



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-11: 30 am**

**Those in attendance:**

Wendy Beck	The COAD Group		<a href="mailto:Wbeck@coadgroup.com">Wbeck@coadgroup.com</a>
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The meeting was held in the offices of The Coad Group and was facilitated by Nancy Clegg, Community Prevention Outreach Coordinator. Forty-six people attended.

Nancy welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and expressed the idea that the group of collaborating entities is obviously growing in number and in strength in terms of their connectedness with one another and the services that they provide not only to members of the communities they serve but that there is also a stronger linking for countywide prevention concerns.

What began as a round-table introduction with the assignment to share who/what groups you have collaborated with this year snow balled into a dynamic account of the amount of networking that is taking place throughout the county one-on-one, agency-to-agency, and coalition- to-coalition. Each attendee explained who they are, what services they represent and some of the collaborative efforts that they are involved with. Below is a brief account of this summary as a general progress update and as an encouragement of what we have in process to build on this year, in the county.

**JoAnn Tarrant – New Life Truancy Program** – is presently providing services to West Chester, Downingtown, Oxford, Phoenixville and Coatesville with the hopes of expanding to other districts, as funding would permit. With TANF funds (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) being targeted for reduction and/or elimination in the next two years, TPP is seeking alternative funding to sustain their efforts. They are recognizing truancy as an indicator of the root of more difficult patterns in the family system. They try to treat the youth within the context of the whole family with a holistic approach to intervention and prevention.

**Barry Schickling – Early Childhood Education Coalition** – is heading up a committee on promoting collaboration with businesses in the county to increase opportunities for prevention strategies and improvement in the quality of early education for children and families.

**Carol Henson – Community Engagement Coordinator for Early Care in Chester County (CCIU)** - is presently working to change the focus of childcare to be on child development rather than merely day care. Attempts to provide increased training and value for staff development, parent education and awareness of preventative care for children 0-13 in the county is their focus. She has been a part of the countywide CTC model since its inception and believes strongly that collaboration of resources is a strategy that will benefit all of us.

**Sophie Donstreich – Big Brothers Big Sisters** - talked about their effective collaboration with Downingtown CTC and with mentoring throughout the county.

**Sandy Lewis – Domestic Violence/ Bridge of Hope** – The mission at Domestic Violence Center is to provide intervention, programs, outreach, and systems advocacy to prevent and reduce domestic violence in Chester County. There is continued collaboration with many agencies throughout the county.

**Don Corry – Juvenile Probation** – stated that this was his first consortium meeting and that he is interested in how we might work together to divert youth from the juvenile justice system and also provide more effective aftercare within communities when youth return from placement, by increased collaborating and communication.

**Dawn Lagunas – Police Athletic League (PAL)** - offers an after school and summer camp program for at-risk youth. They collaborate with a variety of agencies including the YMCA, ACAC fitness club, Girl Scouts and the Chester County Art Association. Their strongest collaborator is West Chester University.

**Linda Reddon - Downingtown CTC Mobilizer** - reported about the after-school mentoring program they are doing in cooperation with Big Brothers/Big Sisters that has now expanded to serve 6 elementary schools. She also mentioned the efforts they are undertaking to find sustaining funding. Downingtown is also tackling parent awareness by implementing the Parenting Wisely program. New facilitators have been hired so that workshops can multiply this spring.

**Terry Kenworthy - Community Prevention Department Director, The Coad Group** - said that this collaborative effort is the highlight of what the CTC process is about. The fact that this group of organizations is meeting together on a countywide level to collaborate and share with one another, and that the numbers of people who are gathering for this purpose is growing, is exactly what the goal has been.

**Mary Gaspari - Mental Health Coordinator, Juvenile Justice** - is coordinating Juvenile Justice needs with the community at-large. She is project director for the Model Project funded by the MacArthur Foundation to address system reform as it relates to Juvenile Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues.

**Nadine Predebon - JPO Mental Health Specialist Probation Officer** - works closely with the Chester County Juvenile Detention Center when youth with mental health disorders, who are involved with the juvenile justice system, are detained at Lima.

