

Youth Policy Board

The Youth Policy Board continues to focus on youth issues in the North Quabbin region, and provides a unique forum for youth service professionals to network and expand linkages.

The Youth Policy Board recently received a Federal Drug Free Communities Grant in partnership with CCT to work on developing a Strategic Plan for Substance Abuse Prevention for youth in the North Quabbin region. The initiative is called Youth CHOICE (Creating Healthy Options in the Community). The group has begun efforts to work from existing data on youth needs to develop a comprehensive plan.

Working groups are identifying strategies to address community laws and norms, parental attitudes toward substance use and rewards for youth involved in their community.



NORTH QUABBIN COMMUNITY COALITION

**10 School Street
Athol MA 01331
(978) 249-3703**

Monthly Open Forums

9—11 a.m.

Athol-Orange Elks Lodge

Third Friday of each month

(Sept – May)

Annual Luncheon held in June.

Please call for more information

Membership in the North Quabbin Community Coalition is open to all agencies, religious communities, business and industry, government officials, civic groups and other interested individuals and organizations. The Coalition holds monthly meetings (the third Friday of every month except July & August) on relevant topics, facilitates monthly task forces on critical local issues, publishes a monthly newsletter, and provides resource materials, networking services and advocacy efforts on behalf of Coalition issues. The Coalition is an affiliate of Valuing Our Children. The Coalition is funded in part by the generous contributions of members, the Department of Children & Families' Community Connections, the Central Mass. AHEC, UMass Medical School Office of Community Programs, Community Coalition for Teens DFC Mentoring Grant, and the Athol-Royalston Regional School District.

NORTH QUABBIN COMMUNITY COALITION



Working to improve the quality
of life within the
North Quabbin region
for 25 years.

**10 School Street
Athol, MA 01331**

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www.nqcc.org

Comprehensive Resource Directory
of North Quabbin Area services
available on the website!

Our Mission...

Founded in 1984, the North Quabbin Community Coalition is a community-wide alliance whose mission is to improve the quality of life for all those living and working in the nine town region. Towns include: Athol, Orange, New Salem, Wendell, Warwick, Phillipston, Erving, Petersham and Royalston.



NQ System of Care

The NQ System of Care (SOC) is an advisory group dedicated to oversight of the recently implemented Children's Behavioral Health Initiative. The Commonwealth recently settled a class action lawsuit (the Rosie D. Case) by implementing a broad scale effort to improve access to services for children through age 20 who are served by public insurance programs. The model is a family-centered approach to a team method of care intended to meet a wide variety of behavioral health needs for families. The model supports the values of a true wraparound philosophy, with family support at the heart of decision making. \ The Community Service Agency contract is held by Clinical & Support Options, Inc. and the local SOC group is part of a regional network which includes both Franklin and Hampshire counties. A larger Area System of Care group meets quarterly to address systemic challenges and successes.

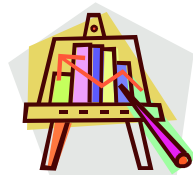


Dental Task Force

The major focus of the Dental Task Force is on community education, awareness and planning for the Annual 'Healthy Smiles' Dental Fair. Dental disease can lead to long term health problems and can both hinder growth and development of children and the productivity of adults. Dental decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, five times more common than asthma. This disease affects a child's ability to do life's most basic activities such as eating, sleeping, listening and paying attention in school. The group is also a part of the Watch Your Mouth Campaign and is part of Health Care For All's Statewide Oral Health Initiative.

Economic Development Task Force

The primary focus of the Task Force is on coordination of regional economic development efforts. The group encourages broad community involvement and is committed to using the local natural resources to develop the future economy of the region. One project is working on the coordination of marketing materials used to recruit new business enterprise to the area. A survey of all existing materials has been completed and the group is exploring options for a web-based link to existing sites where materials can be more readily available to potential business developers.



Community Education

The NQCC offers a variety of community education opportunities including support for local non-profit organizations, staff development and management training. Available topics include

Safety & Prevention:

- Enough Abuse Campaign: Overview of prevention strategies
- Understanding Offenders and the SOR Requirements
- Policy and Environmental Scan: available to all youth serving organizations
- Informed Supervision: Working with children exhibiting sexual behaviors
- Parent Workshops: Include hands-on strategies for all age groups
- Working with Teens: Preventing sexual abuse of adolescents
- Internet Safety: Staying safe on-line
- Grandparents as a Prevention Resource
- Child Care Provider Training
- Talk About Touching: A child safety skill building curriculum

Board Governance:

- Building A Great Board
- Becoming a Great Board Member

Management/ Organization:

- Supervision in the Helping Professions
- Maintaining An Effective Non-Profit Organization in Tough Economic Times