

COMMUNITIES THAT CARE NETWORK NEWS

A Chester Education Foundation Initiative



June 11, 2009

Meeting Highlights:

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Chester Education Foundation Summer Programs
- Senate Bill 850
- Community Readiness for Emergencies
- Penn State Community Readiness Survey
- Health Care Reductions
- Chester Youth Collaborative
- **SPOTLIGHT:** Chester Fellows Program: Debra Kardon – Brown.

The **next meetings** of the CTC Network:

July 9th, 2009

August 14th, 2009

9 A.M. to 11 A.M.

SE Conference Room, 1st Floor
Crozer-Community Hospital
2600 West 9th Street, Chester

For more information:

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Directory: (Sign in as a guest)

<http://delcoresources.webexone.com>

*Sponsored through the
PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency
(PCCD)*

June 11, 2009

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Chester Education Foundation: 21st Century SKILLS College Afterschool Program

Stephanie Scappa-Hall, Sterling Gibson and Elaine Greene-Upton represent the 21st Century SKILLS College programs, a partner of the Chester Upland School District's (CUSD) 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC). They are staff members of the Chester Education Foundation (CEF); Scappa-Hall is assistant program director and site manager at Columbus Elementary School; Gibson is the site manager at Chester High School and Greene-Upton is the program director of the program at Chester High School.

Stephanie reflected on the 21st Century Learning Community Learning Center's success over the past year, taking a little time to acknowledge the contributions of the various CTC organizations who volunteered, ran workshops and came by to give speeches to her Columbus Elementary after-school students. Some of the program highlights were the Swarthmore volunteers who ran a literary magazine, the rocket building activities run by Penn State, the American Civics theme that was woven through all the classes, and the 100 Book Challenge program.

Between Columbus Elementary and Smedley High School for Allied Health over 120 students met the funding benchmark of achieving 30 days of attendance in the program, although many more than that came regularly. The program wrapped up this year with a celebratory fair hosted by the

Smedley students for the benefit of the Columbus children. Over 60 elementary students participated in the fair's activities which included games, prizes and food and showed the younger kids that there is more fun and knowledge to come if they continue with the after-school program!

Sterling Gibson, site manager of the Chester High School program, is a relative newcomer to the Chester area, but in no way lacks experience working with a youth population. As he told the CTC attendees he came "with his tools, ready to dig in" and the Chester Education Foundation definitely put him to work.

Along with Richard Knox, Sterling Gibson also runs the Reconnecting Youth Program at Chester High School. This evidence-based program helps students to deal with issues related to self-esteem, leadership, stress and other elements that impact adolescents' success. The Reconnecting Youth Program was developed to work with 50 students, but Knox and Gibson recruited 75 participants from Chester High School who have been attending regularly.

On May 15th the 21st Century program staff took all students who achieved attendance benchmarks of 30 days or more on a bus trip to Washington D.C. As Sterling recollects it was like pulling teeth to get them to dress for the trip, but when the day came every student on those buses were well-groomed, well-mannered and excited. As they toured the Washington Monument, the Reflecting Pool and the various Smithsonian buildings, these students surely represented Chester High School in a positive light. Sterling and the high school team set the bar high this year and the students represented themselves and their neighborhoods positively, as was expected.

As of May 29th, the last day of the 21st Century program, 187 high school participants had attended at least 30 after-school sessions, while many had much more. Sterling believes the success of the program could not have been achieved had it not been for some of the inventive ways the CEF High School team got kids involved this year. According to Gibson, feeding the students is imperative and essential to learning and doing well in school. However, as he described it, in every meal the staff provided for these high

school students, the main ingredient was the love. The students were able to feel how much the CEF staff loved and cared for them throughout the school year. The Chester Upland School District also took note of the positive impact serving meals had on program attendance. CUSD has now implemented a more substantial meal program which is offered between 3:00 and 4:30 PM to help students get the nutrients they need to get through the day.

Sterling also described the attitude changes he witnessed in some of his students throughout the school year. By May, as he looked through the Chester High School hallways, Sterling could see the students had grown in maturity and were now self-governing themselves and their peers. The same kids who had their hats to the side and their hoods over their eyes when they walked through the doors at the start of the year, now remove them almost automatically and asked their peers to do the same. Sterling ended his statements to the CTC members by alluding to what he believes to be the moral of the Wizard of Oz, that what you need is always inside of you. According to Sterling, the success of the high school program this year is due to setting the bar high and assuring students that what they need to reach already exists inside of each of them.

