

Caring Communities Consortium
March 26, 2004
Minutes

27 Attendees were: Kendra Weible (Dept. of Children, Youth & Families), Doreen DeRouanna (Octorara CTC Mobilizer), Lois Gould (Phoenixville CTC), Nancy Clegg (The Coad Group), Andrea Basbach (Open Hearth Inc.), Judy Spangler (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Tom Bux (Regional CTC – Tech. Assistant), Meg Polvino (County Drug and Alcohol), Pat Yoder (CCHHealth Dept.- Nurse Partnership), Neydary Zambrano (Maternal and Child Health Consortium), Burroughs Mack (Family Service), Margie DuBrow (Countywide Collaboration DHS), Karen Shanoski (Center for Schools and Communities), Jessica Kalembe-Lukas (Phoenixville Hospital – Community Health Education and Outreach), Sandy Lewis (Domestic Violence Center of Chester Co.), Tim Daley (Chester County I.U.), Terry Kenworthy – (The Coad Group), Reggie Wade (Juvenile Probation), Kathy Brauner (Dept. of Health and Human Service), Carol Henson (CCIU Local Planning Coord., Childhood Education, Coalition of Chester County), Linda Reddon (Downingtown CTC Mobilizer), Mary Ann Hughes (Downingtown CTC), Doreen Ellis (Great Valley PHY Mobilizer), Janet Wendle (Downingtown CTC), Carrie Freeman (Kennett CTC Board, UW of SCC), Camille Richardson (Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley).

Terry Kenworthy welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a synopsis of how the Caring Communities Consortium was developed. She explained that this first official meeting was the result of nearly a year of planning with focus groups and subcommittees. She thanked those that participated in the planning process and expressed excitement about the direction and resources this forum could bring to individual CTC sites and county serving agencies. Introductions of those present were completed. Terry asked representatives of each of the individual CTC sites to share annual highlights and challenges.

Mary Ann Hughes from the Downingtown CTC site reported that Downingtown is in the last phase of its PCCD funded Implementation Grant. The Planning Grant ended this past September 30, 2003 and the Implementation Grant will expire September 30, 2004.

Highlights from Downingtown include collaboration with BBBS for a **mentoring program** involving 54 Bigs from highschool students and 54 littles from the elementary aged children. Downingtown East, West, and Bishop Shanahan students are involved. There are plans to expand the program by recruiting youth from various faith-based youth groups. A **Parent Resource Lending Library** is also used multiple times each day in two locations. **50 parents** have gone through **parenting classes** with a trained counselor. Mary Ann reported that there is much effort put forth by the Downingtown CTC board in supporting and educating the community about the **School Resource Officers**. Challenges at Downingtown have included trying to find enough hands on workers to man events and to get the CTC “word out” about programs and plans. Sustaining funding is being sought through local foundations, and legislators’ discretionary funds.

Terry reminded us all that the work that we do is a process, with a volunteer base, which requires time, flexibility and patience.

Doreen Ellis, Mobilizer from Great Valley PHY gave out handouts to illustrate the work at the Great Valley CTC site. They are in their final phase of the Implementation Grant and funding expires June 30, 2004. She gave an overview of risk factors specific to the Great Valley community and summarized the programs chosen to target the risk factors. Programs include two run within the Great Valley School District, those being **Positive ID** (a peer-to-peer mentoring program) and **CHARACTER COUNTS!** (a character development framework). Another area of programming supported by PHY funds is **youth programming at the Upper Main Line YMCA**. **Funds in this area have supported the skatepark, TGIF socials for 5th-7th grades, and Y afterschool**. Finally, PHY solely funds a two-pronged parenting education campaign. The

nationally recognized promising approach, **Families That Care: Guiding Good Choices (FTC)**, has run three cycles, while **The Parent Network**, an organic and very community-specific parenting forum, continues to meet every third Tuesday of the month. Challenges have included populating the parenting education series, FTC, and garnering more involvement in PHY. Words of wisdom from the Deputy Drug Czar, Maryanne Solberg, continue to provide nuggets of inspiration as PHY looks to support “multiple strategies over multiple sectors”. PHY is looking for sustaining funds via community streams such as parent-teacher organizations and via foundation funding like that of the Claneil Foundation.

Doreen DeRouanna, Mobilizer from Octorara CTC let us know they were also in their 3rd year of Planning Grant to end June 30, 2004 and 2nd year of Implementation. The risk factors at Octorara are **school drop out, substance abuse, and family management** as a close third. The middleschool age youth in particular were identified as lacking resources for alternative healthy choices. The more rural setting without transportation compounds this risk and has proven to be a challenge in program implementation. However, the Octorara Community has as an asset and strength a “down home” atmosphere with committed members that are interested in bringing resources to their community. This has been evidenced through the **collaboration with getting The Parkesburg Point youth center developed and up and running**, and the implementation of the **The Across Ages Mentoring program**. She reported that 15 Senior Citizens (age 50 and up) are now trained and matched with a middle school youth. There have been disappointments with lack of parent involvement in the family aspect of the Across Ages Program. A **Resource Library** is in the development process to be potentially housed at the Borough Hall. Additional sustaining funds are being applied for through local grants. A fund development committee is in the works to support these efforts after the planning grant ends June 30. CTC has been successful in generating new programming in the Octorara community.

Louis Gould represented Phoenixville Area CTC. She reported that Phoenixville was the first CTC site to come to the end of the initial PCCD grant and has been in the sustaining phase since December 2002. She reported for that first year they operated with a volunteer mobilizer and only recently have been able to secure resources to support her position, through the Recreation Department. Although this endeavor was challenging at times, Louis offered an inspiring report that their board has been successful in securing sustaining funds for some programs from a variety of sources and local fund raising activities. Louis shared hope and experience that sites can indeed continue to exist post PCCD grant funding.