**Brad Zerr - Upper Main Line YMCA** - is working in a collaborative way with many of the groups at this table to do anything they can to provide services for kids in the communities. They are the fiscal agent for the Downingtown CTC and the Great Valley PHY.

**Lisa Ramsey - Chester County Community Dental Services** - provides education and outreach, as part of community visits. They are developing programs that will have a positive effect on the prevention and treatment of dental diseases. They also provide free dental screenings, sealants, and fluoride rinse programs. She is new to the consortium and interested in how they might be an additional resource to service providers who are already caring for families.

**Ed Hill - DUI Coordinator, The Coad Group** - provides educational programs for DUI offenders and underage drinking offenders, in Chester County.

**Debbie Dainis** is a parent in Chester County who is involved with the Downingtown CTC and has worked on the Student Resource Officer project.

**Wendy Beck - The Coad Group Community Prevention Department** - is also the **Coordinator of The Recovery Expo** - helps to manage the resource room at Coad, provides information and referral services through Coad, and will facilitate the planning of the third annual Recovery Expo, entitled, "Healing Lives, Families, Communities," on September 24, 2005.

**Danielle Salada - Octorara CTC Mobilizer** - reported that she and her board are collaboratively working with their school district by working on Across Ages Mentoring, a life skills component, and a SADD student group. They are also establishing prevention resource centers in local libraries.

**Tom Bux - Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, Shippensburg University**— is the S.E. Regional consultant for Communities That Care®, providing technical assistance and training support to existing CTC sites.

**Margaret Rivello - Chester County Health Department** - directs the Planning for a Healthy Chester County Partnership. She is alert to watching for collaborative resources to pass on to coalitions and agencies and is also a part of the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

**Dana Strode-Tritle - United Way of Chester County and West Chester CTC Board** - spoke about a shift in the way UW will do business. The Community Impact Agenda involves 4 components: 1. Basic Needs; 2. Children and Youth; 3. Healthy Living; 4. Strengthening Families and Individuals.

**Doreen Ellis - Mobilizer for Partnership for Healthy Youth, the CTC in Great Valley** - is providing parenting initiatives, and, most recently, hosted a youth forum to hear from teens about the reality of the issues they are facing.

**Rachel Manson - Vision Quest** - focuses its efforts in assisting children and families to make healthy adjustment after placement in a residential program. They also house the Functional Family Therapy research-based program. At this time it is only available to families involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Antoinette Gomez - Kennett Square CTC Mentoring Program Coordinator, and caseworker for Family Service** - is devoting efforts towards children, youth, and families. They are active in collaborating with the Penn State 4H Program. Their program entitled "Girl Talk," is focused on serving at-risk migrant girls, ages 14-17 and they are collaborating with the Garage to provide this informative after-school youth-led program.

**Frank Deluise - Kennett Square CTC Program Coordinator** - has been facilitating adult mentoring with at-risk students. Collaboration with schools and the SAP team, collaboration with the local police, and faith communities have been strong elements of forward progress. An Anger Management program is a current project that youth have identified as a need to address.

**Patti Olenik - Mobilizer for Kennett Square CTC and Director for The Garage Community and Youth Center** - said multiple collaborative services are offered at the Garage Youth Center in Kennett. This Nonprofit Christian Youth Center works with Migrant Education, mentors, tutors, and provides various community service opportunities like working with Good Neighbors on home repairs.

**Pat Yoder - Chester County Health Department** - works in collaboration with the research- based visiting nurse program, Nurse Family Partnership. They work specifically with at-risk pregnant teens and follow up with the newborn babies of teenage mothers.

**MaryAnn Hughes - Downingtown CTC Board Chairperson** - mentioned the success of the after-school mentoring program in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Sulyn Godsey-Manigly** - is a **Mental Health liaison** in Chester and Montgomery Counties. They provide outreach services through Owen J. Roberts School. She also does consultations with juvenile probation officers.

