

CHESTER COUNTY CARING COMMUNITIES COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2006, 9:00 – 11:00 AM, EXTON, PA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wendy Beck	The COAD Group/ Recovery EXPO
Kim Bowman	Chester County Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Services
Sandy Claus	Great Valley School District
Nancy Clegg	The COAD Group, Community Prevention
Jennifer Clement	Center for Resolutions
Kathy Collier	Great Valley PHY
Pam Dunn	Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley
Carole Flounders	Bryn Mawr Rehab Cruisin Not Boozin Program
Mary Gaspari	Juvenile Probation
Joshua Grove	The COAD Group, Community Prevention
Charles Hall	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Brooke Hedderick	Crime Victims Center/ Great Valley PHY
Molly Henry	Kennett CTC/ The Garage Youth Center
MaryAnn Hughes	Downingtown CTC
Bob Hume	Octorara CTC
Paul Karaman III	New Life Youth and Family Services
Terry Kenworthy	United Way of Chester County
Kim Lewis	Juvenile Probation
Fran Luft	YWCA, Chester County
Schenay Miles	Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
Ellen Moeller	ARCH/ The COAD Group
Terry Mullineau	Chester Co. Intermediate Unit
Lisa Nugent	Downingtown CTC
Dolores Perry-Hunter	COAD Board/ Great Valley PHY
Meg Polvino	Chester Co. Drug and Alcohol Services
Linda Reddon	Downingtown CTC
Danielle Salada	Octorara CTC
Sean Saunders	The Second Mile/ COAD Board, Great Valley CTC Board
Barry Schickling	Childhood Education Coalition of Chester Co.
JoAnn Tarrant	New Life Youth and Family Services
Christina Valocchi	West Chester CTC
Sandra Vaughan-Lewis	Domestic Violence Center/ Coatesville Weed and Seed/ Bridge of Hope
Kendra Weible	Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families
Dolores Winston	Phoenixville CTC
Brad Zerr	Upper Main Line YMCA

Welcome and Introductions The meeting was held in the Blue Room, at The Coad Group. Nancy Clegg, facilitator, welcomed people to the meeting and introductions were done via areas of focus: substance abuse, school drop out, teen pregnancy, delinquency, and violence.

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting (12/2/05) were distributed electronically prior to this meeting and attendees were asked to notify Nancy Clegg and Ellen Moeller (acting secretary) re: changes and corrections. We plan to continue to approve minutes electronically. The Coalition directory of

participants has not been updated since the 12/05 meeting. It will be updated prior to the next meeting (3/24/06). Please contact Ellen Moeller (EMoeller@coadgroup.com) at The Coad Group to notify her of changes for the directory.

Nancy told the group that the importance of putting structure into our coalition is to build future in terms of being able to support one another, as we go forward, through letters of support for funding, etc. The structure sub-committee has been meeting to work on compiling the information that was gathered during break-out discussion sessions at our 9/23/05 meeting. This is the process that we are using to write by-laws for this coalition. Kathy Collier reported on the sub-committee report and recommendations.

One question that was discussed was the recommendation that an even number of representatives be on the voting committee. What would be the provision for a tie vote? The committee agreed that they would check to see how other groups have addressed voting and how a tie is handled and will clarify that in the proposal. **Robert's Rules of Order** will also be consulted.

Another question that was raised was how many terms a member of the voting committee may serve? As this was discussed, consensus was that a member may serve a limit of 3 consecutive terms.

Other questions related to what criteria will be used to determine membership. Will an agency have one vote? Who determines whether an organization doesn't belong? Can community members (individuals) be voting members?

Throughout the discussion, it appeared that one of the things valued historically in the Caring Communities Coalition is that we have not limited the number of agency representatives, nor excluded those who can only come occasionally. There was general consensus that we do not want to lose sight of that value. Concern that structure might mean rigidity and loss of the user friendly atmosphere for networking was voiced. The goal of creating this structure is that it be broad enough, yet specific enough that we can make decisions, is funder compliant and yet not become encumbered by rules and restrictions that would keep us from the relational pieces that facilitate capacity building. Mary Gaspari and Dolores Perry-Hunter commented it is important to consider if the structure encourages OR discourages people from attending. Participants discussed finding language which encourages inclusion. We want people to feel welcome to attend and participate in the discussions, yet understand that each organization will have "one" vote so that voting is not weighted by numbers of participants from any one agency. The steering committee will look at these issues. Terry Milleneau's suggestion pertaining to identifying a quorum of "voting members" was to have a different colored name placard for voting members to identify clearly how many voting members are at the table.

The steering committee was thanked for their diligent work and they agreed to take the ideas back to committee.

The following CTC reports were given:

Lisa Nugent gave the report for **Downingtown CTC**. Among active programs at this time, are BIGS After-School Mentoring (Big Brothers Big Sisters), and Parenting Wisely workshops. A new opportunity to partner with Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley has been arranged. Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley will host a Parenting Wisely series for parents of their area Girl Scouts. They are now tailoring parent workshops to go to various venues, like faith-based, PTO groups at various schools, etc. Finding groups that are already meeting together and bringing the Parenting Wisely program to them is becoming an effective approach to reaching more parents.

