

THE ARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP

for Children, Youth & Families

www.arlingtonpartnershipforyouth.org | 703-228-1667

Highlights of the Partnership

July, 2010 – June, 2011

Staff Transitions:

This year, the staff of APCYF has experienced several additions, changes, and transitions:

- A Teen Outreach Coordinator position was added and filled by **Siobhan Grayson**. Siobhan will work closely with the Teen Network Board and its youth co-chairs.
- A Coordinator was hired from within the Partnership members, **Kim Durand**. Kim has been a member of the Partnership since 2006, when she represented the Arlington Public Schools.
- The Teen Web Coordinator was filled by **Sally LaBonte**. Sally will be in charge of the teen website as well as assisting with social media for the Partnership.
- Currently, the **Data Specialist** position is vacant, but it has been announced through Arlington Public Schools.

Community Conversation:

The Assets Committee of the Partnership, working with Marymount University, held a Community Conversation in December. Community members were invited to:

“Imagine a community where all young people’s needs are met and their voices heard”

Participants were encouraged to make connections, spark new ideas and renew energy to make the Partnership’s vision a reality. Over 100 people, including youth, attended this meeting. Information collected from this meeting has been used to form the work of the committee and given us an opportunity to connect with the community through a variety of social media outlets.

Teen Network Board

The Teen Network Board (TNB) youth and adults met with consultants to look at the current TNB model to determine what has worked in the past, and how to move forward in the coming years. Together, they developed the vision: *Creating the Responsive and Dynamic Environment We Imagine!* The TNB has a modified structure to include youth co-chairs and youth committee chairs along with by-laws to move forward.

The Volunteer & Community Service Committee met with many Volunteer Coordinators of county, school and non-profit programs to develop recommendations to the School and County Board to develop a comprehensive teen volunteer program.



The Drug & Alcohol Committee continued its program having high school students visit 8th grade health classes to dispel and myths and to answer questions about going into high school. This program is coordinated with help by members of the READY Coalition.



Connect with Kids Champions 2010-2011

Laurel Bartalon, an 8th grader at Kenmore Middle School - for her help with the Carlin Springs Violin Club for 4th grade students.

Mary Callow for her exemplary work as one of the Activities Coordinator at Gunston Middle School to ensure that ALL children have an opportunity to have fun and learn through after-school activities.

Vivian Delgado - for her work with EduFuturo and their Emerging Leaders Program.

Reverend Kim Coleman and Cynthia Gilmour - for their collaborative work with Hoffman Boston Elementary school to create the "Art for Life" program.

DHS Family Services Team 4 - for making a determined effort to ensure that they not only connect with kids but that they weave a whole network of connections around children and families when they are most vulnerable.

Samantha Hall, a senior at HB Woodlawn - for her work with special needs children over the past 4 years coaching with TOPS soccer, helping children with special needs learn and enjoy the game.

Darrell Johnson, Arlington Education TV producer, and José Rodas and Caitlin Wiederkehr, Career Center interns - for their work in producing a series of ten outstanding "Assets Minutes" public service announcements on behalf of the Partnership and the Arlington Public Schools.

Ralph Johnson - for his long-time support of the young men in the Wakefield High School Cohort Program.

Red Top Cab employees, Mr. Nick Pakidas, Mr. Jerome Green and Mr. Fred Jones for their help in making sure children who wanted and needed to be at a before school reading program could get to school.

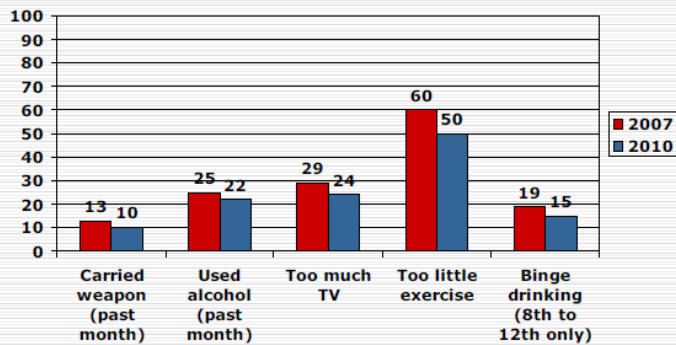
Steve Miller - with the U.S. Dept. of Energy for his work developing a year-long paid internship opportunity for a high school student.

