

**CHESTER COUNTY CARING COMMUNITIES COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2007 - 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, EXTON, PA**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Adams	West Chester CTC Intern
Mitch Bernstein	Brandywine YMCA
Valerie Capobianco	Department of Children, Youth & Families
Sandy Claus	Great Valley School District
Nancy Clegg	The COAD Group, Community Prevention
Kathy Collier	Great Valley Community PHY, UML YMCA
Linda Degan	Malvern Institute
Holly Favino	Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center
Karen Fennell	CCMH/MR
Gretchen Friedberger	U. of Penn
Antoinette Gomez	Human Services, Inc
Joshua Grove	The COAD Group, Community Prevention
Ceil Harkness	OIC
Brooke Hedderick	Crime Victims Center
Carol Henson	West Chester CTC
Bob Hume	Octorara CTC
Bethany Jones	Downingtown Area CTC
Tom McGuirk	American Day Tx /Center for Addictive Diseases
Ellen Moeller	ARCH.
Rosa Moore	La Comunidad Hispana
Victoria Morgan	Owen J Roberts School District
Terry Mullineaux	Chester Co Intermediate Unit
Michele Murphy	ARCH
Patti Olenik	Garage Youth Center/ Kennett CTC
Meg Polvino	Chester Co Dept of Drug and Alcohol Services
Danielle Salada	Octorara CTC/ Octorara YMCA
Barry Schickling	Childhood Education Coalition
Cindy Scott	Dept of Children, Youth & Families
Irene Shetron	Chester County Health Department
JoAnn Tarrant	JoAnn Tarrant LPC/ New Life
Heidi Van Vooren	The COAD Group, Highway Safety Dept.
Pat Yoder	Chester Co. Health Department

Welcome & Introductions The meeting was called to order by Kathy Collier, Coalition Chairperson. All were welcomed and given a brief opportunity to introduce themselves by name and affiliation. Thirty-two people attended.

Old Business

Acceptance of Minutes from June 23, 2007 meeting. The minutes previously circulated electronically were approved. Patti Olenik moved and Terry Mullineaux seconded the motion to approve them. They will be posted on the website www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org following this meeting.

The current Advisory Board (elected in June) was introduced: Kathy Collier, Meg Polvino, Ceil Harkness, Holly Favino, Ellen Moeller, Brooke Hedderick and Carrie Avery. The by-laws call for up to 12 members on the Advisory Board, so additional nominations are welcome.

The seven Board members selected the officers from among themselves. The officers are: Kathy Collier, Chair; Carrie Avery, Vice-Chair; Brooke Hedderick, Collaboration Coordinator; and Ellen Moeller, Secretary. The officers were approved unanimously by the voting members of the Coalition.

Coalition members and attendees were reminded to keep contact information up to date by contacting Nancy Clegg of The COAD Group, or any of the Advisory Board members.

New Business

Meg Polvino, of Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services, presented the Prevention Risk Assessment Survey, and asked attendees to complete the survey. The survey is based on the 21 risk factors, and is being delivered to all counties in PA. The data from the survey will be used to indicate what the priority risk factors are and will be used for future program planning. In addition to this survey tool, other data is collected and used in the planning process, including studying SAP referrals, D & A arrests, etc.

Joshua Grove, the Community Prevention Director for The COAD Group, gave an update on the Training Needs Survey. This is an assessment conducted by The COAD Group, which is used for selecting training topics for the upcoming year. Last year, COAD conducted a customer satisfaction and needs evaluation. After receiving 31 completed surveys, COAD planned and facilitated a five-segment training, entitled the Essentials of Fundraising. Other training topics of interest are current ATOD trends, youth development, CTC 101 – introduction to the process, event planning, volunteerism, and post prom planning. If you have an interest in additional training topics, please forward your request to Nancy Clegg, of The COAD Group (NClegg@coadgroup.com).

Presentations

The coalition members were asked to brainstorm about how to make best use of meeting time for the remainder of this year's meetings. In addition to a regular business meeting, we have typically included time for networking and for community announcements. Remembering that the coalition does not have a budget for speakers, members were asked what programs they would like to see this year.

Holly Favino offered counselor Vincent Calloway from Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center as a possible speaker for future meeting. He addresses youth and family issues in a funny, engaging way and will tailor his presentation to a desired topic.

Meg Polvino expressed an interest in learning more about cyber bullying. This could be addressed in the general topic of bullying. Kevin Donnelly is the Clinical Supervisor for the Changes program and is also a trainer for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

Other topics mentioned were online gambling and use of drugs, gambling and suicide, suicide prevention (Tom McGuirk mentioned knowing a good speaker), disease concept of addiction, pharmacology, and correlation between ADHD and substance abuse. There was also a discussion about whether another Expo would be useful to members, as was done last March. It was mentioned that using a 5-10 minute slot during coalition meetings to feature other programs, without doing a whole workshop, would also be useful. If members bring written reports of upcoming events, and CTC reports are given in written form, it would allow more time for other topics and presentations.

Training Opportunities

ADHD with children and adults – October 6 at CHOP
Suicide Prevention Awareness – November 15, Villanova Conference Center
(DELCOsuicideprevention.org)
Recovery Expo – September 29, 9AM to 4 PM
How to access child services – October 10, Downingtown
Pain management for people with addiction or psychiatric diagnosis, October 24, Malvern Institute

Members are encouraged to send training information electronically, so that details are accurate and the information can be circulated on a timely basis.