Kathy Collier gave the **Great Valley PHY** report. They are working on their spring newsletter hoping to increase awareness about how GVPHY is working towards community prevention efforts. They continue to offer a parenting education series, and parenting network. Guiding Good Choices is a program that is offered

to parents of grades 4 – 8. They are also planning youth focus groups for February and March. This year they will split the high school focus groups into two: one for grades 9-10, and a second for grades 11 and 12. They will also be conducting a focus group for middle school youth. They are also partnering with Crime Victims Center with a program called “The Link” to educate female youth to the hazards of mixing drug and alcohol into their dating relationships. (The contact for more information about this is Brooke Hedderick of Crime Victims Center). (MaryAnn Hughes pointed out that Downingtown also has a program with the name “Link,” with a different focus which may cause confusion.) PHY is also working on a collaborative project for “The Week of the Young Child” in April. The Childhood Education Coalition of Chester County and PHY will host an event at People’s Light & Theater for April 2. This event is to provide an opportunity for children and families to have an evening together. PHY is also partnering with Bryn Mawr Rehab’s *Cruisin’ Not Boozin’* for junior prom preparation.

Molly Henry gave the report for **Kennett CTC**. They continue to offer tutoring and mentoring programming for middle school and high school youth 4 days a week at the Garage. They offer one-on-one and group mentoring and the tutoring program is continually growing. Exelon, Inc. is sponsoring a 3-part speaker series for youth at The Garage. The first in the series was entitled “Aim High.” They had 120 students and 20 community leaders attend and participate in discussions on pathways to college and success. A panel of first year college students spoke and gave their experiences as encouragement to these younger students to stay in school and AIM HIGH! Upcoming there are topics planned on valuing diversity and understanding media messages. Girl Talk continues with an average of 30 girls participating each week and learning from volunteer speakers on various topics. New this month is the initiation of a 6 part series for at risk young men, as well, that is entitled “The Huddle.” 25 attended the first session given by a now successful professional adult who was formerly a gang member.

Danielle Salada gave the report for **Octorara CTC**. Their partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters is focused primarily on adult mentoring at this time. They currently have more Bigs than Littles and are actively recruiting students to match with the adults. There are plans to launch the BIGS program with high school students and elementary aged children. They also have had training in Project Alert and are the pilot site this year for this research based drug and alcohol education program that can be implemented in the health classes. The Octorara community is seeking funding to help sustain the Olweus Bullying Program. They partner with the Octorara Recreation Commission to offer 7 after-school programs for grades 1-8. Through the combined efforts of OCRC and CTC they are currently serving 200 kids in these programs. The Board is reviewing and considering Functional Family Therapy and the idea of parenting workshops. They are offering Family Fun Nights which are family activities that are offered every other month. In February they are planning a family Valentine dance and will hand out resources. If agencies or groups want to provide resources that are aimed towards families, they can contact Danielle or Mandy. They also have been approached by the Lions Club for partnership about a research based program and are not yet decided about the timing and capacity for adding another program at this time. Bob Hume, Octorara CTC Board, pointed out that CTC is keeping good communication with their elected officials to let them know what Octorara is doing.

Dolores Winston gave the report for **Phoenixville CTC**. The Fathers’ workshop is still going strong. They are in their 15th class. They have been marketing through various recreational sports seasons. Family Night had 75 participants this month. They are soliciting feedback through a survey to record some of the value it has been to families to have this ongoing opportunity in the community. Next month, they will partner with OIC and Greencastle Productions on the Family Night event. Partnerships with other local agencies have been successful. They are planning 2 fundraisers, one involving square dancing, and the other with BINGO. High school mentoring with middle school students is getting underway. There is a need for increased adult volunteers to participate in the Structured Playground Program. Dolores has been advised that volunteer firefighters have agreed to have some of their staff help out with this. The Second Step Program (elementary school level programming) is underway and incorporates an anti-bullying message. Phoenixville is actively

recruiting some new CTC Community Board members and now has an average of 22-25 people attending their meetings.

Christina Valocchi gave the report for **West Chester CTC**. They are continuing to restructure, update and organize. At this time they are revisiting their strategic plan, mission and vision statements and are committed to completing a new risk and resource assessment. By connecting and networking in the community, Christina is working to revitalize participation on their Community Prevention Board. Mobilization is resulting in increased awareness throughout the community. Young people in the community are participating in updating the logo. The school district is offering Parenting Wisely and CTC is helping to recruit interested parents to the program.

Christina Valocchi also gave the **S.E. Regional CTC report** (for Tom Bux, who is the TA- Regional consultant). The 5-county Region meets quarterly. Feb. 16 is their next meeting. They will look at risk factors, logic models, and e grants trainings this year to support any new sustaining grant proposals this year. Christina reminded that Regional CTC is there to support us and another venue where we can access help, TA and additional trainings.

Christina Valocchi also gave the **State** level report. She is the representative for the Southeastern Region of CTC to the State PACPC. They are also in the process of rewriting mission and vision statements and working on strategic planning. Prevention focused coalitions throughout the state are working together. Christina remarked that Chester County CTC efforts are known and respected at the state level. SAHMSA has bought the CTC model from Channing Bete. The state CTC symposium will be held April 18-19, at State College. This is an opportunity to get more training for our mobilizers and community board participants. Handouts were placed on the resource table. It looks like PCCD may issue sustaining grant opportunities in late February 2006.

Following the CTC reports, Nancy asked those in attendance to place the stickers they were given at sign-in (with agency contact info) on the wall posters that indicated the focus areas that are currently in the scope of their agency's work. The posters representing the 5 youth behavioral risk areas and some of the sub-topics under each will be collected and the information will be collated and organized for electronic distribution. This exercise will be one more way to help identify others who have resources to share or are ready to consider grant collaboration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Moeller
The Coad Group
Acting Secretary