

**CHESTER COUNTY CARING COMMUNITIES COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2007 - 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, EXTON, PA**

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Carrie Avery	Chester County Youth Center
*Carolyn Best	COAD Highway Safety Department
*Nancy Clegg	The COAD Group
*Kathy Collier	Great Valley PHY, UML YMCA
Kait Coyne	Chester County JPO
Susan DeKleine	Chester County Health Dept. (Tobacco Control)
Deb Donahue	Creative Health Services
Elaine Durham	Handi-Crafters
Renee Fairconeture	Maternal & Child Health Consortium of CC
*Holly Favino	Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center
Karen Fennell	CC MH/MR
*Carole Flounders	Bryn Mawr Rehab Hosp Cruisin' Not Boozin Program
Aida Garcia	LaComunidad Hispana
Sulyn Godsey-Maningly	CHS SAP Liaison
Joshua Grove	The COAD Group
Christine Hakizimana	Big Brothers Big Sisters SEPA
*Ceil Harkness	Chester County OIC
*Molly Henry	Kennett CTC
Carol Henson	West Chester Area CTC
Summer Hess	Garage Youth and Community Center
*Mary Ann Hughes	Downingtown CTC
*Jill Johnson	Family Service of Chester County
Bethany Jones	Downingtown CTC
Carol Lawyer, CAC	Private Practice
Jane Mack	M2 Organizational Consulting
Rebecca Matos	Chester County Futures
*Ed McKenna	Child & Family Focus, Inc.
Stephanie Beemer McLimans	Senator Andy Dinniman's Office
*Ellen Moeller	ARCH
Kate Nolt	Chester County Drug & Alcohol Services Intern
Pat O'Donnell	Chester County Commissioner
Dolores Perry-Hunter	The COAD Group, Great Valley PHY
*Meg Polvino	Chester County Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Services
Amy Rice	Handi-Crafters
JoAnn Santangelo	Chester County JPO
*Sean Saunders	The Second Mile
*Barry Schickling	Childhood Education Coalition of Chester Co.
Louise Snyder	Bridge of Hope
Kipp Stone	Treasurer. Barbara McIl.Smith
*JoAnn Tarrant, LPC	Private Practice
*Christina Valocchi	West Chester Area CTC
Charles Wagner	CCIU – HCI-YPP

Robert Williams
*Pat Yoder
*Brad Zerr

Safe Harbor
Chester County Health Dept.
Paoli Hospital

** Denotes Registered Coalition Member*

Welcome & Introductions The meeting was called to order at 9:20 by Nancy Clegg of The COAD Group. She introduced the co-facilitators of the temporary steering committee: Barry Schickling, Christina Valocchi, and Mary Ann Hughes. Barry Schickling conducted the meeting and began with brief introductions by name and affiliation. Forty-six people were in attendance. Collaboration, cooperation, and networking to prevent and reduce youth problem behaviors were reviewed as goals of this coalition. All in attendance were thanked for their consistent participation and new people were welcomed.

Old Business

Acceptance of Minutes from March 23, 2007 meeting. The minutes previously circulated electronically were deemed approved. They will be posted on the website www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org following this meeting.

Membership Form was briefly explained, according to bylaws. One can be a member as an individual, or as a representative of one's organization by attending 2 of the 4 quarterly meetings per year, reading the bylaws, and being in agreement with the mission of the Coalition. Membership details are found in the bylaws.

Collaboration Form is a vehicle to help promote documenting outcomes of collaborative efforts with others around the table and to create the potential to communicate the effectiveness of coalition work to others outside of meetings.

Guidelines for Support Letters is used to expedite the process when one member needs a letter of support from the Coalition.

The resource table at the meeting is used as a community bulletin board and vehicle for networking, sharing brochures, flyers and information about upcoming events. It is available to members and associate partners contributing resources to enhance our mission.

New Business

Advisory Board Nominations and Election Barry reported that 7 nominations have been received as nominations for the Advisory Board. (No more than twelve members will serve on the Advisory Board.) The Temporary Steering Committee announced that a quorum was present. Twenty-one members were present out of 40 members registered to vote. The seven nominees were introduced and subsequently elected by a vote of 17. Kathy Collier, Meg Polvino, Ceil Harkness, Holly Favino, Ellen Moeller; Brooke Hedderick and Carrie Avery are the first elected to the 2007-2008 Coalition Steering Committee. They will determine officers from amongst themselves at their first meeting. Additional members up to 12 may be brought forward in nominations at the September meeting.

Refreshments/ Room Set Up Refreshments for today's meeting were provided by Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center, the Garage Youth Center, and Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth. Their representatives were thanked for their contributions. It was noted that COAD is contracted by Chester County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services to provide refreshments and room set up for meetings and will resume these duties for the upcoming year.

Yearly Meeting Effectiveness Survey Nancy Clegg asked attendees to complete the annual survey and turn it in at the end of the meeting as a tool to help the Advisory Board continue to plan meetings more effectively for all participant needs.

Presentation Nancy reviewed some of the Coalition accomplishments for the 2006 – 2007 year. It was noted that increased and sustained prevention services, networked relationships and resulting collaborations might be the greater accomplishment behind these mere statistics.

