

Youth Policy Board / Teen Pregnancy Prevention

November 15, 2007

NQCC, Athol

Notes

Present: Joyce Fulmer, CCT, Jennifer Dube, NQCC, Paul Goodhind, Principal, Mahar, Strong Oak, NELCWIT, Tracy Dowd-Diaby, YES, Inc, Sandy Clark, Healthy Families, Cliff Daniels, Youth Programs, Meredith Doster, Kathy Eaton, DialSelf, Rebecca Bialecki, NQCC, Davette Young (recorder)

I. Introductions and Updates

Announcements/Updates:

- 1) NELCWIT: White Ribbon Campaign – promoting pledges from young people promising non-abusive behavior towards others – starting February 14 with 4 area schools participating (Mahar, Amherst, Frontier and Ware). Although majority of pledges taken from boys, girls can also promise. There is an educational piece attached to the program along with white ribbons given, and publicity in area newspapers. Any other suggestions for coordinating collaboration with other schools/agencies are welcomed.
- 2) November is Suicide Awareness Month: It was noted that with seemingly more teen depression, resulting in one local teen suicide as well as a parent of teen in the recent past months. These tragedies bring out issues for the students/adults of the community. There was information sharing to Mahar High School about resources/referrals of crisis response team and local mental health agencies. The teen health survey, now being finalized through the RSHTF, if schools are worried about a trend around teen suicide to contact Jeannette Voas at CCT 413-774-1194 x 119 to discuss what is already asked about this topic and what might be added.
- 3) YES, Inc: NQ Young Leaders Council - 15 sign ups with potential firm 12 members holding. Having this group attend meetings in the community is challenging seeing that a lot of the meetings meet during the school day. Paul Goodhind expressed that if there were students on the Young Leaders Council who attend Mahar they could be available to attend this monthly meeting when it is hosted by Mahar (bi-monthly). YLC holding one meeting on Mondays, 5 – 7 PM at YES, Inc. BIZ Center; others will be scheduled when deemed necessary.
- 4) Community Action! **a)** Young Dads group has formed with more outreach efforts being made to entice more men. A resource booklet is being created from requests. Young parent info anyone has, please pass it onto Sandy to include in the booklet. **b)** Byrnes Grant official notification has not been made yet. This will support another group in NQ, split between Mahar Middle School and Butterfield Elementary school. The All-Stars and Booster programs could be proposed as a pilot program for the first year, one semester for 7th graders, with an advanced program in spring. **c)** Smart Recovery could be adapted around the new anti-smoking campaign (DialSelf is already committed to do in regards to addictive behavior).
- 5) DialSelf: Youth Service Summit – Tues. Nov. 20 at GHS from 3 – 5 PM. All welcomed! A Thanksgiving meal is available for youths 16 – 25, 5-8 PM in Greenfield through Dial Self.
- 6) CCT: **a)** Annual Youth Conference will be held at Mahar this year, May 8th. A job posting for the position of Conference Coordinator is forthcoming hoping to receive interest from persons from the NQ regional. Position is for 10 – 15 hour/week job starting ASAP until May 08. **b)** Teen Outreach – YES is at the YMCA with After School Program for the middle school including 4 youths at Mahar. **c)** Athol has completed its fall sessions however, but has been reduced in time due to cuts of staff at AHS which now puts the fidelity of the program jeopardy. Chris Sullivan and Joyce Fulmer have been speaking about school based curriculum that doesn't have a service learning component but is still recognized as proven teen pregnancy prevention curricula. Handout titled, *What Works*, was given to attendees to look over identified program for a December Presentation that Joyce Fulmer will present. (Page 9, of the handout, please note

sections #2, 3, 6, 10, 17 and 19, history of what has worked and then we can compare that with last 3 years TOP and try to integrate with present program). **Noted** a great resource is on line: www.etr.org/recapp.

7) Legislative Breakfast: (*Patricia Crosby*) December 6th. Nomination forms are available to recognize at least 2 youths – perhaps one who has reached age 21 and “achieved” with the help from an associated agency. The deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 27 – please email your nominations to either Jennifer or Joyce.

II. Presentation

- A) **Dial Self – Scatter Housing Grant** – *Meredith Doster*: from HHS resource services to NQ - expanding to 4 transitional beds in total. Site based beds for 16-22 year olds. A rental subsidy basis to assist older youths to actual rent. (Up to 25 years old) Anyone interested can apply and then would go through an intake process meeting certain criteria (going to school, GED etc. a higher functional level, each reviewed by a case management basis). Spaces are expected to be gone fast. Other aspects of Grant includes: > full time coordinator in NQ > less monitored at the apartments > outreach in schools, phone contacts > don't have to be homeless (under 18 must have parental consent) > learning living skills > access to food pantries > small stipends available to help support living > can refer to other services. Should have written info available in the next few weeks however, referrals for now can be sent to Dial Self.
Noted: This is Meredith's last meeting. Val Label director of the North Quabbin Dial Self will be the contact for the region.
- B. **Serve New England** – Joyce announced that there is a program available for people who serve in the community and sign up as such (www.servicenewengland.org) declaring the 2hr/month service, making them eligible to receive reduced costs of food items. This can be on behalf of agencies/families/individuals – something to consider for own agency. Contact Joyce for complete info.
- C. **Tour Grafton Job Corp** – a plea for help from youths at NOADEC who are interested in taking a tour of the site was brought to our attention. Transportation and lunch items would be challenges that are difficult in planning this trip. The Literacy Project students are hoping to go in December on this field trip to the Grafton Job Corp facility. If you or someone you could think of could possibly help, please contact Amber Ortiz. Community Action offered to explore the idea of sending a staff and utilizing their van, Dial Self offered providing food for lunches for the students attending.
- D. **P21 Second Round of Funding Grant** (*Rebecca Bialecki*)
Rebecca gave a brief history to familiarize people as to where we are and where we have come from with the P21 Grant. Two years ago P21 Grant was initiated for strategic planning purposes targeting 4 areas – Hampshire County, Greenfield/Turners Falls, Ware, and North Quabbin. Small pockets of funding were dispersed into the different regional area. In the NQ a small portion was granted to YPB for sustainability of the task force and a small amount to YES for the dev. of the Young Leadership Council. *P21 Second Round* money will continue as a sustainable effort still having planning themes overall. Other focus will be in the transitional effort (school>college>work) and mentoring areas in a long term, sustainable approach. It seems the emphasis will be towards the older youths, 18-24 year olds, hoping to work its way backward. Suggestion to have the 2nd round support the ongoing Young Leadership Council was agreed upon.
Suggestions for additional ways to support youth council was brought up: think about how to invest in having youth involved through council along with strategies how businesses can support youth as well.

III. Next Meeting: **Thursday, December 20, 2007** **9 – 11:00 AM**
NQCC 10 School Street, Athol

