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A Community Action Plan For The Coatesville Youth Initiative

Phase II



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Executive Summary

In early 2008, Coatesville community leaders approached the Brandywine Health Foundation with concerns about the number of young people whose futures were being jeopardized, asking the foundation to take steps to turn the situation around. The foundation's Board of Directors set as one of its strategic goals helping the hardest to reach young people in the Coatesville Area School District (CASD) succeed in life.

In July 2008, the foundation asked the Urban Ventures Group, Inc., to facilitate a 12-month community planning process as part of the Coatesville Youth Development Initiative, the name of which was ultimately shortened to the Coatesville Youth Initiative. The planning process convened a cross-section of stakeholders to develop a shared plan to address the needs of youth and young adults, ages 12–24, in the Coatesville Area School District. To better understand and identify their particular needs, a process involving the gathering and synthesis of perspectives of a broad set of stakeholders and data on the well-being of Coatesville's youth and young adults was implemented. The information and data from this process was collected and compiled in *A Community Plan for the Coatesville Youth Initiative, or as we call it now, Part I, which is available at www.brandywinefoundation.org*.

That original plan served as a blueprint for the next phase, the creation of the Coatesville Youth Initiative, to continue to engage local leaders, youth-serving organizations, youth, parents and residents to take action in support of this plan's targeted priorities. Task forces were set up to address several areas the community had identified needed our attention: an Out-of-School-Time-Activities Task Force, a Parent Support Committee, the Pathways Beyond High School Task Force, and the Juvenile Justice Collaborative.

In the winter of 2009-10, as the committees and task forces began meeting, the Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) decided to implement the Communities That Care (CTC) prevention-planning model. The CTC process sets the gold standard for enabling community members to work together to efficiently and effectively promote positive youth development and prevent youth problems like substance use, delinquency, teen pregnancy, dropping out of school and violence.

The CTC process requires finding out directly from teen-agers what they perceive are the problems and strengths in their community; this data is used by the community to delve more deeply into how we can help young people avoid drugs and alcohol, and ultimately to succeed in life. With active support from the Coatesville Area School District (CASD), the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) was distributed to CASD students in grades 6, 8, 11 and 12 in the fall of 2009, and its data analyzed. The survey assesses:

- Students' attitudes and knowledge concerning:
 - Alcohol,
 - Tobacco,
 - Other drugs, and
 - Violence;

- Students' attitudes and knowledge concerning other antisocial behaviors, including:
 - Getting suspended from school and
 - Depression;
- Prevalence of risk factors that cause (or lead to) problem behaviors; and
- Prevalence of protective factors that guard against problem behaviors.

The PAYS findings build upon the data gathered and reported in the CYI's original *A Community Plan for the Coatesville Youth Initiative*, delving more deeply into young peoples' views. This report, Phase II, is based on the PAYS data analysis that was conducted by the CYI's Community Action Plan Committee, and continues the plan set forth by the original *Community Plan*. It outlines the findings, conclusions, programs, policies and practices to be implemented that will address Coatesville's unique risk and protective factors, which will in turn reduce or eliminate youth problem behaviors.

The Good News

As revealed by PAYS, there is some good news: community strengths include the fact that our youth report lower overall drug usage than county and state youth. They are also less likely to try or use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs, and they have a dim view of their peers who do use drugs or engage in antisocial behaviors. According to the survey, CASD's schools are also giving their students ample opportunities for pro-social involvement and rewarding them for getting involved in activities that help the students feel they have a personal investment in their school.

Our Challenges

The survey also identified several priority risk and protective factors that the Coatesville Youth Initiative will now be addressing to reduce the risk of our youth engaging in problem behaviors. These factors were selected as priorities for prevention action primarily because the survey data indicate that these risk factors are significantly elevated throughout Coatesville and the protective factor is significantly low, relative to other Chester County and Pennsylvania school districts. These risk factors include: a disorganized community characterized by crime, drug selling, fights, abandoned buildings and graffiti; and parental attitudes that are favorable towards antisocial behavior. The insufficient protective factor: there are a lack of opportunities for pro-social involvement within the community, such as sports teams, scouting, and boys and girls clubs.