**Erin Taylor-** is the **Coordinator of SAP (Student Assistance Program)** for **The Coad Group** - serving the public school districts in Chester County.

**Kurt Walsler - Family Service of Chester County** - provide multiple services to families including Head Start, Family Bonding, Family Traditions, and a child abuse prevention program, Healthy Start. They also support a Behavioral Management research-based program for at-risk youth in the Octorara School District.

**Kate Conkle - of Second Mile** - works with at-risk youth in Southeastern Pennsylvania, including Chester County. They have a bullying prevention kit, a mentoring program that pairs elementary students with Villanova University students, and a Leadership Institute. They work with school districts and local counselors, and also sponsor a summer leadership program in cooperation with Penn State University. She reported Kennett students have taken advantage of this opportunity for training.

**Heidi Bryan -Feeling Blue, Suicide Prevention** - shared that they provide services around depression and grieving. They house two research-based programs, S.O.S. and Columbia Teen Screen. They also train people for the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention program. They currently collaborate with Chester County Suicide Prevention Task Force and Chester County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board.

**Gary Blair - Director, Chester County Juvenile Justice Detention Center** - is attending this meeting in hopes of bringing more services to the children under their care.

**Ceil Harkness - Chester County OIC, West Chester** - coordinates the I CAN program, which teaches life skills and employment skills to at-risk and out-of-school youth, ages 16-21.

**Andrea Bosbach - Open Hearth, Inc.** - located in Spring City, works with families who are struggling financially, with housing assistance and transportation assistance. They work, with other non-profits, with families who are in crisis. They would like to network and get positioned to work more in prevention than crisis intervention for families who need financial counseling.

**Linda Hershey - SAP Provider, The Coad Group** - in the Kennett Area. She has interest in working collaboratively with The Garage and in her home community, Octorara CTC on behalf of youth. She particularly sees a need for more healthy alternative activities for young men.

**Ron Smith - Community Outreach Director for Good Neighbors Home Repair** - is a faith-based organization that links volunteers with families who need repair services in southern Chester County. They work in collaboration with youth groups in the Kennett Square area, and with The Garage and CTC mentoring programs.

**Carol Maher**, is educated as an art teacher, with a pastoral counseling background. She is networking with faith communities of all denominations and, often with Home School Families, and with youth who have been involved in substance abuse that need redirection and alternative education styles.

**Maria McGillway - Parent** -whose son has been in the juvenile justice system. She has experienced this as a painful intervention and would like to assist others to prevent the same outcome for other youth.

**Christina Valoochi** has applied for the West Chester CTC Mobilizer position. She is attending to learn more about the Consortium.

**Reggie Wade - Chester County Juvenile Probation Casework Supervisor** - collaborates with almost everyone at the table to provide opportunities for the youth and families that he serves.

**Neydary Zambrano - Healthy Start Program** - collaborates with multiple agencies through Healthy Start initiatives and has also served as the chairperson for **The Latino Council**. The Latino Council is hoping to address addiction issues and access to services for Latino populations in Chester County.

**Lois Gould – Board member, Phoenixville CTC** - offers multiple services through their collaboration with Phoenixville Recreation Department. The Fatherhood Initiative started as a service to non-custodial fathers and is now having multiple sessions each year to train any interested father in how to more effectively function in their important role with their child. The Second Step Program provides a research based perspective to help teachers and students interact positively. There are full time ongoing literacy classes, and a summer day camp program for assistance with strengthening social skills in at-risk youth.

**Meg Polvino - Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services** – allocates public funds to provide the prevention, intervention, and treatment services, which are then evaluated to meet performance criteria.

**Kate Nolt -Community Prevention Specialist, The Coad Group** - gave the Countywide Youth Initiative Highlights.

- The **Great American Smoke Out** was held November 18, 2004, emphasizing the importance of not smoking. She accompanied a group of teens to provide an opportunity for a smoke free bowling alley day.
- April 13, 2005 is National **BUSTED!/ Kick Butts Day**. BUSTED! is an advocacy group targeted against the tobacco industry. On Kick Butts Day, a conference will be held with keynote speakers, and various anti-smoking activities will be held in local schools. Call her at 610-363-6164 to participate.
- February 23, 2005 is the annual **SADD Conference (Students against Destructive Decisions)**. The theme this year is “The 80’s Return.” This is a good opportunity to train and empower youth leadership.

