

Youth Policy Board

The Youth Policy Board continues to focus on youth issues in the North Quabbin region, and provide a unique forum for youth service professionals to network and expand linkages. Recently, the YPB merged with the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Board in order to facilitate and support greater collaboration among youth programs and services.

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 reflecting youth needs to develop a comprehensive plan.



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 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, provides resource materials, networking services and advocacy efforts on behalf of Coalition issues. The North Quabbin Community 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; Community Coalition for Teens DFC Mentoring Grant; Athol-Royalston Regional School District ICRS Grant and Clinical & Support Options, Inc. Community Service Agency Contract.

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.



NQ C.A.N.

(Children's Access Network)

The NQ C.A.N. Task Force (Children's Access Network) is a group committed to improving access to care for children and families seeking mental health services. The group has consisted of various community partners representing different sectors of the community that works with local children who have need for access to mental health services. Partners include: the Athol-Royalston School District, the Orange Elementary Schools, Healthy Connections, Valuing Our Children, Athol Memorial Hospital, The Greenfield Area Office of The Department of Children & Families, Clinical & Support Options, Child & Family Service, North Central Human Services and the NQCC.

The group has focused on cross-training efforts to bring awareness of local resources to the partnership members and other healthcare providers as well as to work to identify barriers to treatment services for families. Developing a seamless referral system between institutions and agencies is another critical element of the Task Force's success.

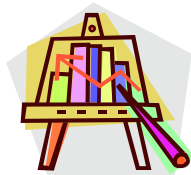


Dental Task Force

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

Primary focus 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.



C.A.R.E.

(Comprehensive Assault Reduction Effort)

This Violence Prevention Task Force is focused on raising community awareness and coordinating efforts to address the serious problem of violent behavior within our region. The Task Force works to identify and engage all sectors of the community in order to impact a broad social change resulting in the decrease in the level of assaults in the North Quabbin region. The group's focus is on 3 specific areas of violence: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention as a pilot site for the Mass. Citizens for Children, Youth Issues and Domestic Violence.

In 2005, Massachusetts received a grant from the National Center for Disease Control to assess the current practice and policy in the state on Sex Offender Management. After a one-year assessment phase, three statewide sites were identified to implement the recommendations detailed within the assessment report. Building on the success of the Enough Abuse Campaign to prevent child sexual abuse, the NQCC's project offers an additional layer of training and support to prevent re-offending by known sexual offenders. Community education was another key element of the report. Sixteen local trainers now provide free training to area residents and professionals from all sectors of the community.