

February/March 2007

VISION STATEMENT:

Healthy Adams County seeks to create a higher quality of life throughout our community by improving physical, mental, and social well-being.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Healthy Adams County is a collaborative partnership of community members dedicated to continuing assessment, development and promotion of efforts toward improving physical, mental and social well-being.

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Community Re-Entry Coalition sees active role as community improvement solution

The Community Re-Entry Coalition (CRC) was started two years ago by the Adams County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, an inmate advocacy organization, in response to the immense needs of inmates trying to re-enter their communities after their release. The CRC is an

affiliate of Healthy Adams County and a collaborative partnership of citizens and organizations dedicated to developing an integrated, community-based system to prepare offenders to successfully re-enter society.

Two of the goals of the CRC are to improve public

safety and to reduce recidivism, recognizing these issues as being of paramount importance. Addressing these issues would enable released inmates to successfully reintegrate into society becoming productive, tax-paying, responsible members of our community.

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ASPN conference to focus on prevention education

The AIDS Service Provider Network (ASPN), a task force affiliated with Healthy Adams County, is a group of service providers and concerned community members who work to increase awareness of the effects of HIV and AIDS on the Adams County community.

Many people have questions about the number of people living in Adams County who are HIV positive, but an exact number is not available for a number of reasons. Many people live with the HIV virus for years but don't know they have it. People get tested in counties other than their county of residence, and people also move from one county to another. Testing results reported by the county do not accurately reflect the number of people living in the county who are HIV positive. Over the years, service providers have served from 15 to 30 individuals with case management in Adams County. Not everyone who is HIV positive accesses case management services, but this number of people can give you a basic idea. Also, keep in mind that in addition to the number of people infected with HIV, there are many more who are affected by HIV such as parents, children and friends.

The reality of risk affects everyone. We need to be aware. We need to have the facts. We need to be prepared to pass along accurate information to the people we serve in our community. In order to support Adams County human service providers in this effort, ASPN is offering the 3rd annual Responding to AIDS Conference on Friday, March 16 at the Gettysburg Hospital Community Rooms. The conference begins with registration at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. The focus this year is prevention education. Participants will increase their knowledge about HIV and AIDS, participate in educational activities that they can then use with their clients or in staff training, learn about testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and increase their understanding of risk reduction strategies.

Don't miss this opportunity to increase your understanding of this important topic. If you have any questions or would like to register for the conference, call Debbie Gable at 717-845-9683, ext. 205.

Director's Report – Focus on Leadership

This past fall, Healthy Adams County chose to take a look at its leadership practices through a service learning project. Professor Jennifer Leigh's senior marketing class at Gettysburg College focused on a community based research project that included answering the question "what constitutes successful leadership practices for community-based task forces?" Student researchers were asked to examine that question by focusing on two areas: 1) the current best practices found within Healthy Adams County taskforces and 2) the best practices for community leadership as advocated in the academic literature on leadership.

Students attended various task force meetings to distribute a survey to task force members. Members were asked to answer questions and give comments about the leadership of their task force. Students also observed the meetings and answered a survey of their own in regards to leadership of the group. After researching the academic literature on leadership and compiling all of the surveys from the meetings the students presented an oral presentation to other Gettysburg College faculty and task force leaders who were able to attend. A full written report will be submitted to Healthy Adams County in the near future.

The students outlined some basic recommendations for leadership training based on their research after focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of task force leadership styles. A strength that was mentioned by many of the students was the ability of task force members and leaders to come together and truly collaborate on the issue at hand. The students also noticed a strong sense of community between members. Though many of the task force members did not feel that there was a need for improvement on the part of their leaders the students did feel that some emphasis be placed on leadership development. The students addressed the idea that the strong sense of community between members while a strength is also a weakness when it led to digression from topics and lack of focus on the purpose of the meeting at hand. Thank you to all of the students and Professor Leigh for their hard work and insights!

The next step for Healthy Adams County will be to discuss the full report with Professor Leigh and Gretchen Natter at the Center for Public Service. We will then develop a presentation for the task force leaders with recommendations for a leadership development training based on the research provided.

I want to thank all of the task force chairs for their assistance in this project and for a job well done this past year. Many of you go above and beyond in your capacities as volunteers and Healthy Adams County cannot thank you enough!

Kathy Gaskin

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The CRC concerns span a gamut of issues including public safety and recidivism, the children and families of inmates, substance abuse, mental health, and life skills. In addition the group concerns include the more pressing and basic needs offenders face upon re-entry such as affordable housing, employment, education, medical and social services, and transportation.

One of the most successful aspects of the CRC has been the effort of Family Group Decision Making. This is a fairly new practice in the state which addresses inmate issues from a different perspective, that of the strengths of the person and his/her support system versus working through a social services model of 'fixing' the person through strictly professional means. The success of this practice within our county and the prison has been a synergy that has blanketed CRC gatherings with enthusiasm and hope for further success.

The CRC has become a very visible and viable forum for discussion of reentry issues in Adams County. The CRC recently addressed the Adams County Commissioners to identify goals, express the CRC's desire to be a part of the solution, and make the CRC's collective expertise available to the commissioners to work collaboratively on these very real concerns. The diversity of the CRC members is something we work on very intentionally making our monthly meeting table a multi-faceted, non-partisan dialogue including all who will come to the table and share. For more information on the CRC contact Lou Ann Agosta, at lagosta@ltsg.edu.

