

## **“PA Department of Public Welfare Secretary Visits Erie”**

**May 20, 2008**

The Erie Community Foundation

<http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/news-and-events/2008/01/pa-department-of-public-welfare-secretary-visits-erie>

**See the PowerPoint Presentation from PathWaysPA:**

<http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/assets/the-elder-economic-security-initiative-for-pa.ppt>

With a focus on early childhood education, PA Department of Public Welfare Secretary, Estelle Richman had a full day when she visited Erie on May 20th.

In the morning, she spoke to approximately 100 stakeholders including social services workers, childcare providers and elected officials, who have a great interest in how the Pennsylvania budget affects their interests. Ms. Richman discussed the 2008-2009 Pennsylvania budget and early childhood education. After her presentation, Ms. Richman visited Erie Family Center and Early Connections where she engaged in discussions about United Way Success by Six as well as other child development and family focused programs.

Prior to Ms. Richman’s presentation, Carol Goertzel and Marianne Bellesorte of Pathways PA presented “Aging in Place in Erie”.

Secretary Richman’s career spans more than 30 years of public service, including her most recent position as Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia. Prior to her appointment as Managing Director, she served as Director of Social Services for the City of Philadelphia. Other positions she has held include the City of Philadelphia's Commissioner of Public Health and Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; Assistant Director with the Positive Education Program (PEP) in Cleveland, Ohio, a day treatment program for children with behavior problems.

A nationally recognized expert on issues of behavioral health and children's services, Ms. Richman has been honored for advocacy efforts by the National Alliance on Mental Illness; the American Psychiatric Association and the American Medical Association, among others. She holds a master's degree from Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ms. Richman’s visit was sponsored by The Erie Community Foundation and United Way of Erie County along with Pathways PA.