The CYI's task forces and committees plan to tackle these issues with a wide variety of programs and activities that have been developed as part of the Communities That Care planning process. These include a juvenile justice diversion program, programs to encourage greater parental involvement, support for high schoolers' plans beyond high school, out-of-school-time activities, and the development of "The Game Changers," a youth advisory council designed to cultivate the natural leadership skills of Coatesville's youth.

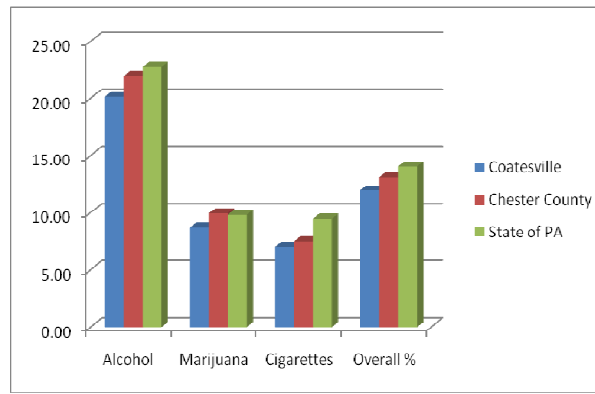
I. The Community Assessment – What Our Youth Are Saying

Coatesville’s Strengths

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) report reveals certain strengths prevalent in the Coatesville Area School District (CASD). These are important areas on which to build to help protect our community’s youth from the risk of problem behaviors. These strengths include:

- Less Drug Usage: CASD youth have an overall lower usage rate of almost all drugs compared to county and state rates (across comparable grades – 6, 8 and 12).

Percentages of Students Using Three Substances



Substance	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
Alcohol	20.13%	21.93%	22.77%
Marijuana	8.70	9.93	9.80
Cigarettes	7.00	7.47	9.47
Overall %	11.94%	13.11%	14.01%

- CASD youth are typically less willing to try or use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (ATODs) than their county and state counterparts.
- CASD youth do not begin experimenting with drugs as early as Pennsylvania or U.S. youth.
- The CASD’s schools give students opportunities to participate in important activities that create a feeling of personal investment in their school. The district’s schools also make students feel appreciated and rewarded for their involvement at school. This results in greater bonding and adoption of the schools’ standards of behavior, reducing the likelihood of problem behaviors.

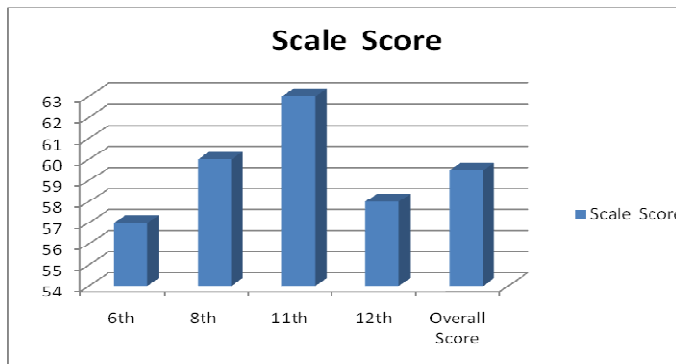
Risk and Protective Factor Measurement

Risk and protective factors are measured by sets of survey items called scales. All together, the PAYS assesses 22 risk factor and nine protective factor scales across four domains: Community Domain, Family Domain, School Domain, and Peer and Individual Domain.

Risk and protective factor scales are scored against the Communities That Care normative database. Like the scoring systems used by many national testing programs—such as the SAT® and ACT™—this method generates percentile scores ranging from 0 to 100. A score of 50, which matches the normative median, indicates that 50% of the respondents in the normative sample reported a score that is lower than the average for Chester County and 50% reported a score that is higher. Similarly, a score of 75 indicates that 75% of the normative sample reported a lower score and 25% reported a higher score. Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better behavioral outcomes, it is better to have higher protective factor scale scores, not lower.