Community Highlights

Downingtown CTC report was given by Bethany Jones: Eleven free parenting workshops are being offered. Arrangements can be made to bring the workshops to other venues. The Downingtown prevention board meets monthly.

West Chester CTC report was given by Carol Henson: A suicide awareness and prevention panel presentation will be held next weekend. Grandparent program will begin October 11. Chili Cook-off program with prevention focus will be October 7. Young adult training and conference will be October 23. Parenting the young child, Parenting Wisely, and girls leadership initiatives are all being planned as well.

The Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth report was given by Kathy Collier: The summer months were spent on updating strategic plan and goals. The fall has been an active time to present at back-to-school nights. PHY, Upper Main Line YMCA and Paoli Hospital are partnering together on a youth leadership supper club. Shaping Children's Behavior and Parent Network continue in Great Valley. A grant for high school SADD club has been received.

Octorara CTC report was given by Danielle Salada: They announced 18 new after school programs. They have 40 matches in their "BIGS" mentoring program. "Girls on the Run" has a waiting list. Octorara is partnering with YMCA for a 3-day conference in Harrisburg on youth in government. CTC will be participating in open houses in Octorara and Avon Grove School Districts. After school activities and other programs are the result of a good working relationship between CTC and the school districts.

Kennett Area CTC report was given by Patti Olenik: In addition to publishing a newsletter, The Garage has been offering programming for youth in the areas of tutoring and mentoring. Recently the youth have been challenged to “give back” and serve their community. Patti said there is a “serving frenzy going on.” They have partnered with several local businesses. Many of the students who are served are low income Hispanic who are meeting other students outside their own peer group.

Phoenixville CTC report was given by Kathy Collier, in the absence of Dolores Winston. They were in the process of preparing for their CTC fundraiser, “Males Cooking for You”, for Sept. 29 at CAT Pickering in Phoenixville. They continue to offer programming for families including Structured Play Group, Family Fun Nights, and Foundation of Fatherhood.

Avon Grove Anti-Drug Coalition, Unionville – Chadds Ford – Brandywine CTC, Coatsville Weed & Seed are other prevention coalitions that will be encouraged to participate in future Coalition meetings.

Southeast Regional CTC Report was given by Kathy Collier. They continue to meet quarterly. They are looking at a social norming campaign, with the goal for it to be one that can be tailored and used across the region with similar verbiage.

PA State Coalition (PAC – PA Community Based Prevention Coalition) is working on a state-wide public service announcement that can be used by CTCs across the state by “plugging in” each community’s contact info. They are also working on a state-wide website.

Resource and Community Announcements

People were invited to share announcements around the table. Flyers and handouts were also made available on the resource table. The following announcements were made. Please contact the individual or agency for more details.

Brooke Hedderick: Phoenixville Area Violence Task Force/ Phoenixville Police Department are sponsoring a Gun-Buy Back on November 3.

Barry Schickling of Childhood Education Coalition of Chester Co: announced that at the upcoming annual fall meeting they were expecting State Rep. Barbara McIlvaine Smith to speak to their group re: how the General Assembly in Harrisburg feels pertaining to the importance of early care and education and if and how it should be funded by the commonwealth. Go to their website to learn more, www.ceccc.org.

Cindy Scott: Children, Youth and Families is addressing the current revisions in child abuse laws.

Pat Yoder: Chester County Health Dept. and Activate Chester County are sponsoring a walk on Sept. 29. The Health Department is also sponsoring flu vaccines. Call 610-344-6252 for an appointment.

Tom McGuirk: The Center for Addictive Disease offers treatment for Drug and Alcohol abuse. Maps with the correct address and location are on the resource table.

Danielle Salada: Octorara YMCA is sponsoring America on the Move Week with walking activities.

Antoinette Gomez of Human Services: announced they offer mental health services in Oxford, crisis intervention, family based therapy, as well as individual outpatient therapy. They also have programming for domestic violence.

Linda Degan: Malvern Institute offers 12-step support groups.

Kathy Collier: Upper Main Line YMCA is sponsoring a challenge race on Sept. 29.

Ellen Moeller: ARCH (Area Residents Caring and Helping of Tredyffrin and Easttown) recently wrote for a grant from the PA State Attorney General's Office for possible funding for a Social Norms Campaign. This Coalition wrote a letter of support, by following the steps for doing so that were generated and approved by the steering committee and membership of this coalition.

Ceil Harkness: OIC is planning its fundraising banquet.

Gretchen Friedberger: Rehab After Work is offering services for dual diagnosis: ADHD + Addiction.

Unionville High School (Sue Siensa) is planning their annual Youth-to-Youth Leadership Weekend, January 5-6, 2008.

Rosa Garza Moore of La Comunidad Hispana: announced their new adolescent health care program and an open house family event on October 18.

JoAnn Tarrant: announced that Chester County Family Group Decision Making is actively recruiting facilitators.

Youth Suicide Prevention Task force is sponsoring a concert by students and for students on October 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM, with the remaining time being available for networking and resource exchange.

The next Coalition Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 14, 2007, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at The COAD Group, Exton, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Moeller
Coalition Secretary