

Chester County Caring Communities Consortium
Minutes
6-25-04

Participants (27 in attendance): Lois Gould (Phoenixville CTC); Nancy Clegg (The Coad Group); Leslie Stauffer (Family Service of Chester County); Burroughs Mack (Family Service of Chester County); Kendra Weible (Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families); Andrea Bosbach (Open Hearth, Inc.); Brooke Hedderick (Crime Victim Center/Partnership for Healthy Youth); Erin Ford (BBBS); Jennifer Carroll (BBBS); Camille Richardson (Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley); Tonia Kulp (United Way of Chester County); Nancy Hiro (West Chester CTC); Vick Zittle (PA AAD PA Child Death Review); Rev. Tony Sundermeirer (Westminster Presbyterian Church); Katie Sundermeirer (Westminster Presbyterian Church); Brad Zerr (Upper Main Line YMCA/Downingtown CTC/Partnership for Health Youth); Meg Polvino (Chester County Drug & Alcohol Services); Stephanie Scappa (Chester Education Foundation); Patti Olenik (Garage Youth Center/Kennett CTC); Sandy Claus (Great Valley School District/Partnership for Healthy Youth); Laura Heikkila (The Coad Group); Carlyn Salas (Partnership for Health Youth); Doreen Ellis (Partnership for Health Youth); Carol Henson (CCIU/Childhood Education Coalition); Doreen DeRouanna (Octorara CTC); Tom Bux (CJIT&R); Terry Kenworthy (The Coad Group/Southeast Regional CTC Collaborative)

Terry welcomed everyone in attendance to the second Caring Communities Consortium meeting and began with old business. She reported that the website is up and running and encouraged members to check it out at www.caringcommunitiesconsortium.org. Nancy shared that there will be a partner page that links directly to the consortium partners' websites. She asked that those who were interested in being linked please supply their website information to submit to the webmaster.

Burroughs Mack was introduced and provided an overview of Family Service of Chester County. He indicated that the organization has been in existence for 57 years in the West Chester area and serves Chester County residents. He provided an overview of the counseling program, Project ONE, Families And Schools Together (FAST), Exchange Club Family Center, Achievement Mentoring Program (AMP), Retired And Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Family Life Education Program. Burrough's identified that two programs that are provided by Family Service are "research-based programs" and include the FAST and AMP programs.

The FAST program is presently a partnership with Head Start programs in Chester County. The AMP is a behavioral modification program that is presently serving youth at the Kennett and Octorara Middle Schools.

Leslie Stauffer, Director of RSVP further discussed their program and reported that this program provides volunteer opportunities for person over age 55. Many consortium attendees expressed interest in this program and expressed interest in potential partnership opportunities.

Terry introduced Stephanie Scappa, mobilizer of ChiChester CTC and also the State representative of the Southeast Regional CTC Collaborative. Stephanie was asked to share the development of the “Pennsylvania Association of Community-based Prevention Coalitions”. She indicated that this organization was in its infancy development and is organized to promote and sustain research based strategies that will increase positive youth development through networking, training, and forming collaborations in PA’s communities. The association is being formed as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization.

We briefly discussed the importance of having multi-levels of structures in place that support the CTC initiative at all levels in order to assure the sustainability of our efforts. Terry suggested our continued involvement at the community, county, regional and state levels will only strengthen our local effort and provide help to keep our priorities in the forefront. She suggested that collaborative funding and coalition building at many levels increase the likelihood of sustainability and awareness of the effectiveness of CTC.

Tom Bux, Southeast Regional CTC Consultant, shared the PCCD grant opportunity just released earlier this week for existing CTC sites. Tom indicated that PCCD is requesting all questions about the application be direct to them. Contact information is at the bottom on the “PCCD Grant Funding Guideline Announcement”. Eligible program activities for this grant include: continuation of research-based prevention programs implemented through CTC; continuation of community mobilizer positions; implementation or continuation of social marketing strategies directed at sustaining the CTC process; implementation or continuation of public relations efforts designed to improve community awareness and support for the CTC process and specialized local training/educational programs for CTC prevention boards.