HAC Task Force & Committee Leader Roster

Here is a current roster of Healthy Adams County Task Force and Committee leaders. For contact information, visit www.healthyadamscounty.org

Access Committee

Steven Niebler
Director, ACOFA, Inc.

Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Laura Reyka, R.N.
Women's Health Services
Gettysburg Hospital
Pamalee J. Lady
Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council

Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition

Laura Reyka, R.N.
Women's Health Services
Gettysburg Hospital

Adams County School Nurses Association

Sharon Spangler, R.N.

Aging Services Task Force

Steven Niebler
Director, ACOFA, Inc.

AIDS Service Providers Network

Deborah Gable
Planned Parenthood of Central PA

Behavioral Health Task Force

Nate Rivera
Mental Health Assoc. of Adams County

Breastfeeding Task Force

Audrey Hess, R.D., L.D.N.
WIC Program
Jayne Sorber, R.N., I.B.C.L.C.
Maternity
Gettysburg Hospital

Children's Health Task Force

Holly Cookerly, R.N.
Gettysburg Hospital
Johnnie Lansford, L.P.N.
Adams County Head Start

Citizens with Disabilities Task Force

Currently seeking co-chairs

Community Re-Entry Coalition

Lou Ann Agosta
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
Robert Brandt
Adams County Prison Society

Domestic Violence Task Force

Jesse Miller
NOVIS
Lisa Nevada
Survivors, Inc.

Faith in Action

Nancy Forgang

Finance & Audit Committee

Steven Niebler
Director, ACOFA, Inc.

Housing Task Force

Mark Berg

Latino Services Task Force

Amelia Contreras
Generacion Diez
Lisette R. Newhard

Oral Health Task Force

Kathy Gaskin, Executive Director
Healthy Adams County
Dr. David A. Reese, D.D.S.

Physical Fitness Task Force

Holly Cookerly, R.N.
Gettysburg Hospital

Public Relations & Membership Committee

Will Lavery, Coordinator
PR and Communications
Gettysburg Hospital
Vickie Corbett, Vice President
United Way of Adams County

Safe Kids Coalition

Cynthia Romero
PEACE
Heather Smith
Adams County Children & Youth Services

Suicide Prevention Committee

Joanna Myers
PA Department of Health
South Central District Office

Tobacco Prevention Task Force

Wes Frisbie, Director
Pulmonary Services
Gettysburg Hospital

Youth Providers Resource Network

Vickie Corbett, Vice President
United Way of Adams County

Nominations now accepted for 2007 With Heart In Hand Volunteer Awards

The United Way of Adams County Volunteer Center is currently accepting nominations for the 10th annual With Heart In Hand Volunteer Awards.

The With Heart In Hand Award was created in 1998 to recognize and honor outstanding volunteer service in Adams County. The award is a unique stained glass artwork, designed by Wentz Stained Glass Studio and handcrafted by volunteers. Eight awards will be presented to the outstanding volunteers in the following categories: Youth, Young Adult, Youth Group, Senior, Family, Adult Group and Business.

Nominees and award recipients will be honored at United Way of Adams County's 59th annual Campaign Celebration and Volunteer Reception on April, 30, 2007. Nominations must be postmarked by March 16, 2007. For a nomination form, call the Volunteer Center at 334-5809



Enjoying the recent Task Force Leader reception are (from left to right) Lisa Donahue, Penn Laurel Girl Scouts, Vickie Corbett, United Way of Adams County, Teresa Gard, Collaborating for Youth, Laura Reyka, Gettysburg Hospital and Pamalee Lady, Penn Laurel Girl Scouts.

Upcoming Events and Observances

February

Predatory Lending Forums

February 20, 2-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.

Ag Center, Gettysburg

Housing Task Force

Email Mark at mark.d.berg@gmail.com.

March

Smoking Cessation Support Group

First Thursday of each month, starting

March 1, 6:30 p.m.

Gettysburg Hospital

Tobacco Prevention Task Force

Call Jen at 717-338-3259.

12th Annual Women's Conference

March 10, All Day Event

Gettysburg College

Call Laura at 717-339-2018.

3rd Annual Conference: "Responding to AIDS in 2007"

March 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gettysburg Hospital

AIDS Service Providers Network

Call Debbie at 717-845-9683, ext. 205.

"Remote Control"

March 22 & 23, Time: TBD

Adams County Middle Schools

Domestic Violence Task Force

Call Lisa at 717-334-0589.

National Kick Butts Day

March 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-7 p.m.

HACC - Gettysburg Campus

Tobacco Prevention Task Force

Information fair regarding building a tobacco-free lifestyle.

Call Jen at 717-338-3259.

April

Alzheimer's Program - Tentative

April 14,

Time & Location: TBD

Aging Services Task Force

Call Holly at 717-337-4264, ext. 5185.

Youth Quest 2007

April 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Harrisburg Capitol

Tobacco Prevention Task Force

Youth campaign to promote healthier tobacco-free communities.

Call Jen at 717-338-3259.

Workforce Housing: Report to the Community

April 25, Time: TBD

Ag Center, Gettysburg

Housing Task Force

Forum to discuss the results of a study of the need for workforce/affordable housing in Adams County.

Email Mark at mark.d.berg@gmail.com.

Bike Derby - Tentative

April 28, Time: TBD

Gettysburg Recreation Park

Safe Kids Coalition Adams County

Call Cynthia at 866-829-1154.