- Temporary Steering Committee was formed and drafted Bylaws and Request for Program/Project Proposal Support Guidelines. The Bylaws were passed in September, 2006, and the Advisory Board was elected in June, 2007.
- Quarterly meetings of the Coalition were held with a total attendance of 214.
- The Coalition provided an initial countywide platform for Chester County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services to present the county results of the 2005 PA Youth Survey. Program highlights were also given by Recovery EXPO, and Truancy Prevention Program of New Life Family Services at other meetings.
- CTC Updates from the six sites in Chester County were given at each meeting.
- Representatives from Coalition held officer positions at both Southeast Regional CTC and the state PA Association of Community-Based Prevention Coalitions.
- Youth organizations participated in Coalition in December and March, and several Coalition members helped with the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Youth Workshop in March.
- Coalition held an EXPO featuring 38 exhibitors and approx 90 attendees at the Chester County Youth Center in March.
- The Coalition Directory and the website www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org were updated regularly and used to promote collaborative communications and raise awareness. 34 partners are now linked to the website.

Collaboration Barry Schickling noted Coalition members have benefited by the opportunities to collaborate and cooperate on projects. Members were invited to share examples of collaboration that have come out of their Coalition participation. The following is a sampling of 2006-07 collaborations that were shared during an "open mic" exchange:

- Chester County Youth Center and COAD's Highway Safety Department, Garage Youth Center, YMCA, Crime Victim's Center, Domestic Violence Coalition worked to bring additional prevention programming to youth at The Shelter and Youth Center.
- Pro-Act and Chester County Drug & Alcohol Services cooperated to provide a training to raise awareness about insurance advocacy and laws affecting length of treatment for ATOD recovery.
- Bryn Mawr Rehab Cruisin' Not Boozing' and Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth partnered to bring programming to youth about the compromising role of ATOD in life changing decision making.

- Downingtown CTC and West Chester Area CTC partnered to expand Parenting Wisely to additional audiences in WC community.
- ARCH (in Tredyffrin & Easttown Townships) and Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth worked together to expand opportunities for parenting networks and youth focus groups
- Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center and Chester County OIC/ I Can partnered to bring relationship and STD education and programming to I Can students.
- The COAD Group and Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center partnered to get D and A resources to crisis pregnancy families and youth.
- Project One HIV/AIDS education, Chester County Youth Center, and The COAD Group combined efforts to bring programs showing the relationship of ATOD and link to destructive decisions resulting in HIV/AIDS.
- West Chester Area CTC and Women's Resource Center combined ideas and recruited audience for new girls program on self esteem and life skills.
- Suicide Prevention Task Force received funds for QPR (Question Persuade Refer) training grant to provide training to faculty in Chester County schools with a partner list of 21.
- Education Coalition, Lions Club West Chester, YMCA, and West Chester School District partner to bring Lions Quest programming to WC Area in 07-08.
- Lions Club, YMCA of Brandywine Valley, Octorara Area School District and Octorara CTC partnered to bring Lions Quest programming to Octorara Area in 07-08.
- Family Service of Chester County and Project One HIV Education to multiple agencies, schools, youth center.
- All 6 CTC sites worked collaboratively on a key leader event for June 19. 143 leaders attended and leaders from both the office of National Drug Control Policy Washington DC and state PCCD were among the presenters. Youth from multiple communities were present for recognition. The sites collectively produced a summary booklet of site accomplishments for distribution at this event and other PR opportunities.

What Challenges are Coalition Members Facing?

- Chester County SADD Conference is looking for a lead agency to move forward with this valued county youth initiative. COAD Highway Safety Department has historically been the lead, sponsored by Penn DOT. When the name changed from Students Against Drunk Driving to Students Against Destructive Decisions, Penn Dot could no longer be the primary funding source. They are now looking for other potential funders, a fiscal agent, and sponsors who could give time and attention to this youth prevention initiative involving several hundred youth in out county. Senator Dinniman's office will discuss this gap. Youth to Youth Conference and CCIU Youth Leadership Forum were mentioned as potential lead players going forward.
- Youth Forum: What opportunities might there be for area youth to meet with their local legislators? What is the potential to give voice to the front line challenges the youth see amongst their peers, to receive validation and encouragement for their prevention efforts, and to be given the opportunity to understand about how to achieve goals effectively

through the legislative process. Stephanie Beemer McLimans of Senator Andy Dinniman's office will discuss this with the senator and explore this possibility.

- West Chester Area CTC is looking to grow its Executive Board, as well as to continue to address sustainability and funding issues. People who have expertise in these areas or who can represent at the community board level for West Chester are needed.
- Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services is working on a prevention/ risk assessment that will require information from the business community and the local chambers of commerce. Meg Polvino is available to attend staff meetings and give a brief overview of this work. Please let her know of any opportunities.

Special Presentation Mary Ann Hughes, on behalf of the Coalition, recognized Nancy Clegg of the COAD Group for her years of commitment and dedication to mobilizing community organizations to grow this Coalition. Nancy was presented with gifts and applause as tokens of appreciation.

Announcement Susan DeKleine of The Tobacco Free Coalition announced a program entitled "Are you Fit?" This is a Prevention Program that will be held on July 9, 2007, from 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Government Services Center, Room 171.

The next Coalition Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2007, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at The COAD Group, Exton, PA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM, with time remaining for networking and collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Moeller
Coalition Member