

**Joint Chester County Caring Communities Coalition/
Family and Community Partnerships Coalition Meeting**

**December 2, 2005, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Chester County Library, Exton, PA**

In Attendance:

Donald Aldrich	Grace Fellowship Church/Unionville
Wendy Beck	Recovery Expo
Stephannie Beemer	Commissioner Andy Dinniman's Office
Babette Benham	PRO-ACT
Carolyn Best	Dept. of Highway Safety – The COAD Group
Gary Blair	Juvenile Detention Home
Kim Bowman	Chester County Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Services
Janet Bradley	West Chester University – Undergraduate Social Work Program
Kathy Brauner	Dept. of Human Services
Karen Brennehan	Child and Family Focus, Inc.
Heidi Bryan	Feeling Blue Suicide Prevention
Pam Bryer	Maternal Health Consortium
Brian Bumbarger	Penn State University Research team
Nancy Clegg	COAD Community Prevention Dept./ C-5 Facilitator
Jennifer Clement	Center for Resolutions
Kathy Collier	GVPHY mobilizer
Linda Coleman	The ARC of Chester County
Jane Compton	(for Cheryl Flanagan) Human Services Inc.
Michele Daly	West Chester University Social Work
Caroline Dunleavy	YMCA Chester County
Micha Frazier	Daily Local Reporter
Aida Garcia	La Comunidad Hispana
Donna Gonzalez	Chester County Mental Health and Mental Retardation CCMHIMR
Joshua Grove	ChesPenn Health Services
Brenda Eaton	Autism Alliance CCIU
Jim Forsythe	CYF
Mary Gaspari	Chester County Juvenile Probation
Lois Gould	Phoenixville CTC Board
Carol Flounders	Bryn Mawr Rehab Cruisin Not Boozin
Jim Forsythe	DCYF
Ceil Harkness	OIC Opportunities Industrialization. Centers
Brooke Hedderick	GVOPHY Partnership Crime Victims Center
Molly Henry	Kennett CTC Program Coordinator
Carol Henson	CCIU Childhood Education Coalition of Chester Co.
Mary Ann Hughes	Downingtown CTC Board
Trish James-Chalo	Center for Resolutions
Terry Kenworthy	United Way of Chester County
Christine Kohute	CCIU
Kate Konkle	The Second Mile
Ruth Kranz-Carl	Depart of Human Services Director
Kim Lewis	JPO Fiscal Coordinator
Janet Liott	District Court 15.1.04
Carla London	CYF
Burroughs Mack	Family Service of Chester County

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Barbara Mancill	
Irma McMahan	Catholic Social Services
Candace McCoy	CYWA
Schenay Miles	Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
Ellen Moeller	COAD Community Prevention Dept. & ARCH- Area Residents Caring and Helping
Terry Mullineaux	CCIU Young Parents Program
Diana Munson	Chester County JPO
Kate Nolt	COAD Community Prevention
Lisa Nugent	Downingtown Area CTC
Patti Olenik	Kennett CTC Project Coordinator & Garage Youth Center Director
Dolores Perry-Hunter	COAD Board of Directors and GVPHY
Meg Polvino	Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services
Kate Rentschler	Kennett Consolidated School District
Chris Saello	Brandywine YMCA
Barry Schickling	Childhood Education Coalition of Chester County
Stacy Schiele	Coltre Consulting, L.L.C.
Dana Strode-Tritle	United Way of Chester County
JoAnn Tarrant	New Life Youth and Family Services Truancy Prevention Program
Christina Valocchi	West Chester CTC Mobilizer
Kendra Weible	Dept. of Children, Youth and Families
Brian Wenzka	Octorara Community Recreation Commission
Pat Yoder	Chester County Health Dept./ Nurse Family Partnership/ Public Health Supervisor
Brad Zerr	Upper Maine Line YMCA

Welcome and Introductions: **Ruth Kranz-Carl**, chairperson for Chester County Family & Community Partnership, opened the meeting. She explained that there is membership overlap between these two large county-wide coalitions. The opportunities for collaboration are enhanced by offering the opportunity for the two groups to meet together. Those in attendance went around the room to introduce themselves and to identify what organization they represent. Because each of the coalitions focus their efforts and concern on children and their families, meeting together periodically seems likely to be efficient and helpful in recognizing what one another is doing and identifying what gaps exist in services provided in Chester County.