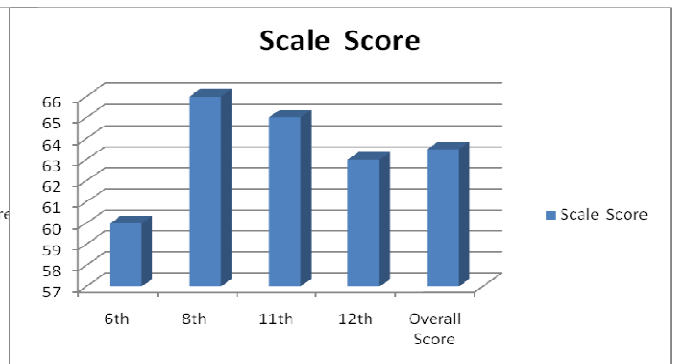
- Our youth reported an average protection score that is higher than the state scale for the opportunities their schools offered and the rewards their schools give for pro-social involvement – both significant protective factors against problem behaviors.

*School Opportunities
for Pro-Social Involvement*



Grade	Scale Score
6	57
8	60
11	63
12	58
Overall Score	60

*School Rewards
for Pro-Social Involvement*



Grade	Scale Score
6	60
8	66
11	65
12	63
Overall Score	63.5

- Youth Frown Upon Antisocial Behavior: A significant percentage of Coatesville youth report that their peers are not involved in antisocial behaviors. They also do not view participation in such behavior as “cool” amongst their peers. Thus, their likelihood of

participating in such behavior is reduced. Our youth scored significantly lower than the county and state scales for this protective factor.

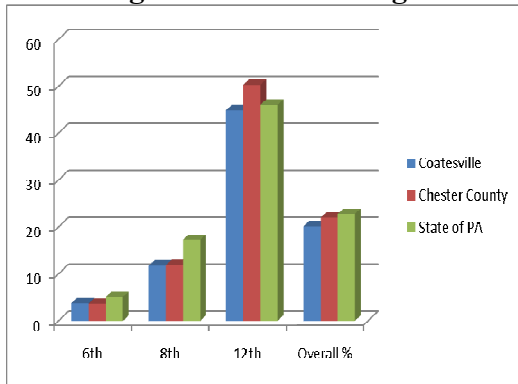
- **CASD Has Fewer Sensation Seekers:** A significant percentage of Coatesville youth see themselves as non-risk takers and harm avoiders who have control over their impulses – lessening their risks of using drugs, engaging in delinquent behavior and/or committing violent acts. Thus, with lower levels than the normative in this category, Coatesville youth are less likely to engage in the aforementioned problem behaviors. Our youth scored lower than the county and state scales for this risk factor.
- **Most Youth Have Unfavorable Attitudes Towards Drugs:** Youth see using drugs as wrong and have lower rates than the county scales for viewing either their use or their peers’ use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs as acceptable.

All of these are important areas of strength on which to build to help protect our community’s youth from the risk of problem behaviors.

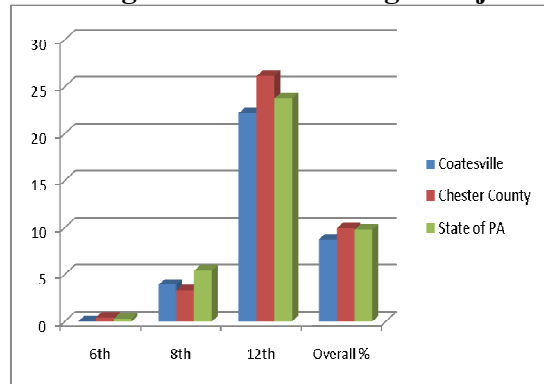
Problem Behaviors and Risk Factors to Be Addressed

Problem Behaviors:

Percentage of Students Using Alcohol



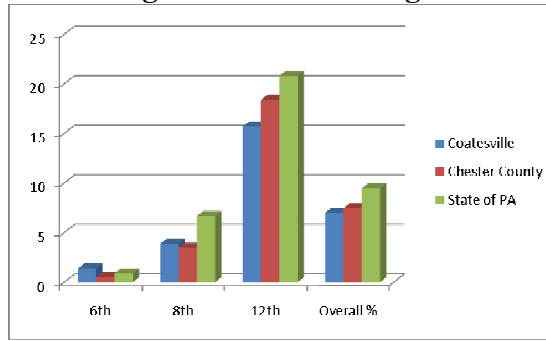
Percentage of Students Using Marijuana



Grade	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
6	3.8%	3.7%	5.1%
8	11.7	11.8	17.2
12	44.9	50.3	46.0
Overall %	20.1%	21.9%	22.8

