



Mission Statement

Downingtown Area Communities that care is dedicated to promoting a safe and supportive environment for youth through the facilitation of prevention initiatives and activities that engage and unify our community.

Downingtown Area Communities that Care - Community Action Plan 2015-2017

Priority Risk Factors:

1. **Perceived Risk of Drug Use** - young people who do not perceive drug use to be risky are far more likely to engage in drug use.
2. **Poor Family Management** - parents use of inconsistent and or unusually harsh or severe punishment with their children places them at higher risk for substance use and other problem behaviors. In addition, parents fail to provide clear expectations and to monitor their childrens behavior makes it more likely they will engage in drug abuse whether or not there are family drug problems.
3. **Rewards for Antisocial behavior** - young people who receive rewards for their antisocial behavior are at higher risk for engaging further in antisocial behavior and substance use.
4. **Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior** - in families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or are tolerant of children's use, children are more likely to become drug abusers during adolescence. The risk is further increased if parents involve children in their own drug (or alcohol) using behavior.

Priority Protective Factors:

1. **Community Opportunities for Prosocial involvement** - when opportunities are available in a community for positive participation, children are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.
2. **Community Rewards for Prosocial involvement** - rewards for positive participation in activities helps youth bond to the community, thus lowering their risk for substance use.
3. **Religiosity** - young people who regularly attend religious services are less likely to engage in problem behaviors.

Prioritization Overview

The Risk and Protective Factors Workgroup met on four separate occasions to review both the 2011 AND 2013 PAYS survey results shared from the Downingtown Area School Districtsuggested prioritize Risk and Protective factors requiring Four Risk factors and three Protective factors were selected for attention by the CTC in the Downingtown Area School District. These seven Risk and Protective factors were presented to the CTC board for a vote and approved.

Resource Assessment

A Community Resource Assessment survey containing 30 + questions was created and sent to 62 contacts within the Downingtown area community - and slightly beyond - to identify programs and services addressing Risk and Protective factors. As part of this assessment, our coalition was able to identify gaps in programming and service. 15 surveys were completed online through Constant Contact and 8 additional surveys were completed via individual phone interviews. he Resource Assessment workgroup met several times to review the responses to the survey, and created a spreadsheet of organizations, populations served, timeframes, and programming relevant to the CTC prioritized factors.

Gaps Analysis

With the Resource Assessment completed, members of the sub-committee then identified gaps in programs, , practices and policies related to the identified and prioritized Risk and Protective Factors requiring community attention. Several gaps were identified. They are as follows:

- Programming for parents around communication and prevention.
- Community and parental awareness of religiosity as a protective factor that needs to be increased
- Increased community-wide discussion groups about prosocial opportunities and rewards for our youth.

Strategies to Address the Gaps:

The coalition will continue to identify outside partners/agencies to assist in addressing the gaps identified above. This will include presentations to community clubs such as local Rotary, Lions, Chamber of Commerce, and township council meetings about the work of CTC and for input on increasing opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement.



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Work will continue to engage the faith community to raise awareness of religiosity as one of our lowest protective factors in the community. Active Parenting/Parenting Wisely are two programs to consider to further equip parents to improve family management. The CTC will continue to provide resourcing through speakers, webinars, and prevention publications.

Next Steps

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. DASD students will complete the next PAYS youth survey November, 2015. 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 2015 PAYS data will provide insights into current trends, providing an opportunity to add additional prevention programming to combat our youths' problem behaviors.

What You Can Do?

Join the Downingtown Area CTC. We're open to anyone who is interested. Members of the Communities that Care coalition include representatives from the following sectors of the Greater Brandywine Valley 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 coalition members act as the stewards and protectors of the Downingtown Area CTC's mission and vision. They make recommendations to the Downingtown Area Board of Advisors regarding policies, operating procedures and goals that are responsive to community needs, and they work to ensure that goals and objectives are met.

Join one of the five Work Groups & Committees

The work groups are the driving force behind the success of the CTC. 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 five main work groups are as follows::

- 1.) Risk and Protective Factors/Resource Assessment - done once every two years.
- 2.) Funding Workgroup - continuously look for additional funding and plan fundraisers for the CTC
- 3.) Public Relations and Community Outreach
- 4.) Multi-Sector Community Involvement
- 5.) Youth

Downingtown CTC accepts tax-deductible donations of all amounts

Please contact us to discuss donation opportunities. Big or small, your contribution will go a long way towards helping the CTC carry out our mission of prevention and expand our programs.

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

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