



**Downingtowntown Area – Communities That Care
Coalition Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 12:30-1:30 pm – DASD**

Attendees: Libby Egnaczyk (Community Mobilizer), Cynthia Black (CTC President and Safe Homes Coordinator), Stephanie Winegar (CTC Secretary and parent), Paul Short (Strengthening Families), Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative), Tina Forsythe (DASD), Kathy Collier (CC Drug & Alcohol), Katie Holton (CVC), Laura Obenski (AVOID), Judy Haupt (LATO), Jane Bertone (DASD Board), Karen Newman (HOOD), Chris Pielli (HOOD), Brian Sebold (CCYC), Pia DiSanto (West Home and School), Tisha Brown (CVC), Carol Ivone (CYF/CCIU), Lauren Rudolph (Main Line Health), Gerry Gonzalez (Child Guidance), Kathleen Nine-Scott (Safe Homes Champion/Parent)

Welcome & Introductions:

Wonderful turnout despite the terrible weather. Thank you for caring about our youth.

Approval of January 2016 Minutes:

Katie made motion to approve and Judy seconded. The motion to approve January's minutes passed unanimously.

Community Announcements:

- Pia discussed the annual Prom Dress Sale that will be held on Monday, April 4th from 4-7 PM at Pulse Beauty Academy in Downingtowntown. This cooperative effort by all three Downingtowntown high schools offers prom gowns for \$25 to all area students. If you have a gown you would like to donate, please drop off at Downingtowntown East, Downingtowntown West or the STEM Academy by 3/26/16. All proceeds from this sale are used to offset prom expenses for students in need.
- Cynthia shared that Safe Homes High School groups and AVOID are partnering to hold a contest for a safe prom message. A winner will be selected from each high school. Key Leaders will choose winners.
- On April 1, Life After Trauma will host annual conference open to public at Temple.
- Casey reminded the group of Care Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Calvary Church. On the first Wednesday in April Calvary will start their celebrate recovery program.
- Gerry said Child Guidance Center is hosting a 5K run/walk fundraiser April 17 in Havertown. www.runtheday.com/keyword: Empower the Children 5K - \$25 registration fee. For more information, contact Lrudolph@cgrc.org. Also, March 28 at the Brandywine Center in Coatesville from 10 am -1 pm) the public can stop and see how the voting process works on election day. Great opportunity for new voters to see how it all works! Free to all attendees.

Mission: To empower youth to make positive choices to reach their full potential



Vision: A thriving community where youth are making positive choices and are achieving their goals

- Laura spoke on behalf of the Highway Safety Program informing the group there is a \$10,000 scholarship available for students. See Laura for more information. Also, Lancaster Newspaper just published a story of the group of parents who recently met to discuss stricter legislation for drunk driving to present to government officials. She will keep us informed of this groups efforts.
- Laura also mentioned that there is a PPM contest going on for SENIORS at all three high schools. PPM stands for Positive Prom Messaging. There will be 3 winners and the winning messages will be chosen from a group of Key Leaders in our community.

Board of Advisors Update (Cynthia):

Mark your calendars! It's HERE! The first fundraiser for the Downingtown Area Communities that Care! Join us for an exhilarating and challenging Spring afternoon of family fun to benefit the Downingtown Area Communities That Care (CTC). This event is a unique day of exercise, bonding and supporting CTC while exploring the largest outdoor obstacle course in the country!

Course appropriate for ages 8+, but younger children are welcome to come and watch! Check it out here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOiYI8qIXho>

All proceeds go to Downingtown CTC, empowering youth to make positive choices.

Pay What You Can! Suggested donation - before April 17th, \$15/person, \$50/family; - at the gate, \$20/person, \$55/family. To pre-purchase tickets:

1) Online with Credit Card, go to <http://bonnie-cohen-koss.ticketleap.com/conquering-obstacl.../> (Social FUNdraising and Gatherings)

2) Or send check to Downingtown Communities That Care, 100 Devon Drive, Exton, PA 19341. Please include your name, number of adults and children attending and email.

Guest Speaker:

Karen Newman and Chris Pielli shared info on The HOOD (House of Original Dreams) – a partnership for youth employment for 16-24 year olds who need a GED or skills to get a job. All classes and training programs are free for those who qualify. Transportation is also provided. The US graduation rate is ranked 22 out of 27 developed countries. Some programs offered are: Certified Nursing Assistant Training, ServSafe Certification, Fork Lift Training, Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, Customer Service and entry level IT support. The HOOD is always looking for volunteers for tutoring and employment coaching.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 12:30-1:30 pm