

# North Quabbin Youth Policy Board - Teen Pregnancy Prevention

December 20, 2007

NQCC Office

Notes

Present: Rebecca Bialecki, Jennifer Dube, Cliff Daniels, Kathy Begin, Strong oak, Danna Boughton, Joyce Fulmer, Davette Young (recorder)

## I. Introductions and Updates

We welcomed Kathy Begin from AMS to her first meeting and introduced ourselves around the table. Due to weather and season, it was a small group.

A) *Announcement:* GCC was awarded \$500,000 (\$100,000/5 years) for a Community Access Scholarship initiating a program reaching out to out-of-school population to enable them to attend GCC. The Community Access Scholarship works to reduce the barriers that keep students from reaching college and achieving their utmost potential. Its mission is to raise the aspirations and expectations of individuals who feel that college is not for them, or is unattainable due to life circumstances. This scholarship is directed at students who have either finished High School and feel that college isn't affordable, or for students who have not completed their High School Diploma or their GED and would like an opportunity to attend college. If anyone has any questions regarding this scholarship please contact Jennifer Dube at the North Quabbin Community Coalition at 978-249-3703.

B) *Healthy Connections* – state money was received. Outreach Counselor has left Health Connections for another position in the community. They are currently looking to fill this position and hope to get someone in it ASAP. The job description is posted in the Athol Daily News.

C) *CCT* – National Teen Birthrate numbers have come out indicating an increase of 3% - first one in 14 years. Our Local Data (2006) should be releases sometime in February.

D) It was reported that providers have seen more 12/13 year olds then they have in the past in the community who are pregnant. There is also a continued run on pregnancy tests being a hot item at Healthy Connections.

## II. Presentation – Joyce Fulmer

### *School Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Curriculum*

1. A new type of focus for curriculums for the school program seems to be the best avenue to take to address the on-going fidelity issue and to best fit the capacity of Athol High School. Data from the 2007 youth health survey in North Quabbin could be a tool in determining the appropriate goal and Joyce has requested permission from the three school principals in the North Quabbin region to be able to analysis the data as a region. Handouts were distributed to better understand the questions posed: an Executive Summary ie: Sexual Risk and Protective Factors (Factors Affecting Teen Sexual Behavior, Pregnancy, Childbearing and Sexually Transmitted Disease: Which are Important? Which Can You Change?). Another document was suggested for homework in preparation for the next meeting: Technical Report: Getting to Outcomes, 10 Steps for Achieving Results-Based Accountability. It was agreed that this would be important to study first as it could help in going forward and has proved to be a popular guide from which to work from in other agencies. Timeline for new curriculum in Athol High school is next fall giving us plenty of time to choose the best strategy. It was cited that HIV/AIDS in youth is the fastest growing population in the USA. The first factor is to answer how to choose the best curriculum is to find out what is the “problem” or what problems we are focusing on.

2. Model Curriculums were handed out and it was asked of the group to study to bring back with opinions at the next meeting in January. Joyce had already studied them and sifted out one that seemed totally inappropriate (See Choices) and explained the concept of the 3 remaining.

*Curriculums named for review: (quick impression) HIV/AIDS Highlight*

Reducing the Risk – High School

- Expensive but not as much as TOP
- 8 class / 16 sessions curriculum potential involving a lot of role playing, own assessing and includes parental input (noted hard to get)
- Dry and boring although some positive impressions (some engagement of kids).
- Seemed outdated.

Be Proud Be Responsible High School

- 6 sessions, 50 minutes of a lot of videos and games included (one box)
- Skills for pregnancy prevention interpreted
- High / Low / No Risk introduction more information
- Outcomes: 3 mo intervention; less risky intercourse use condoms more consistently
- Interactive with “field” assignments, home studies

Become A Responsible Teen (BART) (no handout available)

- 8 sessions (age 14-18) 90 minutes
- HIV/AIDS program that which teens helped to develop intent to inform peers
- Some games and role plays, concept of risks
- Community skills – build in how to be assertive skills
- Video not seemed appropriate as with the “presenter” from outsider of own experiences
- Hard to incorporate teen pregnancy prevention piece

Focus on Kids Late elementary – early high school

- 8 sessions, 90 minutes
- Comprehensive program including a small community service piece
- \$45
- Outcomes: 6 months reveal of condom use tens 13/15 – 95% use of condom vs.60% (control group)
- SODA = Stop Option Discussion Action – lots of games different type of questions , settings, “field assignments”; parent role play (take home)

Joyce was particularly drawn to this curriculum as it pulls out aspects of TOP. TOP believed to work best in the community based agencies meeting fidelity requirements etc. Final thoughts: to further explore a new curriculum for the schools to possibly have one in place by next fall.

Attendees will now take home the handouts describing the different curriculum presented to study and come back in January prepared for further discussions.

*All handouts are on file*

III. Next Meeting

**January 17, 2008**

**9 – 11 AM**

**MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL**