Grade	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
6	0%	0.4%	0.3%
8	3.9	3.3	5.4
12	22.2	26.1	23.7
Overall %	8.7%	9.9%	9.8%

Percentage of Students Using Tobacco



Grade	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
6	1.4%	0.5%	0.9%
8	3.9	3.5	6.7
12	15.7	18.4	20.8
Overall %	7.0%	7.5%	9.5%

Although the percentages of underage alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use among Coatesville youth are a major community concern, the overall percentage of Coatesville youth using these three substances is lower than the overall percentages in Chester County and Pennsylvania.

The Risk Factors Leading to Problem Behaviors that Must Be Addressed

Priority Risk Factor #1: Community Disorganization

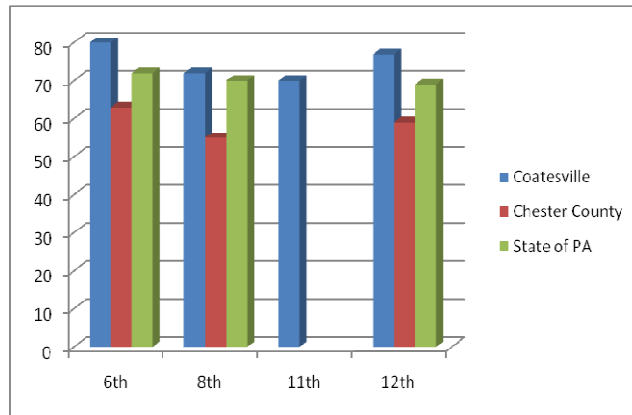
Research shows that youth who live in disorganized communities – neighborhoods that are not safe, are crime-ridden, and/or where there are drug selling, fights, empty or abandoned buildings, and graffiti – are at a greater risk of participating in problem behaviors, including drug abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, dropping out of school and violence.

To get at these issues, the Youth Survey asks:

How much do each of the following statements describe your neighborhood?

1. “Crime and/or drug selling.”
2. “Fights.”
3. “Lots of empty or abandoned buildings.”
4. “Lots of graffiti.”
5. “I feel safe in my neighborhood.”

**The Top Elevated Risk Factor:
*Community Disorganization***



Source: 2009 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Report

Grade	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
6	80	63	72
8	72	55	70
11	70		
12	77	59	69

This was the top elevated risk factor in the Coatesville PAYS report for all grades – 6, 8, 11 and 12. It was highest in 6th grade and second highest in 12th grade. This risk factor is also higher than the county and state scales. Additional data also indicates community disorganization as an elevated risk factor in the general community, i.e. among adults as well as youth. Additional data sources include: the 2003 United Way Martin Luther King Day Youth Forum; the 2008 CYI Focus Groups; the 2010 ServiceCorps Focus Groups; Weed and Seed research; and anecdotal data as reported by residents. For these reasons, community disorganization has been identified as a priority risk factor – one we hope to address by implementing an evidence-based program that has helped young people succeed despite broader community problems.

Gaps, issues and barriers

- There is not an evidence-based program (programs that have been found to be effective based on rigorous evaluation) currently being implemented in Coatesville that will affect this risk factor.
- Community disorganization may take many years to undo –significant economic investment needs to be made.
- Programs that are currently being implemented are directed at very specific groups rather than the broader, general population.

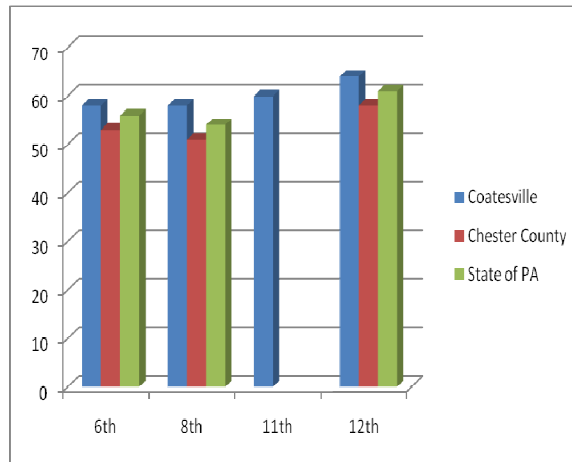
**Priority Risk Factor #2:
Parental Attitudes Favorable Towards Antisocial Behavior**

