

Child Advocates of Blair Co.
January 2018 Board Report
Submitted by – Elizabeth Montgomery 1/2/2018
Teen Link Connection

Teen Link Connection (HSDF)

Teen Link continues to accept calls from individuals calling in about pregnant or parenting teens as well as individuals looking for services (shelter, counseling, clothing, etc.). Upon receiving these calls Teen Link will connect them with the most appropriate services to match their need. We will continue to receive Human Service Development Fund money to assist with case management services provided under Teen Link Connection.

Teen Link is currently doing Case Management for a young family the mother of which is 19 years old. We meet for Parent Education, to work on housing applications, and transportation to doctors appointments. We have recently received a referral from the Bair Foundation and will soon begin working with a 14 year old father with a 1 month old infant.

In the month of December, Teen Link Connection worked with ReMax Realty in the Winter Warmth Program. Winter Warmth provided a shopping trip to JC Penney's for 70 local Blair County children, ages 4 to 15 which were referred as families in need by 8 local agencies.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Team (HSDF)

Teen Power Day – We have had our first meeting regarding Teen Power Day and have begun fundraising for this event. We will continue addressing the same topics (Drugs and Alcohol, Smoking – vapes, ecigs, marijuana and cigarettes, Teen Pregnancy, Healthy Relationships, Choices and Consequences, and STDs. This year we hope to address topics such as Cyber Safety, and Mental Health. We will be meeting again at the end of January to continue Teen Power Day preparations. We have reserved space at Penn State Altoona to hold this event on May 8th, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.

CHOICES – We are discussing the possible need of dividing into 2 groups for this summer program, one being a prevention group and the other more of an intervention group. We are pleased to say that we have been given another grant for CHOICES for the summer of 2018. This grant will be used to purchase supplies and incentives.

Parent Connection Support Group (BCC&Y)

I continue to facilitate the Parent Connection Support Group, which meets every other Thursday morning in Tyrone. A light meal and free childcare are provided. We currently have 4 Moms and 1 Dad attending this group and we are working on getting connected on Facebook with Tyrone – Events and Happenings, to help us advertise. In this group we have recently completed reading and discussing the book, "The 5 Love Languages of Children." The parents seem to enjoy reading the book and continue to talk about the differences they see in their children as they apply what they learned.

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All STARS (BDAP)

Our Fall All Stars session began on October 24 and ended December 12. We began with 11 students and ended with 12. Although we had a couple come and go we kept everyone we started with. This was an easy group to facilitate because they were very active, attentive and interactive.

Networking (BCC&Y)

The Networking Program continues to use evidenced based Nurturing Curriculum to provide in-home parent education services to families who express an interest in needing to learn parenting skills, understanding child development, etc. We continue to look for additional community partners and locations to meet with parents. Teen Link Connection is currently serving 7 families. We have begun receiving referrals and interests from Nurse Family Partnership. I will continue refreshing brochures and fliers on bulletin boards/racks and with other agencies around the Altoona area as well as participating in any outreach event I can attend.