Chester Education Foundation Summer Programs

Elaine Greene-Upton provided the CTC Network with an update of the various summer activities that will be available through CEF and its many partners this summer. Chester Upland School District students will have the opportunity to spend their summers either working with the Crozer Keystone Health System, learning about health careers, gaining basic emergency medical, blood pressure and CPR certifications and getting on-site work experience. Other students will work with Widener University, Delaware County Community College (DCCC) and the Chester College Access Center to develop both academic and career-readiness skills that will help them succeed in the years to come. Elaine announced

that this year CEF will utilize the WorkKeys system, in which students will prepare diligently to receive a Work Readiness Certification, an ACT credential that will demonstrate a student's capabilities and make the youth more attractive to employers. Throughout the summer months, CEF aims to help as many students as they can stay involved, connected and educated while away from school. Students eligible for this program receive wages through the Office of Employment and Training (OET) who've been supporting this type of initiative for many years. Elaine also asked members of the Network to consider being a job site for a new initiative that would enlist recent high school graduates seeking employment, if this proposal opportunity becomes available.

Senate Bill 850

Lisa Dennis from **Chester Weed and Seed** discussed the impact that Senate Bill 850 would have on communities like the City of Chester. If passed, the bill would eliminate funding for evidence and researched based prevention programs to reduce youth violence. Lisa urged CTC members to contact local legislative representatives and let them know the value of these programs to the community and to the economic climate of the state. Communities in Allentown and Easton have already taken an active role by putting letters inside green envelopes to get the message out to the representatives of Pennsylvania.

CTC Director Neilda Mott spoke of the additional regional efforts being undertaken to expose the implications of Senate Bill 850. The Southeast Regional CTC Legislative Breakfast, hosted by Senator Leach encouraged other state representatives and the general public to look at the long term cost-benefit to crime reduction, communities and quality of life in PA. Six legislators participated in the non-partisan event and many others were invited to attend. The legislative breakfast featured a data-based presentation by Clay Yeager, former director of the Pennsylvania Children's Partnership and more recently, the research-based Nurse-Family

Partnership. Mr. Yeager gave an clear and fact-rich presentation about the value of prevention programs and the money that is saved by the Commonwealth and the country when prevention is included as an integral part of community programs. Mott presented some of the hard numbers on savings vs. cost of prevention. These graphs clearly illustrated to the attendees the value of prevention programs in serving youth and protecting communities.

Ricky Pfeiffer, Delaware County Community Engagement Coordinator, YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity, added that the effect on early childhood education and child care would also be adversely affected by the same bill. She shared that Governor Rendell was expected at Ridley High School on Friday, June 12th, and that we could let him know how we feel about the importance of the work we are doing for children and youth and for the Commonwealth, by attending the Governor's visit, tentatively scheduled for 2:30pm.

Community Readiness for Emergencies

Dr. James Allen, Chester Upland School District, spoke to CTC attendees about the importance of developing a strategy and implementation plan to prepare for a large-scale emergency situation in the area. According to Dr. Allen, Delaware County has put together an Emergency Plan to respond to an outbreak such as SARS or the H1N1 virus (commonly referred to a swine flu) or any other community emergency that could create a disastrous situation. Although Delaware County began putting this plan together two years ago before the 2009 H1N1 outbreak, this plan now needs implementation through volunteers in the community. Chester High School has been designated as a Point of Distribution, or a P.O.D. site for distribution of medicines and other emergency supplies. In an emergency, thirty five to forty five thousand people would be accessing the P.O.D. site which will require a coordinated volunteer force.

A P.O.D. site, which would be handling thousands of people per hour, will require a vast number of volunteers. Dr. Allen is soliciting volunteers who would be the first to be notified to help with an outbreak out. Volunteers with social work and health service backgrounds are greatly needed, but he will also need many more volunteers for directing people, registration, and other operational assistance. Each of the 16 Delaware County sites will offer orientation and trainings for those who wish to help. For the Chester High School site the training and mock drill is set for June 24th and 25th. The first day will run from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at Chester High School and will primarily demonstrate how the school will set up for an outbreak, flow through the process to receive the antidotes and exit smoothly. The orientation on the 25th will also be held at Chester High School but will run from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The incentive for all volunteers will be that they will be able to receive their allotted medicines for their entire family first. If you are interested in volunteering call 610.490.3394 or 610.490.3395.