Research shows that youth who have parents or guardians who exhibit favorable attitudes toward antisocial behavior – including not clearly stating the wrong associated with stealing less expensive items, marring property with graffiti and picking fights with others – are at a greater risk of participating in problem behaviors. To get at this risk factor, the Youth Survey asks:

“How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to:

1. "Steal anything worth more than \$5?"
2. “Draw graffiti or write things or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner’s permission)?”
3. “Pick a fight with someone?”

**Elevated Risk Factor:
*Parental Attitudes Favorable Towards Antisocial Behavior***



Source: 2009 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Report

Grade	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
6	58	53	56
8	58	51	54
11	60		
12	64	58	61

This risk factor was tied as the second highest risk factor in the Coatesville PAYS Report for all grades. It was highest in 12th grade and second highest in 11th grade. In addition, this risk factor is higher than the county and state results show at every grade level tested (6th, 8th & 12th). For these reasons addressing such parental attitudes is being recommended by the CYI Community Action Plan Committee as a priority that needs to be addressed by the Coatesville Youth Initiative.

Gaps, issues and barriers

- Although there are evidence-based programs targeting this risk factor that are available to Coatesville residents, these existing programs – which aren't based in Coatesville – don't always reach the group in need.
- Because these programs have very specific target populations, they do not reach a large number of residents.
- It is challenging to get parents to attend such programs or to have the programs reach the right parents.
- There is a strong disconnect between parents and youth, particularly when it comes to proper decision making. Much of this stems from a general lack of parental supervision.

Protective (positive) Factors that Need to Be Strengthened to Protect Against Problem Behaviors

Priority Protective Factor: *Community Opportunities for Pro-Social Involvement*

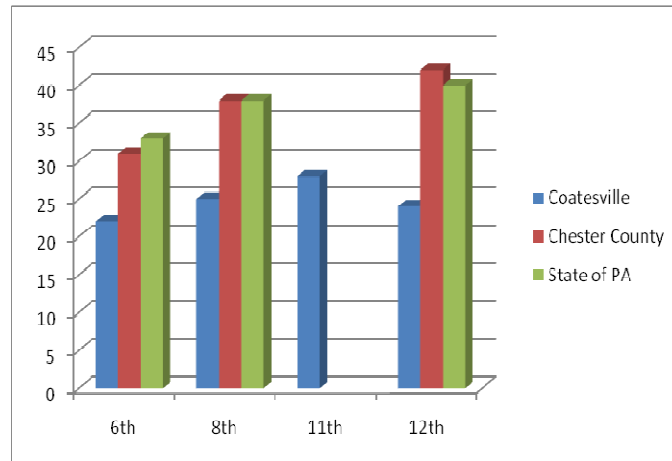
Research shows that youth who live in neighborhoods where there are few opportunities for youth to be pro-socially involved – neighborhoods that do not offer activities such as age-appropriate sports teams, scouting, boys & girls clubs, 4-H clubs, service clubs or do not have adults available for youth to talk to about important issues – are at a greater risk of participating in problem behaviors.

Youth Survey questions:

Which of the following activities for people your age are available in your community:

1. Sports teams?
2. Scouting?
3. Boys and Girls Clubs?
4. 4-H Clubs?
5. "Service clubs?" and
6. "There are lots of adults in my neighborhood I could talk to about something important?"

**Weak Protective Factor:
Community Opportunities for Pro-social Involvement**



Source: Pennsylvania Youth Survey Report

Grade	Coatesville	Chester County	State of PA
6	22	31	33
8	25	38	38
11	28		
12	24	42	40

This protective factor was the least protective factor in all of Coatesville’s grades, and lower than the county and state scales in all the surveyed grades – 6, 8 and 12. Note that the elevated level of our top priority risk factor -- community disorganization -- contributes to the depressed levels of this protective factor. This was also a significant factor in the 2009 CYI Community Plan, leading to the decision to create an Out-Of-School-Time Task Force to strengthen after-school and summer programming for children and youth in the Coatesville area. For these reasons, bolstering community opportunities for pro-social involvement is being recommended by the CYI’s Community Action Plan Committee as a priority. For CASD youth, pro-social programming opportunities in the community to enhance those already in the schools could have an exponential impact on their positive development.