Carrie Freeman reported on the **Kennett CTC Initiative**. She represented their Advisory Board. She cited having the school superintendent and Chief of police active on the CTC Board as making a significant contribution to the success of implementing the youth programs in Kennett. She passed out the Annual Report that was published last summer. This has been used to educate potential funders and the Kennett Area Community as to the impact **mentoring and leadership opportunities through the Youth Advisory Council** is making. Currently there are a core group of 40 youth involved in directing up to 90 participants in drug free opportunities and events. Youth teams are taking advantage of training and taking leading roles in community events. Carrie emphasized that this takes a committed group of volunteers working numerous volunteer hours and a dedicated Youth Director and Mentor Coordinator to manage. Kennett Advisory Board is regrouping to plan for continued expansion of the mentoring and youth programs put in place by the CTC initiative. Carrie shared the challenge of sustaining projects, particularly as it relates to “mobilization”. She identified that Kennett’s priority is to find ways to sustain and expand the youth initiative.

Burroughs Mack reported for the **West Chester CTC** as an executive board member. West Chester is post CTC grant funding and has been without an official mobilizer since July 1, 2003. He commented on the pros and cons debate of funding a mobilizer versus an entirely volunteer run board. He commented about how each of the CTC efforts uniquely operates the CTC model in relation to their community. He identified that West Chester CTC operates mainly as a **support to agencies and organizations that are doing prevention efforts**. He showed samples of the

West Chester CTC “ **Resource Highlight**” newsletter that goes out to all members monthly. He spoke briefly about the funding notebook that compiles grant opportunities to share at general meetings and identified that they are in the process of developing guidelines that support members’ grant proposals to help bring funding and new programs into the West Chester community.

After the CTC reports **Meg Polvino** reported that the **Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services** stays informed about individual CTC communities through actively reading minutes and reports and continues to watch for ways to support the initiative by providing resources and identifying potential funding sources. She identified that Chester County Drug & Alcohol Services continues to support the CTC initiative through funding technical assistance and training opportunities coordinated through The Coad Group, Community Prevention staff. She indicated that in the upcoming year, the Chester County Drug and Alcohol Office is proposing funding opportunities for CTC sites in the amount of \$5,000-\$10,000.00. She congratulated and applauded all members of CTC for their successes and prevention efforts.

Kathy Brauner from the **Dept of Human Services** gave a power point presentation of the “Planning for a Healthy Chester County” perspective study that was recently released. She highlighted some the areas that had been referred to in the CTC sites. She commented that our agencies and service resources have traditionally been in “silos” throughout the county. Using the awareness provided by these statistics from this latest study and educating each other as to what we each individually have to offer we can begin to make more impact in the areas of need. She, too, congratulated CTC sites for what they have brought to their communities. She spoke briefly about the development of a “Countywide Collaborative” that encompasses health and human services.

Terry Kenworthy summarized that The Caring Communities Consortium will be one part of the “Countywide Collaborative” and that we would work closely together, as we simultaneously develop both collaborations. Terry indicated that at any point if we began to duplicate efforts we would stop meeting at the Consortium level.

Terry announced that **Burroughs Mack** would present an overview of Family Service programs and services available in the county at the **June 25, 2004 Caring Communities Consortium meeting to be held at COAD from 9:30-11:30**. Terry identified that it would be important that we continue to educate ourselves about the resources that exist in our County both in formal and informal ways. Highlighting CTC site progress and countywide agencies and services will be an important component of the consortium.

She also introduced **Tom Bux as the Regional Technical Assistant for CTC** and let it be known that his skills and resources were available to individual sites. Tom let us know that he could help whether a site was active or not.

Terry quickly reviewed resources that were highlighted for this meeting. She indicated that we are often given an excessive amount of information that is often difficult to absorb. She stated that at each meeting we would highlight additional resources and encouraged others bring resources to future meetings to share. This quarter’s highlights included:

Website: www.health.org. This website offers already written drop in press releases and articles about drug and alcohol issues that are copyright free and can be utilized to educate your community or those you serve. Titles include: “Making Good Decisions”; “Pointers for Parent. Truth: The Anti-Drug”; “Making Clear Rules About Drugs” just to name a few. (Click on “Newsroom”; Click on “Press Releases” or “Drop-in Articles” and Click on select topic area).

Handout: Article released by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, entitled: “Partners for the Greater Good: Programs and Collaboration Between Coalitions and the Faith Community” discusses collaboration opportunities with the Faith Community. Highlighted in this piece

identifies the “Four “C’s” of Networking: Communication, Cooperation, Coordination, and Collaboration and explains the differences.

Resource Tool: Grant Worksheets is a tool that allows groups to organize grant proposals. Sections to be completed include Problem Statement, Project Approach, Project Summary, Goals, Evaluations Plan, Continuations Plan, Management Plan, Timelines, and Key Personnel.

Training: Southeast Pennsylvania Cross Systems Sharing Day, Friday April 23, 2004 8:30 – 3:00 at the Norristown State Hospital, Norristown PA. Different state initiatives and services in the Southeast region will be discussed. They will highlight examples of unique partnerships and how partnerships can improve services for children and families. See flyer for more detail. Contact: Karen Shanoski

The meeting was ended at 11:30 AM. Networking and a resource table were available after the following the meeting.

Submitted by: Nancy Clegg 5-25-04