R. Kranz-Carl briefly reported the history of the Family and Community Partnership. After organizing and establishing bylaws, they have been “official” since July, 2005. They have a steering committee of 12 and meet every other month. Two established committees are 1. Resources (assisting community with how to get needs met); and 2. Cultural Diversity (expanding consciousness and addressing needs amidst cultural diversity in the county).

The Family & Community Partnership goals and planning are directed by the participants. They meet in different geographic areas of the county.

Nancy Clegg, the current facilitator of the Chester County Caring Communities Coalition (C-5), gave a brief history of the coalition and its focus. She reported that the initiation of Communities That Care® (CTC) in PA was orchestrated by Governor Tom Ridge as a model process to mobilize the communities in PA to focus on the following issues concerning the youth population: substance abuse, teen pregnancy, school drop out rate, violence, and delinquency. At present there are 6

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sustained CTC sites in Chester County, as well as numerous other organizations and coalitions that are mobilized throughout the county to work on prevention efforts. At present the C-5 coalition has not completed writing bylaws, but hopes to use the footprint of the work the The Chester County Family & Community Partnership has already done as a guide through that process. At present, a temporary steering committee is working to complete recommendations to help put in place the organizational structure and advisory board that will validate us as a coalition that can support our members in collaborative efforts. Specifically they are preparing the group to be positioned to write letters of partnership and/or letters of support to endorse funding applications as participant agencies and CTC sites apply for funding. The C-5 (as Chester County Caring Communities Coalition is also known) will hold an extra meeting January 27, 2006 to facilitate getting these structure pieces in place prior to the spring funding cycle. A folder of contact information and program overview for the 6 CTC sites in the county was given to each attendee to make it convenient to learn about further details about programs and initiatives in each CTC site and to provide contact information.

Each CTC site followed by giving a brief report. The **Phoenixville CTC** report was given by **Lois Gould**. Some of the programs that they do in partnership with the community are: Second Step (anti-bullying), Family Night Out as a part of Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives, Fatherhood Initiative, and a Summer Camp for children identified as needing enhancement for special social development needs.

Christina Valocchi, mobilizer, gave the report for **West Chester CTC**. They are currently partnering with the local school district on Parenting Wisely. Also, they conduct monthly Community Board lunch meetings with a speaker with a community prevention focus. They are participating with United Way in an event on Martin Luther King Day for middle and high school youth with a focus on diversity. Christina is looking for in kind office space for administrative work. They are developing a partnering role with West Chester University in updating the community risk and resource assessment.

Kathy Collier, mobilizer for Great Valley PHY (Partnership for Healthy Youth) gave their report. Some of the programs that they offer are The Parent Network, Families that Care - Guiding Good Choices, Media Wise -Shaping Children's Behavior, Character Counts, Car Packs for parent education, Positive ID, hosting annual Youth Focus Groups to identify perceived needs, and finding effective ways to increase Transition Mentoring for 5th-6th and 8th-9th grade students. PHY Extravaganza is in its second year as a resource fair held at Great Valley High School in the fall. This event is used to acquaint students and parents with healthy alternatives for their extra curricular time.

Brian Wenzka of Octorara Community Recreation Commission gave the report for **Octorara CTC**, in the absence of mobilizer Danielle Salada on maternity leave. He referred to the OCRC program guide in the C-5 Coalition folder that speaks to the multiple collaborations that are occurring in Octorara. Brian stated that they basically do nothing without collaboration. Some programs that they are partnering with are Olweus (bullying prevention program), the local school district Bigs/Littles program, Big Brothers Big Sisters adult-student mentoring, Across-Ages mentoring program and some newly developed after-school programming held at the OCRC building.