Gaps, issues and barriers

- There is not an evidence-based program currently being implemented in Coatesville that will improve this protective factor.
- Although there may be a lack of available pro-social opportunities, there is also a great lack of awareness of the pro-social opportunities that do exist in the community for youth and families as a unit.
- A well-funded community-based center where youth can “hang out” does not exist.
- Various parts of the community, specifically the City of Coatesville, South Coatesville and Modena, are among the poorest communities in both Chester County and Pennsylvania. This factor may be contributing to the lack of available pro-social opportunities and/or the inability of youth and families to participate in the opportunities that do exist.

Other Prevalent Risk Factor Considered:

Drug Use Not Perceived as Risky

Although this risk factor was higher than the state scale and was tied with poor parental attitudes as the second highest risk factor in Coatesville, this risk factor was not selected by the CYI Community Action Plan Committee as a separate priority risk factor for three primary reasons:

1. This risk factor and the education needed to improve it will be an integral focus as we implement an evidence-based program that targets both of our priority risk factors.
2. There are current and/or new youth-serving agencies/programs operating in Coatesville that target this specific risk factor. Agencies such as The COAD Group are working collaboratively with the CYI to provide awareness to youth of the risk of drug use. In addition, we have been told that various evidence-based programs, such as Project Alert and Strengthening Families, have or will become available in Coatesville in the near future.
3. Should the CYI receive funding as a Drug-Free Community from the federal government in August, investing in this risk factor as well will become a priority.

Special Topics:

The PAYS included questions on special topics. The answers to these questions provide valuable information to aid in our prevention efforts. These special topics include:

Symptoms of Depression

A number of scientific studies have identified a link between mental health problems, such as depression, and adolescent use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The PAYS asked students about feelings – sadness, hopelessness and worthlessness – that can be symptoms of depression. Responses to the PAYS by CASD youth revealed significant levels of depression symptoms, levels that were significantly higher than the county, particularly in grades 6 and 8.

Percentage of Youth Reporting Symptoms of Depression, Coatesville

	6 th %	8 th %	12 th %	Overall %
In the past year, felt depressed or sad most days	25.6	33.5	29.1	29.4
Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	14.8	21.9	22.1	19.6
At times I think that I am no good at all	21.9	26.8	24.9	24.5
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	10.8	12.2	17.9	13.6

**Percentage of Youth Reporting Symptoms of Depression,
Chester County**

	6 th %	8 th %	12 th %	Overall %
In the past year, felt depressed or sad most days	19.7	23.1	27.7	23.5
Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	10.5	16.3	18.0	14.9
At times I think that I am no good at all	17.9	22.8	26.1	22.3
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	7.5	10.8	13.3	10.5

**Percentage of Youth Reporting Symptoms of Depression,
State of PA**

	6 th %	8 th %	12 th %	Overall %
In the past year, felt depressed or sad most days	26.8	32.1	33.2	30.7
Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	14.7	23.0	21.0	19.6
At times I think that I am no good at all	23.6	29.1	28.9	27.2
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	10.6	13.6	15.2	13.1

The higher levels of symptoms of depression among Coatesville youth provide us with an additional area of focus as we continue to bring in programs, services and activities that target problem behaviors.

Age of Onset of Alcohol and Drug Use

Using age-of-initiation data to coordinate the timing of prevention efforts maximizes program effectiveness. CASD students were asked questions about the age at which they first used alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The PAYS data reported that the average age that Coatesville youth begin using alcohol and drugs is 14.6 years of age. This data is important because it demonstrates that programs should be delivered somewhere close to this age range to have a significant impact. Intervention done too early may prove less effective because it is not close enough to the critical initiation period. Intervention too far after the age when a majority of potential substance users may have already initiated the behavior may have limited impact. Thus, early in the middle school years is the time for intervention programs to be implemented.