Tom indicated with only \$2 million available and 127 CTC sites in Pennsylvania that this process would be competitive and requests should only include what is needed to continue effort. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Terry offered that the Community Prevention Department put folders together for each CTC site that includes the announcement letter, grant funding guidelines, the standard PCCD subgrant application (version 8/03) and PCCD’s Applicant’s Manual. In addition, results of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey and a copy of the “Planning for a Healthy for Chester County” survey results. Terry reported that existing tools can be utilized to assist with this grant including the original Implementation grant (which was put on disk for each community) and former quarterly reports.

Terry reported that grantwriting assistance dollars had been allocated to each of the sites this past Spring (up to \$2,000 per site) through the Community Prevention Department provided by the Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services. She suggested that most communities still have remaining funds that could be utilized towards getting help with this grant opportunity. However, if additional dollars were needed in order to submit this application Terry requested that those individual communities speak directly to Terry or Meg by Monday, June 28, 2004 to discuss additional grantwriting support needs.

Each CTC site shared updates and upcoming programs and events.

- **Great Valley:** Doreen Ellis reported and gave a PHY accomplishment handout summarizing the progress made in Great Valley. In 2 multi week sessions of the Families that Care: Guiding Good Choices initiative this year - 16 parents benefited. A funding proposal to support the effort to sustain the parenting workshops was made to Chester County Fund for Women and Girls in April. Character Counts contributed in many different ways throughout the community this year, including hosting an assembly for 720 students in the fall. Clipboards were distributed to Little League coaches to encourage follow through on the Character Counts message. Youth peer to peer mentoring for 5th graders by 9 of the 6th grader students to help them transition was a successful new highlight that will most likely gain momentum next year. The PHY Community Board worked with the YMCA to become the new fiscal agent for PHY going forward with 4 new committees. A grant writer has been successful in writing for sustaining Claneil funds and is now working on the County Drug and Alcohol grant and the new PCCD proposal.
- **Phoenixville:** Lois Gould reported that 6 men were trained in the Fatherhood Initiative and the intention is to keep growing that program. There have been challenges with background checks that have made recruiting volunteers for the Structured Playground program cumbersome. The once a month Family Night Out initiative is growing and there has been a need to consistently insist on parents attending with their children. June, July and August programs will be supplied through the Arts Center from Philadelphia. Structured Playground Summer Camp is underway. Emphasis on anti-bullying is a part of this program. Following Lois' summary she received suggestions for expediting the criminal check process from both Girl Scouts and RSVP.
- **Kennett:** Patti Olenik reported that she is the part time Youth Advisory coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator for Kennett. Recently one other part time support person for the mentoring program has been made available for 6-8hrs. per week. 2 adults were added to the adult mentoring program for a total of 13 serving high school students with help for their graduation project. Additionally 9 students were provided job-shadowing mentors. Although the numbers may seem small there has been great responsiveness in students who are getting the benefits of a mentor. CTC collaborates with The Garage Youth Center for meeting space for Up with Care peer mentoring and YAC leadership development. Through the year 150 students have been served in varying capacities of approximately an average of 3-4 hours per week. A core group of 30 active students participate in learning new skills – such as grant writing and community leadership roles. 5 students attended the 2nd Mile Leadership Conference at Penn State. They have recently been awarded 1st place in the state for their innovative InterCambio program. InterCambio serves 35-40 students on going for 15-18 weeks to facilitate learning conversational language and cultural skills.

About 30% of these students are Hispanic. Each of the students on the 2nd Mile Leadership team received a \$1000 scholarship award along with the honor. Ongoing Kennett challenges are limited staff funding and how to maintain existing programs while exploring new grant opportunities and building future.

- **Downingtown:** Erin Ford and Terry Kenworthy reported that there was an end of the year luncheon and also key leader luncheon meeting. Recognition and honors were given to those who work on the CTC Community Board. BIGS mentoring program is currently running in three schools with 54 mentor matches. New funds were secured through a \$30,000 grant from Brandywine Health and Wellness Foundation for sustaining and expanding parent education (Parenting Wisely) and the BIGS program. Doreen DeRouanna gave feedback and kudos per the effectiveness of the Parent Wisely program.
- **Octorara:** Doreen DeRouanna reported that their community is in transition and that there will be a lapse in funding for awhile. Two grants have been submitted to the Community Economic Development and Claneil Foundation. She gave an update on Across Ages FunFest held on June 19th. This was not only a fundraiser for the Across Ages program but also provided healthy family activities for the community. There was also a fishing event held recently at Hibernia Park to encourage family outings, and bonding.