Penn State Community Ready Survey

Dr. David McBride from **Penn State University** has asked the Communities That Care Network for our help providing information. Dr. McBride is looking at several communities who have had or may have difficulty in a disaster situation. The cities he is interested in include: Chester, Baltimore, Camden, Philadelphia and Greensboro. Any information Dr. McBride can collect about the state of readiness of these cities will help him assess the risks they will face in the event of a disaster. Surveys were passed out at the June CTC meeting but are also available online at <https://online.survey.psu.edu/communityreadysurvey/>. All the information we can give will be useful to plan for the relief of a disaster situation. Information is powerful, please fill one out.

Health Care Reductions

Flora Casitlo and **Corey Coleman** of **Keystone Mercy Health Plan** alerted CTC to their concerns about the proposed legislation which will result in health care reductions for the poor. Keystone Mercy Health Plan provides services for individuals who are low income, pregnant or disabled and has been a service to Delaware County for over 25 years. Flora Representatives from Keystone Mercy Health Plan spoke about Governor Rendell's proposal to change the way medical care is offered to Medicare clients in Pennsylvania, separating the pharmacy management and the patient care from each other. Affecting more than 47,000 residents of Delaware County.

Currently, Keystone provides medical coverage, pharmacy management, doctor visits and dental. Under Governor Rendell's proposal the pharmacy care will be put in the hands of the Department of Public Welfare. Both Flora and Corey believe that it is a necessity for the Keystone coverage to include pharmacy management which gives them the capacity to integrate all patient care elements. As of now, client care is done on a proactive basis. All doctors, caseworkers, pharmacists and specialists reports are available for creating an entire picture of the patient's needs, which provides the most comprehensive and preventative care possible, especially for chronic diseases, reducing medical costs, improving outcomes and saving taxpayers' money.

Chester Youth Collaborative

In June, **Deitra Sewel** of **Chester Youth Collaborative (CYC)** spoke to the CTC network about joining a Drug Free Communities Coalition. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Nafis Nichols at 610.497.7422.

Deitra also discussed the CYC Leadership and Empowerment (CYCLE) Institute which will hold its six week training this summer. The training consists of leadership forums, trips, team building programs and community organizing activities.

Students who complete the training are eligible for induction into the Youth Council. They are looking for 15 new students.

CYC also reported on the Student Success Program. This year 15 students from the Allied Health High School took college courses at DCCC. The Student Success Program was initiated to help ease the educational and financial stresses that many Chester area students face when entering into secondary schooling. CYC found that many students have to take remedial courses upon entry, which students are required to pay for even though they will not receive any credits. Deitra noted that students from the first cohort are now able to enter college with 9 existing credits!

According to Deitra, the first year of CYC's mentoring program was a valuable experience for both mentors and mentees. CYC recruited 40 high school students to mentor fifth graders for one hour a week throughout the school year. The end of the year celebratory cookout which included delicious barbeque, face painting and balloon animals was a memorable event. As the year winded down, the elementary school students sent out touching letters to thank their high school mentors. It was amazing how much of an impact one day a week could make on the children. The elementary students asked the mentors to come everyday next year! Eighteen of the high school mentors graduated and all are going on to 4 year colleges in the fall!

The energy brought to this months CTC meeting by **Debra Kardon-Brown** and the Swarthmore College students who will work with various Chester community organizations this summer was palpable. The students have been selected to work with the local community on a cause close to their individual interests and will be continuing to attend the meetings all summer. The **Chester Fellows** program is now in its third year, thanks to benefactor Eugene Lang. A Swarthmore graduate, Lang has been an extremely generous benefactor to the college and a strong advocate civic engagement for college students by engaging with the local non-profit and human service sector. Lang provided funding for the **Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility**, which is an umbrella initiative that supports outreach to the communities surrounding Swarthmore College, locally and globally. The Lang Center sends students around the world and across the street, to learn, assist and advocate.

Kardon-Brown expressed excitement about the students who have been selected to participate in Chester Fellows this summer and the various agencies from whom they will be gaining experience and providing support. One of the main goals of the program is to teach students how a community collaborates and Kardon-Brown believes that the Communities That Care Network is a wonderful place to watch collaboration in action.

Each year Chester Fellows work from June-August providing valuable opportunities for both the students and the host agencies. This year host agencies include Chester Housing Authority, the AIDS Care Coalition, Crozer-Chester Hospital, YWCA's Women's Resource Center, Chester Children's Chorus, the College Access Center of Delaware County and the Chester Education Foundation. Kardon-Brown urges other organizations to consider hosting a student for next summer, by getting in touch with her over the winter. The program continues to evolve each year as they invite guest speakers, attend CTC meetings and try to become more involved in the issues that matter to the Chester community. The goal of the Chester Fellows is to learn enough to provide appropriate advocacy or, as Kardon-Brown



This months Spotlight Speaker was Debra Kardon-Brown, Assistant Director for Student Programs at the Eugene M. Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility.

reflected, they simply “hope to learn, to help and by the end of this, [hope not to] feel like guests anymore.”