Increase in Problem and Anti-Social Behavior

The PAYS Report data revealed that many of the problem behaviors increase significantly between the grades 8 and 11. Thus, we can conclude that the middle school grades are an important starting point for prevention education and programming.

II. What are we (CYI) currently doing about these issues?

The Coatesville Youth Initiative represents an unprecedented effort on the part of the Coatesville community to deal in a straightforward and collaborative way with the kind of youth issues outlined by the PAYS report.

Since CYI's inception, more than 50 volunteers have served on the CYI Steering Committee, task forces, and subcommittees. The CYI Steering Committee: 1) Acts as the steward and protector of the mission and vision of the organization; 2) Understands that all programs, functions, events and fundraising activities must be planned and organized to further the mission and vision of the organization; 3) Serves as an ambassador for the Coatesville Youth Initiative, always looking for opportunities to forge mutually beneficial relationships and build collaboration for the benefit of the community; and 4) Makes recommendations to the Coatesville Youth Initiative Board of Directors regarding policies, operating procedures and goals responsive to community needs. The 15-member board of directors governs CYI. The larger CYI Steering Committee serves as an advisory group that makes recommendations to the board of directors.

Members of the board and steering committee include representatives from the following sectors in the Greater Coatesville community: youth, parents, business community, media, schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and volunteer groups, health care professionals, state or local government agencies with expertise in substance abuse, and other individuals and organizations. Based on stakeholders' perspectives, focus groups and quantitative data, the following subcommittees and task forces were developed to achieve our mission:

Juvenile Justice Collaborative

Goal: Develop a coordinated approach to divert young people at risk of becoming engaged in the juvenile justice system and substance abuse and helping those already in the system to successfully reintegrate into school and community.

The collaborative is currently bringing the Youth Court model to the CASD as part of a nationwide movement to keep young people out of the criminal justice system while providing a valuable youth development opportunity. Youth are encouraged to take responsibility for their negative actions and, along with teens who are not in the juvenile justice system, are provided opportunities to serve as lawyers, juries, and judges, meting out justice in cases involving their CASD peers.

Greater Parental Engagement

Goal: Create opportunities for families to spend time with one another, develop a network of support, and provide them with access to workshops and resources that increase family and caregiver engagement.

Based on the work performed through the CTC process, including identifying priority factors, community resources and gap analyses, the CYI will implement the Middle School Families and Schools Together (FAST) evidence-based program this September in one or more CASD middle schools. The 10-week program, which encourages family bonding during meals and structured exercises, produces positive outcomes in the reduction/prevention of adolescent problem behaviors. This program is funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Pathways Beyond High School

Goal: Support youth during their post-secondary education/training, establish a network of supports and resources for adults, parents and grandparents to build stronger relationships with youth, and help youth get to their high school graduation with a plan.

In partnership with the CASD's Guidance Department and Delaware County Community College, this task force is launching a trial series of evening educational sessions for parents to guide them through the college and financial aid application process, and to introduce them to the CYI and its message of parental support to reduce drug and alcohol use, and other risky behaviors.

Out-of-School-Time Task Force

Goal: Create a network of youth organizations and programs working together to coordinate programming, communication, schedules and improved service delivery and lay the foundation for the development of a recreation center in the future.

In order to strengthen the skills of staff in Coatesville area youth-serving agencies, a series of youth development training sessions began to be offered in March, courtesy of the William Penn Foundation and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Youth Development Center. Also, for the third time in one year, a youth activities brochure will be produced and distributed throughout the CASD to educate parents and youth about out-of-school-time activities available through the spring and summer.

The Game Changers

Goal: Cultivate the natural leadership skills of the young people in the Coatesville Area School District and provide training for them to become the "youth voice" for the greater Coatesville community.

The Game Changers recently elected their own officers and are planning a "Trek" with the Stroud Water Research Center. They will hike and camp along the Brandywine River for one week to learn about this critical watershed, the value of the environment and how important it is to adopt a healthy, drug-free lifestyle from the beginning. They will also learn about digital photography from an award-winning *National Geographic* photographer who will accompany them.

