

**CHESTER COUNTY CARING COMMUNITIES COALITION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 7, 2006 - 9:00 AM – 11:15 AM, EXTON, PA**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mike Barnard	ChesPenn Family Health Center
Nichi Bausser	Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley
Wendy Beck	The COAD Group, Recovery Expo
Mitch Bernstein	Brandywine YMCA
Carolyn Best	Chester County Highway Safety
Kim Bowman	Chester County Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Services
Sandy Claus	Great Valley School District
Nancy Clegg	The COAD Group
Kathy Collier	Great Valley PHY
Michelle Daly	West Chester University
Joshua Grove	The COAD Group
Lisa Guizzetti	The COAD Group
Ceil Harkness	Chester County OIC
Brooke Hedderick	Great Valley PHY, Crime Victims' Center
Mary Ann Hughes	Downingtown CTC Prevention Board
Alray Johnson	DEHS
Jill Johnson	Family Service of Chester County
Kim Lewis	Juvenile Probation Office
Fran Luft	YWCA of Chester County
Jane Mack	M2 Organizational Consulting
Ed McKenamon	Child and Family Focus
Ellen Moeller	The COAD Group, ARCH
Peg O'Grady	Avon Grove School District
Meg Polvino	Chester County Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Services
Mary Ann Quindlen	YMCA of the Upper Main Line
Danielle Salada	Octorara CTC
JoAnn Santangelo	Chester County Juvenile Probation
Sean Saunders	PHY, COAD, Boy Scouts, The Second Mile
Barry Schickling	Childhood Education Coalition of Chester Co.
Susan Siensa	New Life/Peer Outreach
Buzz Tyson	Lighthouse Youth Center
Christiana Valocchi	West Chester CTC
Dolores Winston	Phoenixville CTC
Pat Yoder	Chester County Health Dept.

**Welcome & Introductions** The meeting was facilitated by Nancy Clegg -COAD Community Prevention Dept. Outreach Coordinator and the three acting co-chairs, Barry Schickling, Mary Ann Hughes and Christiana Valocchi. Those in attendance went around the room to introduce themselves and to identify what organization they represent.

**Old Business:**

**Secretary's Report:** Danielle Salada, acting secretary, reported that the minutes from the September 29, 2006 meeting had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting. Corrections had been made, according to correspondence received, and the final copy would be deemed approved and posted on the Coalition website, [www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org](http://www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org), following the close of today's meeting. A motion of the approval of minutes was made by Christiana Valocchi and seconded by Brooke Hedderick. Members were encouraged to fill out a registration sheet that was handed out to communicate changes in contact information, and interest in sitting around the Coalition table. The acting secretary, Danielle Salada will handle all registration forms. All members are encouraged to look at the Website [www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org](http://www.CaringCommunitiesCoalition.org) to make sure their information is up to date. .

**Coalition Temporary Steering Committee Report:** Introductions of the Coalition Steering Committee were made:

**Acting Chairperson**

Barry Schickling

Mary Ann Hughes

Christiana Valocchi

**Acting Secretaries**

Danielle Salada

Holly Favino

**Acting Collaboration Coordinator**

Iliana Rivera

The Coalition will continue being facilitated by the Temporary Steering Committee until the June Coalition meeting. Nominations for Chairperson, Co-Chair, Secretary and Collaboration Coordinator are being accepted along with eight other positions on the Steering Committee. Persons can recommend themselves or others for these positions. Voting is planned for the June meeting.

**New Business**

A presentation of donations brought by Coalition members was made to representatives from the Youth Center. Through meeting reminders, Coalition members were invited to bring donated presents for the Chester County Youth Center. 2 boxes of items were collected and given to the Chester County Youth Center to give encouragement to the youth during the holiday season.

**Presentation**

The featured presentation highlighted 3 local youth initiatives throughout Chester County.

The first presentation came from 4 youth involved in West Chester's Youth Leadership Development Program. This program started as a forum on Martin Luther King Day 2006 with 4 roundtable discussions. Youth are now presenting prevention programming to their peers and to adults.

After their presentation Coalition members were invited to give input and present questions for the youth to answer.

Peer Outreach from Unionville High School was represented by youth leader, Mallory Lockhart and adult advisor and founder of Peer Outreach Foundation, Sue Siensa. They discussed the upcoming Youth to Youth Weekend conference being held at Unionville High School in January. The

conference has been in place for 8 years and serves any countywide youth who want to get education and training about choosing a drug free lifestyle. The January weekend event will offer two speakers this year, Matt Bellace, comedian and inspirational speaker, and Brett Illig, from Message of Hope. Students will earn community service hours for attending.

**Don't Do DAT** youth leaders from Downingtown were introduced by the advisor and founder, Alray Johnson. They talked about recruiting youth talent and giving platform for kids leading healthy drug free lifestyles. They are looking for schools to share the message of Don't Do **D**rugs, **A**lcohol, **T**obacco throughout the county and to involve others in opportunities to help reduce the use/abuse of DAT! The Officers in attendance were Lauren Tilghman and Amanda Dimarco

The March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Caring Communities Coalition will take place at the Chester County Youth Center gymnasium from 9-11AM. This meeting will include an EXPO in which coalition members will have an opportunity to display their programs and services. In doing so, we hope to increase each other's knowledge of what is available to the youth in our county and the ways in which we can collaborate to serve them.

The meeting ended with time for networking opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Salada,  
Acting Secretary