- April 15, 2005, Coad will offer a training presented by **Tom Jackson**. This training will give adults insights and specific energizing activities to use in teaching life skills to teenagers.
- The annual **Youth-to-Youth Conference** was held at Unionville High School on January 7-9, 2005. This is an annual opportunity for teens that are committed to ATOD-free living to give support and gather strength from one another. They are planning the next conference for January of 2006.

**Tom Bux** announced that *CPR for CTC* Training, targeted for individuals who want to know more about CTC, would be offered on April 28, 2005. This training is funded by PCCD and provided by Shippensburg University by CJJT &R (Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research). This is a program that refreshes the CTC process, refocuses efforts, reminds groups of all they have accomplished, and re-energizes CTC groups. It is designed for established groups that may be reaching the end of their funding or who may need a booster course to get back on track. More location and timing information will follow.

Tom also brought to attention the wealth of local trainings that will be offered at Coad in the next few months. These are detailed in the Consortium newsletter handout and can be accessed on the consortium website, [www.caringcommunitiesconsortium.org](http://www.caringcommunitiesconsortium.org).

Tom also urged CTC Board members and mobilizers to participate in the PCCD PA web survey. Its purpose is to measure effectiveness of community coalitions. The survey will measure what Boards are doing and how they work together. The survey does not attempt to measure outcomes, but rather addresses what coalitions were established to do. The federal government is interested in community coalitions. “CTC” is a copyrighted name, but the concept may be adapted because it is viewed to be a cost effective program.

**Meg Polvino** reported that federal and state grant opportunities are there to fund model programs. Is it possible for “CTC” to get identified as a model program status? Tom dialogued about CTC as a process versus a research-based program.

**Dawn Lagunas** from **West Chester CTC Board** gave the following update. They are actively seeking a mobilizer. They are offering the following programs: Shining Stars and Raising Safe Kids. The Program Committee is sending letters seeking support and partnership with CTC.

**Terry Kenworthy** reminded each person in attendance to leave their brochures on the resource table for others so that we can begin to compile all of the information that is being shared around the table. Additional information about your programs can be sent to Nancy Clegg ([NClegg@coadgroup.com](mailto:NClegg@coadgroup.com)) or Terry Kenworthy ([Tkenworthy@coadgroup.com](mailto:Tkenworthy@coadgroup.com)). Coad will help send out electronic flyers for events you would like to share with others in the consortium. You do not need to wait for the next quarterly consortium meeting to share information (which may be too late for information to be current anyway).

**Nancy Clegg** also asked CTC representatives to update the lists of contacts that are active in their coalitions. This information will be utilized by Coad to update the database and mailing list for *The Exchange Newsletter*.

As a part of introducing the speakers from Juvenile Justice, Nancy commented, that it was noteworthy that the MacArthur Foundation had sited Chester County to be one of two sites chosen in the state, because they were already networked and collaborating.

**Model Project/Juvenile Justice:** Mary Gaspari, Nadine Predebon, and Don Corry each made a presentation to the group.

**Mary Gaspari** reported that Juvenile Justice around the nation has been seeing a trend in increasing numbers of youth with dual diagnoses (mental health AND substance abuse diagnoses). Beginning in 2001, agencies began to come together to look at this issue. Chester County is now receiving funding to address the mental health and substance abuse issues that are so often linked in juvenile offenders. One goal of this program is to divert youth out of Juvenile Justice and into treatment, when appropriate. A multi-system planning team composed of the key stakeholders has guided the project. Included in this team are juvenile probation, mental health, drug and alcohol services, juvenile detention center, two service providers, and forensics.