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Molly Henry, program coordinator, gave the report for **Kennett CTC**. They partner with The Garage Youth Center and conduct numerous initiatives including after-school tutoring and both peer and adult mentoring, “Girl Talk”, and various youth groups and coffee houses. They offer many youth leadership opportunities that are youth developed and youth led.

Mary Ann Hughes, of **Downingtown CTC** gave their report. They have been collaborating with the local school district in the following programs: Bigs After-School Mentoring Program, and Parenting Wisely. They maintain a multi-location lending library of resources, books, and videos on all topics related to parenting and offer free use to the community. They also offer public presentations and provide resource materials at many community events. They have a School Resource Officer program in cooperation with the local police department. Downingtown CTC is continually building relationships and building community prevention awareness and connecting to use their resources wisely.

Nancy Clegg introduced the featured speaker, **Brian Bumbarger**, from Penn State University. He gave a power point and talk reviewing “Assessing the Impact of Communities that Care in Pennsylvania”. This information was based on research done at Pennsylvania State University over the last 4 years. (See attached document for print out of his Power Point presentation). The summary of their findings is that overall, CTC communities showed significantly lower levels of risk factors, substance abuse, and delinquency. Their research provides solid evidence that CTC is working in Pennsylvania and that a clearly structured community coalition model is proven to be the most effective. It is in process that this research will be presented to legislators with the hope that it can be translated to policy recommendations.

At 12:00 Noon, when it was time to adjourn, there was not adequate time to discuss how the 2 groups might want to collaborate in the future. It was suggested that each group discuss how to make the best use of this information to plan for future collaboration of resources and expertise. The meeting was adjourned by Ruth Kranz-Carl.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Moeller
Acting Secretary for C-5

Assessing the Impact of Communities that Care in Pennsylvania, Prevention Research Center, The Pennsylvania State University, October, 2005 Power Point Document follows.

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Assessing the Impact of Communities that Care in Pennsylvania

Prevention Research Center
The Pennsylvania State University
www.prevention.psu.edu

Brian K. Bumbarger

October 2005

This research is funded by the Pennsylvania
Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Investigators/Authors

Mark Greenberg, Ph.D.

Mark Feinberg, Ph.D.

Wayne Osgood, Ph.D.

Special thanks to
The staff at PCCD and the Children's Partnership

Communities That Care (CTC) Outcomes Study

- Compared the levels of risk factors and substance use outcomes in CTC vs. non-CTC communities in PA
- The first large-scale quasi-experimental study of student outcomes in CTC communities
- Also addresses the larger question of the effectiveness of community coalition strategies

The CTC Initiative in PA

- Began in 1995 with 8 sites
- Has grown to over 120 communities through sixteen funding cycles
- Has undergone continuous development and improvement

The CTC Model

- An “operating system” to mobilize communities
- Follows a public health model of preventing poor outcomes by reducing associated risk factors
- Coalition model that is data-driven and research-based
- Follows a specific sequence of steps
- Focuses on the use of evidence-based prevention strategies

Steps to the CTC Model:

- Engage key leaders, form prevention board, and receive training on the model
- Conduct a risk and resource assessment using local data on risk and protective factors
- Prioritize risk and protective factors to be addressed
- Implement effective prevention programs that address prioritized risk and protective factors
- Re-assess and re-prioritize

CTC Outcomes Study

- Goal was to determine whether CTC has a positive impact on risk factors, substance use, and delinquency
- Utilized PA Youth Survey (PAYS) data from 2003
 - 147 school districts - 98,436 students
 - 95 CTC schools, 52 non-CTC schools
- Used propensity analyses to create comparable sample of CTC and non-CTC communities

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CTC Sites versus non-CTC sites – 2003 PAYS