Mr. Bernard Piper - for his volunteer work at the AHC Gates of Ballston Community Center After-School Program.

Mary Van Dyke - for all she does to help young people connect to the wonders of nature around them.

DATA

Risk Behaviors that Improved 2007 – 2010



2010 Youth Risk Behaviors Survey (YRBS)

YRBS results were presented to the School and County Board as well as various PTAs, Kiwanis, Rotary, and other clubs. Project PEACE Goal 1 Committee requested a presentation on the YRBS dating abuse data. The information was also presented at the Comprehensive School Health Committee and the School Health Nurses. Data from this survey is used throughout the county to develop programs and apply for grants.

2011 Report Card

The 2011 Report Card on the Status of Children, Youth & Families includes updated information on numerous indicators of the health and well-being of young people in Arlington. The data come from a variety of sources including birth and school records, public health reports and surveys of middle and high school students.

Positive trends: students reported getting enough exercise, teen births declined, results of the SAT and Stanford tests continued to show that Arlington youth perform well, and gang membership declined to historic lows.

Areas of concern: drop in percentage of babies born with a healthy start, and increase in child abuse, and increased bullying.

Meeting with Area Experts –

In May, the Partnership reached out to area experts in each of the four areas of health, family, education and community, to discuss our progress on indicators from previous years report cards to the current report card. We are in the planning stages for the coming year(s) to determine strategies that involve the community as a whole to work on any areas identified as a target or indicator.

The Report Card was printed and distributed to School and County Boards, staff and community members in June.

Out of School Time Work Groups

The Partnership continues to oversee the on-going work of the Out-of-School Time (OST) committees.

The OST Coordination Committee – The Committee developed an inaugural Asset Training Conference scheduled for October 2011. Conference presentations are being designed to enhance knowledge about Developmental Assets for Youth and application of that knowledge through experiential learning and opportunities for networking with colleagues.

The network of OST providers hosting this Conference includes the Arlington Housing Corporation, Arlington Public Schools/Extended Day Program, Arlington YMCA, Buckingham-Gates of Arlington Tenants Association/BU-GATA, Greenbrier Learning Center, and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources/Sports and Recreation Division in coordination with the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families.

It will be targeted to those working with elementary and middle school age youth. We estimate conference attendance at 250 – 300 staff representing the network of OST providers.

Community Engagement Committee – An Access Survey for OST programs was developed to obtain information regarding parents' ability to access OST programs and activities. The survey will be administered to a random selected sample of parents with school-aged children. The survey focuses on the following questions: How easy is it for parents to find OST programs and activities? How affordable are they? How satisfied are parents and children with the programs? Funding support for the administration of the survey is being sought.

OST Intermediary Committee – This committee continues to explore various organizational structures for a county-wide systems level approach to quality OST in Arlington. Included in this work is research of intermediary models in other communities and funding support for staffing.

arlington's **READY COALITION**

Reduce or Eliminate Alcohol & Drug Use By Youth

The Arlington READY Coalition provides an on-going community-wide forum that identifies strategies to keep teens drug- and alcohol-free through three main objectives: Education, Empowerment and Communication. A Steering Committee was formed to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Coalition to ensure objectives are met.

The READY Coalition supported many initiatives, including Second Chance (below), the TNB Drug & Alcohol Committee, and the Keep It Sober Stupid (KISS) program.

second chance

Substance Abuse Education
Program for Arlington Youth

SECOND CHANCE

Several Partnership members participated in the Strategic Issues Team (SIT) regarding prevention of the development of high risk drinking and use of drugs by youth. This SIT developed a program that was announced in June:

Second Chance is a program designed to change behaviors of Arlington youth engaged in substance use and divert youth who complete the program from school suspension and the juvenile-justice system.

Second Chance is a voluntary 3 day education/diversion program for Arlington middle and high school students. Participants can be self-referred, referred by parents, through Arlington Public Schools or the Juvenile Justice system. If participation is part of the diversion program through APS or the Courts there is a mandatory parent/guardian education piece offered on Wed. evening or Sat. morning. All diversion participants must complete a booster session in order to meet the requirements of the program.