As an example of the work they do, Swarthmore student Shipla Boppana will be working with the **Chester Youth Court** this summer, where she and three other students are developing a way to reward the incredible Chester Youth Court participants for all their hard work to better Chester High School. The Chester Youth Court is a program at Chester High School in which 15-30 students process cases that are referred by administrators, rendering sentences such as community services, essays or apologies in an effort to help students get back on the right track. Boppana and her colleagues will work with the students who volunteer on Chester Youth Court this summer to encourage their continued good works.

Another Fellow will work with the **Chester Community Improvement Project (CCIP)**, which initially began thirty years ago as a Swarthmore College student project. The CCIP does amazing work to promote the revitalization of Chester. This summer **Rebecca Commito** will work with CCIP to promote their community programs by providing marketing and outreach assistance. She will market the Projects’ image and their initiatives of providing mortgage counseling, helping first time home buyers, and helping with foreclosure issues. Commito will also work to promote the East Gateway Triangle community center which hosts different programs and workshops throughout the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To accommodate all the important and interesting information to be shared, CTC meetings begin promptly at 9:00 am. Please arrive a few minutes early and take advantage of the networking opportunities.

Aids Care Group of Delaware County
Ann Ferguson
2304 Edgemont Ave.
Chester, PA 19013
610.872.9101

admin@aidscaregroup.org

The Aids Care Group provides HIV related medical, dental, case management and nutritional services. HIV testing, support groups, transportation and emergency food also offered! Friday HIV clinic at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, 1503 Lansdowne Rd. Darby, PA.

Bernardine Center Community Garden

2625 W. 9th Street

Chester, PA 19063

Sister Josandra

610.497.3225

Community Gardens are available! The cost is only \$20 for a 4’ by 8’ plot. All vegetables grown by the renter are kept by the renter.

Rocky Run YMCA

Baltimore Pike

Antonio Thorton

athorton@philadymca.org

Media, PA 19063

610.627. 9622 x1212

www.philaymca.org

The YMCA Summer Day Camp for ages 6-14 runs for 9 sessions from 8am – 6pm daily. Call for more information. The YMCA will also offer the Chester Summer Camp from June 22nd - August 21st, 8AM – 6PM daily at the Unity Center on 9th and Kerlin Street. Financial assistance is available.

Women’s Resource Center

113 W. Wayne Ave.

Wayne, PA 19037

Michele Daly

610.687.2967

mdaly@womenre.com

www.womenresourcecenter.net

The Women’s Resource Center will partner with the Chester Education Foundation to host a Girls Leadership Program for 8 sessions in Chester this summer sponsored by State Representative Dominic Peliggi.

Keystone Mercy Health Plan
200 Stevens Drive
Corinee Vale
215.863.5573
Corinee.vil@kmhp.com
www.kmhp.com

Join the Healthy Hoops Program Sunday, July 26th, 2009 as it partners with the Charlie Mack Celebrity Basketball Game. The event is geared towards asthmatic children and their families and will offer free health screenings, prizes and giveaways. After the screenings children and their families are invited to attend the basketball game free of charge. The event last from 10 AM to 10 PM at the Liacouras Center, 1776 N. Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19121. Call the Healthy Hoops hotline for more information: 215.863.6666.

Catholic Social Services
130 E. 7th Street
Chester, PA 19013
Erika Matthews
610.626.6550
610.876.7101
Ematthews@chs-adphila.org

Catholic Social Services is offering a Parenting Mini Series to parents who are interested in renewing and refreshing their parenting skills. The program runs through July on Thursday evenings. The first session is on Thursday, July 9th 7:00 – 8:45 PM and the cost is \$15. Call to register or for more information.

The 3 R's of Budgeting workshop will be held at various locations throughout Delaware County. Catholic Social Services will host day and evening sessions throughout the fall, winter and spring. All workshops are free and babysitting, snacks and incentives will be provided.

The Baby Cupboard Walk-In will be held on Thursdays at 240 N. Bishop Avenue Springfield, PA. Stop by from 9:15 to 11:45 AM. Contact the Chester City Office location at 610.876.7101 for more information. The program serves babies up to 12 months.