Octorara has used the \$2000 funds that were provided by County Drug and Alcohol to secure a grant writer to write 3 proposals for sustaining funding. It is hoped that new funding will also help with the ongoing issue of the need for transportation to programming.

There are challenges to setting up the board effectively post-mobilizer. There is currently an attempt to recruit a secretary and treasurer and more board membership. There has been discussions about changing the meeting times and date to serve more community board members. Octorara CTC is seeking to partner with the Recreation Board for 501c3-umbrella relationship. There is a need for more mentors for the Across Ages Program, particularly males if anyone knows of those who would help.

- **West Chester:** Burroughs Mack and Terry Kenworthy reported that guidelines to support proposal request by providers have been completed. The first “letter of partnership” has been requested. A grantwriter was secured and the focus is on securing funding for a mobilizer.

Community announcements included:

- An update was given about a recent Youth Suicide Forum meeting on June 22. An additional meeting is scheduled on August 25th, 2004 to be held at The Coad Group training room. Vicki Zittler gave a quick overview of possible train the trainer opportunities for Yellow Ribbon, Gatekeepers, SOS, and Teen Screening. Brooke indicated that they are hoping to recruit members of SAP teams for their valuable input on youth suicide trends. In the last 4yrs there have been 478 suicide deaths in

the county. Vicki emphasized that this was a multidiscipline process. For more information on this forum contact Brooke Hedderick.

- Rev. Tony Sundermeier and Katie Sundermeier gave an update on the 400 youth the Westminster Presbyterian Church is serving in West Chester. They expressed excitement about the existence of such a group as the CTC's and the consortium as his group draws youth from multiple districts of Kennett, Unionville, Downingtown, West Chester and Delaware. They will look forward to networking and exploring the resources available to helping teens. They have plans for a coffeehouse, Internet café and Building Bridges to Community.
- Andrea Bosbach from Open Hearth offered financial planning training opportunities through The Family Savings Partnership-Program to interested agencies for families they serve. Flyers were provided on the resource table to provide times and dates for each topic. There is also an online workshop option.

Terry presented gifts to Doreen DeRouanna and Doreen Ellis. Terry reported that the PCCD grant will be ending for Great Valley and Octorara (Planning) as of June 30, 2004 and she wanted to publicly recognize Doreen and Doreen for their hard work and dedication to the CTC process.

Nancy introduced new literature for parents and coaches suspecting youth using drug and alcohol. Stamps for each of the sites with their contact information was presented to them to use on material dissemination at community events and health fairs.

Lastly, Terry discussed briefly about the Key Leader meeting. Terry indicated that in the Claneil grant we identified that we would host a countywide "Key Leader" meeting to showcase the progress and growth of CTC in Chester County. Terry asked for assistance to help plan the event. She assured volunteers that meetings would be minimal and that many exchanges could be made via email. A tentative date was select (Tuesday, November 9th, 2004). Funds allocated for this event are \$750. Terry asked if anyone had a suggestion for the location to please contact Nancy or herself. She spoke briefly about the format and suggested a more informal and reception-like style event. A 4-6 PM time was suggested. It was also suggested to highlight "research-based/evidence-based programs" that agencies are providing throughout the County. Terry is asking that digital pictures be forwarded via email in order to highlight pictures in a presentation that day of the event. If interested in assisting please contact Terry or Nancy. 610-363-6164 or by e-mail Tkenworthy@coadgroup.com or Nclegg@coadgroup.com .

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 24th, 2004, 9:30 AM at the Coad Group.

Submitted by: Terry Kenworthy and Nancy Clegg

Remembering Our Charge: Working together to promote healthy youth development by preventing and reducing youth problem behaviors, including substance abuse, school drop out, teen pregnancy, delinquency and violence.