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Nancy Morey honored as 2019 Connie Reyes Award recipient

KENOSHA – The former coordinator of a community collaboration dedicated to strengthening families through prevention is the recipient of the 2019 Connie Reyes Award for Excellence in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.

Nancy Morey received the honors during a ceremony at the Kenosha County Job Center late this afternoon.

Morey led the Prevention Services Network until her semiretirement at the end of June 2018. She remains involved as president of NJM Management Services, the firm with which Kenosha County contracts to administer Prevention Services Network.

The Connie Reyes Award, now in its fifth year, honors Reyes, a Kenosha County social worker who was murdered on April 12, 1990, as a tragic result of her work serving children and families in the community.

County Executive Jim Kreuser said Morey's efforts to help families to prevent child abuse and neglect are in keeping with the spirit of Reyes, who dedicated her career to strengthening families.

"Preventing child abuse and neglect is at the core of our role in county government, to serve our most vulnerable citizens," Kreuser said. "Nancy's work with the Prevention Services Network and its Family Resource Center has helped greatly to advance that mission."

Morey, who has been involved with this work for a quarter century, said she is pleased with what PSN has accomplished over the years. She said data analysis bears out that prevention does make a difference, when it comes to preventing neglect and abuse.

"It's a great honor," Morey said, of receiving the Reyes award. "I'm really proud of the work we've done."

The Prevention Services Network provides an array of community-based services that aim to prevent formal involvement in the child welfare and youth justice systems. These include service

coordination, teen parent home visitation and family support programs, nurturing parent classes, intensive in-home services and an elementary school truancy reduction program.

Access to these and other services is provided through the PSN Family Resource Center, located within the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha. More information is available online at <https://www.psnfamilyresourcecenter.com>, or by phone at 262-697-4651.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Secretary-designee Emilie Amundson, who was a special guest at the award presentation, commended the work of Morey and PSN.

“Nancy’s story is intertwined with that of the Prevention Services Network,” Amundson said. “I’m so impressed with the level of coordination happening in this program. From health care to school to parenting classes, PSN is positioned to be a model for maltreatment prevention for other counties.”

Several of Morey’s colleagues nominated her for the Connie Reyes Award. In their nominating documents, they praised Morey’s passion and commitment to improving the well-being of children and families, her fierce drive and advocacy, and her work to raise community awareness of child abuse and neglect.

Ron Rogers, director of the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services, noted one particular comment about Morey, made by DCFS Lead Social Work Supervisor Nancy Ramsey.

“I know very few people who would have continued so steadfastly on her course for so many years to accomplish a vision that was not for personal benefit,” Ramsey said, of Morey. “Her work and vision has always been selfless, profound and on behalf of children and families and what they need to be stronger, happier, safer and more resilient.”

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