Risk Factors	6	8	10	12
Family Supervision	+	+	+	+
Family Discipline	+	+	+	+
Family Conflict	+	+	+	+
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	+	+	+	+
Parental Attitudes Favorable to ATOD Use	+	+	-	+
Academic Failure	+	-	+	+
Low School Commitment	+	+	-	-
Rebelliousness	+	+	-	-
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	+	+	+	+
Friends' ATOD Use	+	+	+	+
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	+	+	+	+
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior	+	+	-	+
Favorable Attitudes Toward ATOD Use	+	+	+	+
Low Perceived Risk of ATOD Use	+	+	+	+
Early Initiation of Problem Behavior	+	+	+	+
Sensation Seeking	+	+	-	-

+ Favors CTC sites at p<.05 (sig.) + Comparison favors CTC sites
+ Favors CTC sites at p<.10 (trend) - Comparison favors non-CTC sites

CTC Sites With Age Appropriate Evidence-based Programs
versus non-CTC sites

Risk Factors	6	8	10	12
Family Supervision	+	+	-	+
Family Discipline	+	+	+	+
Family Conflict	+	+	-	+
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	+	+	+	+
Parental Attitudes Favorable to ATOD Use	+	+	-	-
Academic Failure	-	-	+	+
Low School Commitment	+	+	+	+
Rebelliousness	+	+	-	+
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	+	+	+	+
Friends' ATOD Use	+	+	+	+
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	+	+	+	+
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior	+	+	-	+
Favorable Attitudes Toward ATOD Use	+	+	+	+
Low Perceived Risk of ATOD Use	+	+	+	+
Early Initiation of Problem Behavior	+	+	+	+
Sensation Seeking	+	+	-	-

+ Favors CTC sites at p<.05 (sig.)
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CTC Sites versus non-CTC sites – 2003 PAYS

ATOD and Delinquency Outcomes	6	8	10	12
Past 30-day Alcohol Use	+	+	+	+
Past 30-day Cigarette Use	+	+	+	-
Past 2-week prevalence of Binge Drinking	+	+	+	+
Drunk or high at school in past year	+	-	+	+
Delinquency	+	+	+	+
Drug Use	+	+	+	+

Favors CTC sites at $p < .05$ (sig.)
 Favors CTC sites at $p < .10$ (trend)

CTC Sites With Age Appropriate Evidence-based Programs
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Past 2-week prevalence of Binge Drinking	+	+	+	+
Drunk or high at school in past year	+	+	+	+
Delinquency	+	+	+	+
Drug Use	+	+	+	+

Favors CTC sites at $p < .05$ (sig.)
 Favors CTC sites at $p < .10$ (trend)

Interpreting the Findings

- By chance alone (i.e. if CTC had no effect) we would expect approximately four comparison cells to be statistically significant ($p < .05$)
- We would roughly expect 2 to favor CTC sites and 2 to favor non-CTC sites (an equal distribution)
- Instead, 15 comparisons favored CTC for the main analyses – 7x as many as we would expect by chance alone
- When we look at only CTC sites using evidence-based programs targeted at the population being surveyed, we find 23 significant comparisons favoring CTC sites – 11x as many as we would expect by chance alone
- None of the comparisons favored non-CTC sites, even at a trend level ($p < .10$)

A Conservative Estimate

Our design likely underestimates the full impact of CTC for several reasons:

- Only measures effects on 6th – 12th grade students, while many programs targeted other populations (e.g. nurse home visiting programs with mothers of young children)
- Measures all risk factors collectively, rather than looking at specific risk factors targeted by a given community with a specific intervention
- Measures risk factors and outcomes at a population (grade cohort) level, though programs often targeted only a very small identified or selected population
- Measures only short-term impact. Prevention effects may be strongest when measured over a longer period of time
- The comparison group (non-CTC) is not a “no intervention” control group. There are still prevention activities going on in the non-CTC communities

Summary of Findings

- **Overall, CTC communities showed lower levels of risk factors, substance abuse, and delinquency**
- Effects are modest, but significant
- Strongest effects were for 6th graders, weakest for 8th and 10th graders
 - may be that most sites focused on early adolescence
 - 2005 data will help to address this question
- Even greater impact where evidence-based prevention programs were used
- Provides solid evidence that CTC is working in Pennsylvania, and that a clearly structured community coalition model can be effective