The working groups reflect each targeted priority area identified during the community planning process. Other than The Game Changers, which is solely made up of youth in the community, each working group is comprised of members of the community, the CYI Steering Committee and the CYI Board of Directors. All involved are focused on completing the approved goals or tasks. They will then cycle back and develop new goals and tasks that address the broader social determinants impacting youth success, as well as the specific need to keep young people from using drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

What's Next

We will continue to utilize the CTC process, which includes continued opportunity for community input, community risk and protective factor assessment, community resource assessment, community resources gap analysis and a data review of the youth surveys (PAYS), which will be administered every other year.

CASD students will complete the next PAYS youth survey this coming October. The results of that data will be compared with the current baseline data to gauge the progress we have made. In addition the review of the 2011 PAYS data will provide insights into current trends, providing an opportunity to add additional prevention programming to combat our youths' problem behaviors.

III. What You Can Do!

1. **Join the Coatesville Youth Initiative Steering Committee** (community board)
 - We meet every other month.
 - We're open to anyone who is interested!

Members of the steering committee include representatives from the following sectors of the Greater Coatesville community: youth, parents, business leaders, media, schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and volunteer groups, health care professionals, state and local government agencies with expertise in substance abuse and other individuals and organizations.

The steering committee members act as the stewards and protectors of the CYI mission and vision. They make recommendations to the Coatesville Youth Initiative Board of Directors regarding policies, operating procedures and goals that are responsive to community needs, and they work to ensure that goals and objectives are met.

2. **Join one of the five Work Groups & Committees**
 - We meet as needed (average = one to two times per month).
 - We're open to anyone who is interested!

The work groups are the driving force behind the success of the CYI. These groups monitor plan progress to ensure that the initiative's goals are being met. Each working

group focuses on its own piece of the prevention effort. However, essential interaction and collaboration between the work groups occurs regularly. The four work groups are:

Pathways Beyond High School Work Group ensures that students and their families have access to the information they need to effectively matriculate through the CASD and graduate from high school with a plan for the future.

Out-of-School -Time Task Force is creating a network of youth organizations and programs that work together in order to coordinate programming, communication and scheduling. The dual purposes: improve the delivery of services to our youth and lay the foundation for the development of a recreation center.

Juvenile Justice Collaborative Work Group is developing a coordinated approach to diverting young people at risk of becoming engaged in the juvenile justice system and is helping those already in the system to successfully reintegrate into their schools and community.

Community Outreach Work Group promotes the Coatesville Youth Initiative and the *Communities That Care* system, educates the key Leaders, stakeholders and the public about the work of the CYI and identifies opportunities to celebrate success.

Greater Parental Involvement Work Group creates opportunities for family members to spend time together, develop a network of support and to take advantage of workshops and resources that increase family and caregiver engagement.

3. **Tell your children and your neighbors' children about the great opportunities we offer:**

- **The Game Changers Youth Advisory Council** empowers youth by providing them with an organized structure and opportunity to let their voices be heard and to have a meaningful, positive impact. Game Changers have the chance to express their needs within in the community and to provide advice and recommendations concerning programs, activities and events for young people in the Greater Coatesville Area. They are also given the opportunity and the support needed to take action to be the difference in the community.
- **The ServiceCorps Summer Employment and Leadership Development Program** for CASD youth between the ages of 14-18 combines an eight-week service-oriented employment experience with challenging life and leadership skills development classes. This is a life-changing opportunity for young people to engage in community building activities and service projects that inspire them to carry our community toward a positive future.

4. **Lead a Youth Leadership Workshop:**

CYI utilizes community representatives to serve as guest speakers and workshop leaders during our summer youth program. Would you like to share your expertise and skills with our youth? Please give us a call to discuss how you can help.

5. **Donate!**

CYI accepts tax-deductible donations of all amounts. Please call us to discuss giving opportunities. Big or small, your contribution will go a long way towards helping the CYI carry out our mission and expand our programs.

6. **Communicate with your kids on a regular basis and focus on preventing problems in the first place rather than waiting until you have to intervene later.**

- Pick up some of the free resources that we have available
- Utilize the County's free information and referral service: ReferWeb at <http://www.referweb.net/chesco/>

For additional information and to support our effort, please contact:

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Visit us on-line to learn more!
www.brandywinefoundation.org