

Child Advocates of Blair Co.
May 2018 Board Report
Submitted by – Elizabeth Montgomery 5/10/2018
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 continues Case Management for a young mother (17) whose child is 1 year old and a 15 year old expecting later this year. We meet for weekly parent education home visits, to work on housing applications, and transportation to doctors appointments.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Team (HSDF)

Teen Power Day – Teen Power Day took place on Tuesday, May 8th on the Altoona Penn State Campus with 48 students in attendance. Our attendance was down due to school preparing for Keystone testing the following week. We will be talking to Penn State and looking at possible dates for moving TPD away from testing time. Tyrone, Bellwood, and Claysburg were the participating schools. This was the first time in about 6 years that Claysburg has been able to come and their counselors are already making plans to bring more students next year.

Teen Power Day offered the students 7 workshops to choose from; Healthy Relationships, The facts about STDs, Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs, Teen Pregnancy, Coping with Mental Illness and Choices and Consequences. Presenters joined us from local agencies: Family Services, Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships, Evolution Counseling, Precious Life and the ELECT program. We were also joined by the Department of Health, Psychologist Todd Negola, Essie Auker Counselor at Penn State and George Katouff former AASD Director of Special Education.

CHOICES – We are in the process of recruiting local agencies for speaking with the students who will be participating in CHOICES, our summer program for female residents, ages 12 to 16. We plan to address the following topics this summer: Healthy Relationship, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, health and Wellness, coping with mental illness, self esteem/respect, teen pregnancy and money management.

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. Due to the lack of childcare attendants at this time we have begun doing activities; games and crafts with the children rather than just focusing on the moms.

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All STARS (BDAP)

Our Spring All Stars session ended on April 10th with 10 students, all of these students are high risk students and the majority is on a slightly lower learning level than a large portion of students their age. According to our pre and post tests these 10 students progressed positively in the following categories from the beginning to end of the program. These categories are: Normative Beliefs, Commitment/Intentionality, Values, Bonding to Community, Attentiveness of Parents.

The next All Stars group will begin in October 2018.

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 8 families. We have begun receiving referrals 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.

We have applied for an Impact Grant through United Way of Blair County for purchasing supplies for the Networking Program. These supplies would include items such as: Easy Reader parent curriculum books, pre and post-tests, craft and activity supplies, printing material for brochures, evaluations and test results as well as postage. At this time we have not heard any results from United Way.