The MacArthur Foundation Model Project addresses these three areas:

1. Mental Health
2. After-Care (Re-Entry)
3. Disproportionate Minority confinement

Another goal that is being addressed in Chester County with this Model Project is that we are seeking to identify youth with mental health problems earlier. Then, when the youth are identified, family involvement is encouraged. In traditional settings, families are often excluded from planning. It has been shown that families are often needed to be more active in the planning process for a better outcome (which is decreased re-entry to juvenile justice system). Families often do not understand when their children have mental health problems. Support in helping them with this understanding is crucial. The program aims to build family supports, provide mentoring, and connect the youth with mental health services and divert them from further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Post-Traumatic Stress For Girls is a training that will be offered at the Government Services Center on April 20 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Call Mary Gaspari for registration.

**Nadine Predebon** said the MacArthur Foundation grant was initiated in 2002. The research study focused on 64 youth with mental health diagnoses. They were able to deter kids out of detention and into respite care, hospitalization, or home detention. Under the

guidelines of this project the youth are given job skills, education, and support in building social/peer skills. Some are prescribed psychotropic medication and supervised by a case manager. They and their families are given access to crisis intervention services. Parents and police officers are given education re: mental health issues and ways to respond. Thus far, they have had positive results.

A training entitled Detention: Early Intervention & Education will be held on May 21 from 9:00AM until 12:00 noon at the Government Services Center. MH, MR, and D& A will each participate in the training. Parents are encouraged to attend to learn how to access the services they need.

Referral Process for the Model Project: During the initial intake interview, a youth can be referred to the project, or at any time while they are in the justice system. The initial interview is designed to help to identify appropriate candidates. "One Plan of Care" refers to a system of care when a youth is being served by multiple agencies all at the same time. Youth who are assigned to the Juvenile Justice System are adjudicated for committing a crime up to the age of 18 and can be held under the court's jurisdiction until age 21.

**Vision Quest** provides residential and after care services.

1400 cases open per year. 1/3 recidivist rate – 1300 new cases each year. 50- 60% have some kind of MH diagnosis, 10-15% have an Axis I diagnosis. If they are unable to take a case, they will make a referral. The result in the probation department is that they have had fewer days in detention.

A probation officer might have 35-60 cases at any one time. Those with a mental health diagnosis often require a great deal of time. It is very helpful to have a probation officer who is capable of handling these cases. The "trickle-down" effect is that other probation officers are learning about mental health issues and how to effectively respond to these youth.

**Don Corry** supervises the placement unit at juvenile probation. He discussed the advancements in our treatment of these kinds of problems. Formerly we were using a medical model where the youth was identified with the problem, and the juvenile justice system was going to fix him/her. There were multiple repeat offenders, and each time the youth was in the system, the goal was to fix him/her. Often they would make improvements, but as soon as they returned to the same environment, the same problems occurred. Now, aftercare planning begins immediately when the youth enters the system. Families are encouraged to get involved in the planning right away. Some families resist this, but can be encouraged through education. Now we realize how much the community resources can help. Mentoring, life skills, substance abuse education, parenting skills, are all needed for these youth. One outlook is to think about these youth as being all our children. We can all help and we all need to help. It was pointed out, that to date, the program is not able to take Spanish-speaking individuals.

**Nancy Clegg** summarized the meeting by saying that although we have families and youth with lots of needs, we have been encouraged today that we also have lots of resources linked and available in collaboration. Attendees were invited to leave a suggestion or comment about improving or building on the collaborative process on a card before they left, or send an email to Nancy at [nclegg@coadgroup.com](mailto:nclegg@coadgroup.com).

**Meg Polvino** announced that the Chester County Drug and Alcohol office is working on a 3-5 year strategic plan. The community is encouraged to give information and ideas in a couple of open forums on March 2 at 5:30 PM, at The Coad Group office, or March 8, at 11:30 AM, location to be decided. Contact Meg Polvino to participate: [mpolvino@chesco.org](mailto:mpolvino@chesco.org).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. One-on-one networking continued in a bag-lunch format. Thirty-three stayed for the “Risky Business” training following the Consortium meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Moeller  
Administrative Assistant  
The Coad Group