding the feasibility of a establishing a temporary transition period will be known by mid-July, following the next Board of Health meeting.

The McLean County Health Department is dedicated to the prevention and control of disease through health promotion, early intervention and health protection within the county. More information about health department services can be found at: <http://health@mcleancountyil.gov>. Additionally, "Like" McLeanHealth on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter, to join the conversation about public health affecting you.

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