

PA YOUTH SURVEY (PAYS)



BOYERTOWN COMMUNITY UPDATE
NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Marilee Cassidy, K-12 Counseling Coordinator

Jackie Steed, Council on Chemical Abuse

Rob Scoboria, Assistant Superintendent

PAYS BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- Survey completed by BASD students in grades 8, 10 & 12 in Fall 2013
- Anonymous
- Statewide Initiative (Funded)
- Question areas on violence, bullying, drugs & alcohol and depression
- Results received in May 2014

Why did BASD participate in PAYS?



- Finding root causes of problems
- Youth reporting on their own experiences
- Ability to use information to help set District priorities
- Use information to connect District & Community resources

BASD PAYS Task Force



- Representatives from education, police, probation, community agencies, treatment providers, parents & community members
- Task Force met from June – September 2014

BASD PAYS Task Force Goals



- Consider the risks and protective factors identified by our youth in the PAYS Survey
- Understand the supports and services currently available in our community
- Identify ways to strengthen the supports and services in our community

What did our students tell us?



- Cigarette use is below the state average
- Vast majority think bullying is wrong
- Vast majority of parents believe bullying is wrong
- Vast majority of parents think Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug use is wrong

What did our students tell us?



- D&A use increases with age of student
- Mental health issues higher than state averages
- Availability of drugs in school
- Rx drug abuse above state average

Community Strengths



- Stakeholders committed to work together to help youth
- Many support services and agencies in place
- Collaboration between BASD, law enforcement & community agencies in place and open to improvement

Improvement Areas



- Access to Services / Communication
- Law Enforcement & Community Education
- K-12 Education
- Safe Opportunities for Youth

Identified Objectives:

Group #1 - Access to Services/Communication

Chairs: Marilee Cassidy, K-12 Counseling Coordinator



Diane Lauer, Director, Wellness Council of Boyertown

- Explore additional funding through contact with PAHWF, Foundation for Boyertown Education, other sources
- Explore transportation support to help students and adults gain access to needed services
- Develop a flyer or comprehensive list of services in area for use by students, parents, community members, businesses, etc.

Identified Objectives:

Group #1 - Access to Services/Communication

Chairs: Marilee Cassidy, K-12 Counseling Coordinator



Diane Lauer, Director, Wellness Council of Boyertown

- Explore ways to provide educational sessions at events with strong attendance such as back to school nights
- Collaborate with United Way and other agencies on flyer to ensure no duplication of effort takes place
- Develop a systemic plan for education about drugs/alcohol to ensure parents & community members have information (consider childcare at events to raise attendance)

Identified Objectives:

Group #1 - Access to Services/Communication

Chairs: Marilee Cassidy, K-12 Counseling Coordinator



Diane Lauer, Director, Wellness Council of Boyertown

- Increase coordinated advertisement efforts with local agencies to ensure community has needed information
- Use positive responses of PAYS to reinforce success and show students that good choices are being made each day
- Increase efforts at elementary level to raise awareness for younger students and their parents
- Increase effective use of District website and newsletters

Identified Objectives:

Group #2 – Law Enforcement & Community Education

Chairs: Chief Leatherman – Boyertown, Chief McKeon - New Hanover



Robert Scoboria, Assistant Superintendent, BASD

- Explore collaborative efforts and partnerships between police departments, BASD, juvenile probation and other county agencies
- Explore ways to pool resources to increase visibility and presence at school and community events
- Continue efforts with truancy reduction linking BASD Officer Perez with county supports
- Strengthen combined resources to support students identified as at-risk

Identified Objectives:

Group #2 – Law Enforcement & Community Education

Chairs: Chief Leatherman – Boyertown, Chief McKeon - New Hanover



Robert Scoboria, Assistant Superintendent, BASD

- Increase community awareness of medication drop locations in BASD
- Explore funding support through local agencies for signs and advertisement of drop boxes
- Approach area providers of medication to post information about medication drop boxes
- Explore ways to educate community on options for locking /securing medications at home

Identified Objectives: Group #3 – K-12 Education

Chairs: Stephanie Petri, JHE Assistant Principal



Maureen Siwik, JHE Counselor

- Coordinate resources with COCA
- Develop cyber education resources
- Coordinate program to be held with grade 10 parent & student orientation
- Add information to District website
- Consider professional development for BASD teachers & staff on these issues

Identified Objectives: Group #3 – K-12 Education

Chairs: Stephanie Petri, JHE Assistant Principal



Maureen Siwik, JHE Counselor

- Support SADD student group at BASH
- Facilitate student lead initiatives
- Consider ways to provide SAP services at elementary level
- Review and make recommendations to current K-12 services and educational programs

Identified Objectives:

Group #4 – Safe Opportunities for Youth

Chairs: Kristin Horton, GES Counselor



Tessie Melchior, Boyertown YMCA

- Consider ways to provide transportation for students for after-school activities
- Coordinate use of BASD buildings with community groups for programs after school
- Develop mentoring programs (possibly between students) to support students

Identified Objectives:

Group #4 – Safe Opportunities for Youth

Chairs: Kristin Horton, GES Counselor



Tessie Melchior, Boyertown YMCA

- Consider collection of data & surveys to learn more about student, parent & community needs/interests
- Connect with local businesses for collaboration on ways to meet student & family needs

Action Steps Taken



- Medication drop box added at Boyertown Borough, now four locations within BASD
- Community support to advertise drop box locations
– Boyertown Rotary, New Hanover Township
- “A Mother’s Voice” and COCA resources

Action Steps Taken



- Foundation for Boyertown Education funding to provide education on heroin/prescription drug abuse for BASD grade 10 students in collaboration with the Weller Center
- Met with Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts leaders to explore opportunities for after school activities
- Taking information to where parents are – JHE parent night example

Council On Chemical Abuse

Available Supports



- Provides funding for SAP assessments
- Has provided free SAP training for BASD faculty/administration
- Provided free training for faculty & staff on topics such as mindfulness
- Provided brochures to counselors to distribute to parents/community (mental health issues, prescription drug abuse,...)

Council On Chemical Abuse

Available Supports



- Has Lifeskills Training Curriculum available for teaching about healthy living, refusal skills, D&A awareness
- Arranges for and supports community education such as “A Mother’s Voice” presented at Boyertown Area Multi-Service on November 3.

Next Steps



- Sub groups will gather participants, establish connections with key stakeholders & meet to address identified needs
- BASD PAYS Task Force will meet again in spring 2015 to review progress on identified objectives and discuss next steps

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Questions and Comments