Chester Catholic Social Services will also host a FREE summer feeding program for kids from July 6th to August 20th. From 12:15 – 1:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays

we are serving lunch at our site location on 7th Street for all children 18 and under.

Young Women's Resource Center
2 East 7th Street
Chester, PA 19013
Stephanie Rodriguez
347.326.1638
ywrcchester@gmail.com

The YWRC hosts daily events for women of all ages. The weekly workshops include: Make It Happen Mondays, Tasty Tuesdays, Work-it Out Wednesday and Therapeutic Thursdays. These free events are held Mondays- Thursdays from 5:00- 6:00 PM. Stop by to find out more! GED, parenting and other valuable courses will also be held throughout the year.

East Gate Triangle Community Center
23rd and Providence Road
Chester, PA 19013
Gladys Wrease
Rebecca Commito
610.876.8663
Rcommit1@swarthmore.edu

The center is open all summer for East Gate Triangle Neighborhood community members from 3 PM to 7 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Chef 101 will be offered on June 22nd, 23rd and 24th from 4 to 5:30 PM for ages 6 to 12 and 5:30 to 7 PM for ages 13 and up. Come learn about nutrition while making healthy, tasty snacks! All classes are free for East Gate Triangle Youth.

Chester Community Improvement Project
412 Avenue of the States
Chester, PA 19013
Gladys Wrease
Annette Pratt
610.876.8663

The Chester Community Improvement Project will host a Home Buyers Fair on Saturday June 20th. The event is free and begins at 10 AM at City Hall.

Family and Community Service of Delaware County
600 North Olive Street
Media, PA 19063
Denise Moser
610.566.7540 x 248
demoser@fcsdc.org
www.fcsdc.org

Family and Community Service is offering a “Warm Chicken,” as opposed to cold turkey, smoking cessation program. The program provides free individual sessions and free patches to participants.

The Center Foundation
220 N. Jackson Street
Media, PA 19063
Rachel Schendler
Jane Todd
610.874.6338
Rachel@thect.org
www.thecenterfoundation.org

The Center Foundation is seeking mentors, mentees and partners for its WomenCare and Young Parents Support Network Programs.

Crozer Keystone Health System
Community Health Department
1 Medical Blvd.
Chester, PA 19013
Melissa Maier
610.447.6715
Melissa.maier@crozer.org

Maria’s Hair Salon will be hosting a hair/fashion show at Chester Park on July 4th at 2 PM. The event will be focused on advising Chester’s Youth on health issues affecting their population. CKHS will have a booth for tobacco education.

CKHS will also sponsor Pathways to Freedom starting in July at the YWCA.

ILEAD, Inc.
Chester Education Foundation
2600 W. 9th Street
Chester, PA 19013
Dr. Denise Beauchamp
610.859.6023
Beauchamp@I-LEAD.org

ILEAD, Inc. offers degree programs through the Harcum College and Eastern University. All programs are held at Chester Education Foundation facilities and classes will begin in the fall. To register call Denise Beauchamp or attend one of the information sessions at CEF. The Eastern University information session will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at 6PM and the Harcum session will be at 6PM on Wednesday, July 1st.

Holcum Behavioral Health
126 E. Baltimore Pike
Media, PA 19063
Chrissy D.
484.444.0412
www.thespot.vpweb.com

The S.P.O.T. Network will host events for youth in Delaware County throughout the summer from July 1st – August 30th. Events include: jewelry making, Wii tournaments, movie nights, kickball, group discussions, family programs, and more! Visit the website for more information.

*See You Next
 Month!*

UPCOMING EVENTS!

June 27th, 2009: Mother and Baby Care Silent Auction & Luncheon from 11:30 am – 2 pm at the Rolling Green Golf Club. 208 N. State Road, Springfield, PA 19064. Prices are \$40 per person or \$375 to host a table of 10. Contact Macaira Koch or Kwinn Tucker at 610-872-6865, Mkoch@cityteam.org or ktucker@cityteam.org.

June 27th, 2009: Princess and Superhero party sponsored by PALS. Contact Brian Warren. 610 447-7784

July 4th, 2009: Maria's Hair & Fashion Show hosted by Maria's Hair Salon will be held at Chester Park on July 4th. The event is free and starts at 2 PM.

July 26th, 2009: Come to the FREE Healthy Hoops & the Charlie Mack Celebrity Basketball Game from 10 AM to 10 PM at the Liacouras Center, 1776 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121.