

North Quabbin Youth Policy Board - Teen Pregnancy Prevention

January 17, 2008 9 - 11 AM

Mahar Regional School

Notes

Present: Rebecca Bialecki, Kelly Noonan, Patricia Crosby, Jennifer Dube, Amber Ortiz, Jeanette Voas, Christine McMahon, Strong Oak, Cliff Daniels, Mary Ramon, Joyce Fulmer, Davette Young (recorder)

I. Introductions and Updates

1) **a)** CCT: hired a Youth Conference Coordinator, Lani Blechman. Joyce will introduce Lani around to folks and help with recruiting planning group from NQ. The conference is taking place at Mahar, May 8 so Lani will be here in NQ quite a bit. **b)** The National Day to observe Prevent Teen Pregnancy is also slated for May 8th. Hoping that it can be interjected into the conference somehow; perhaps basing a workshop on the quiz (?). Joyce will propose that to the planning group once it is formed.

2) Youth Council: Another meeting will be held Jan. 24, 3-5 pm at the Greenfield Career Center. P21 proposal and the readiness project will be posted on the youth web site calendar. The address is www.FHYouth.org. for their calendar and also for templates of resumes, ref. letters etc.

3) Mahar: (second semester) **a)** High School Alternative program will begin its new model. **b)** pm program will be held from 3-5 pm at school each day/subject while holding a job 20hrs/week. This will go towards GED credits. **c)** close community collaboration

4) White Ribbon Project: Mahar involved in this pledge by males (and females) promoting non-violence actions (prevention). General on-going discussions with role playing, brainstorming etc. and then once a pledge is taken to follow this concept, white ribbon is passed out.

5) YES: Amber announced the **a)** "Learn to Earn" program that takes place in 3 sessions during the day going into summer, culminating with a fall event. This is a stipend based job sponsored by businesses also acting as their mentors and designed for youths that haven't worked or who has had a poor work experience. A March/April launch of the new program is planned.

b) Biz Center has moved into a larger space and that move will allow the Benoit Room to be a conference area and will be renamed the "Benoit Biz Cave"

II. Presentation – Joyce Fulmer

Continued Discussion on Science Based Sexuality Education Curriculum

Jeanette Voas was invited here to give more details and answer questions about the NQ Regional data results re: sexual behavior, education and communication sexuality education of the regions' in school youth. Jeanette had compiled a series of graphs depicting the comparisons between the state's results and FC/NQ, (Athol & Mahar). She noted some details of the graphs on each page answering any questions brought up and how they were given (mostly health classes) with discussion following. One area that the group focused on was that the data results show that very few NQ youth have had their first sexual intercourse experience prior to the age of 13, but the figure doubles when that same question is asked of 8th graders in the NQ region. The task force members discussed the possibilities of talking with middle school folks about their interest of having a prevention program in the middle school years. Making Proud Choices is a 9 week teen pregnancy prevention program that the group will look at next months' task force meeting. Making Proud choices is middle school teen pregnancy prevention researched based curriculum.

1) Making Proud Choices

Defined goals, including knowledge of STD's and pregnancy prevention

Discussions around abstinence and risky behaviors

Discussions around learning negotiating skills to get birth control available

This would be 8 sessions, 1 staff with *recommendation* of holding it 2 days/4 hrs each or 1 full day.

2) In regards to a curriculum based program for AHS for the coming school year to replace TOP, the group has been concentrating on looking more intently at Focus on kids: *Joyce will email both evidence programs for a full review to be finally discussed at near future meeting.*

People spoke of pulling out the positive things known from survey – “shout about it”! Possibly including them in a brochure/flyer already for a function (school play, menu etc.). Using school stats for social norming announcements.

III. Suggested Meeting Topics

1. P21 Next Steps

2. Leant to Earn Curriculum > suggestions

3. Curriculums

4. Parents Matter/Parent Child Connections (in near future hopefully-Joyce

5. More conversations around healthy relationships / teen violence prevention using local data.

IV. Other Business / Next Meeting / Adjournment

- Strong Oak spoke of a great book addressing teen dating violence prevention for parents by Liz Claiborne.

- Spotlight Award for this month from NQCC was given to Mary Ramon from Mahar. Congratulations Mary for being recognized for your great work!

