

Youth-Focused Coalitions, Committees, Councils, and Commissions in Franklin County/North Quabbin

Early in 2005 the Youth Services Roundtable began discussing the various coalitions, task forces, councils, etc. that exist in Franklin County and the North Quabbin. There was some concern that the members of these groups may not be aware of the purpose and activities (or even the existence) of each of the other groups, thus creating the potential for confusion and duplication of effort.

This is a very succinct summary of the various groups in Franklin County/North Quabbin that meet on a regular basis for the purpose of discussing youth related issues and/or designing collaborative efforts intended to promote the positive development of local youth. Participation within these groups is generally open and meetings are public (with some exceptions). Please note that direct service providers, who often internally meet to discuss and design responses to the needs of local youth, are not profiled here. Also not included are the town-sponsored youth commissions whose focus is exclusively on the residents of that community. The exception to this is the Town of Greenfield since, as the population, social service, and commercial center of the County, it draws many youth from the other communities.

Each group profiled here is encouraged to make copies of this summary and distribute it to their members. All members of these groups are also welcome to join the “Youth Services Roundtable Listserv ” in order to be better informed of issues and events related to youth in Franklin County/North Quabbin, and to better inform others of the work their group is doing.

Finally, it has been suggested that perhaps the Youth Services Roundtable should organize a “Youth Summit” in order to bring together the groups profiled here (and any other youth-focused groups in Franklin County/North Quabbin who may have been omitted from this summary), in order to learn more about what everyone else is doing, discuss common concerns, and find ways to address those concerns collaboratively. The Roundtable would welcome feedback from the other groups as to whether such a “Youth Summit” would be useful to them in their efforts to serve Franklin County/North Quabbin youth.

*David Voegele
Youth Services Roundtable
July 22, 2005*

- **Communities that Care Coalition (CTC)**

Sponsored by: Franklin Community Action Commission and the Community Coalition for Teens.

Contact: David Shavel at 413-367-1106 (ctccoalition@fcac.net)

Communities that Care (CTC) is a broadly based formal coalition of community agencies, public officials, business leaders, and concerned citizens that is working to enhance the Franklin County community's capacity to reduce substance abuse and other risky behavior among area youth. Membership is open to anyone who lives and/or works in Franklin County. CTC is using a science-based positive youth development model to enhance protective factors and reduce risk factors for Franklin County youth. The CTC meets 2-3 times each year, although various CTC committees meet more often.

- **Family Literacy Task Force**

Sponsored by: North Quabbin Even Start

Contact: Lesley Kayan at 978-544-6235 (lkayan@fcac.net)

Although not focused exclusively on youth, the emphasis of this group is on literacy issues impacting young people and young families (parents in their teens or early twenties) residing in the North Quabbin area. Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday from 3-4:30pm at the Adult Education Center.

- **FCAC Youth Council**

Sponsored by: FCAC Youth Programs

Contact: Iris Wheaton at 413-774-7028 (iwheaton@fcac.net)

The FCAC Youth Council is a group of youth from West County, Greenfield/Montague, and North Quabbin who identify community needs, learn about civic engagement and philanthropy, and award mini-grants to their peers for community service learning projects. **Meetings are not open to the public** (but any youth interested in participating may contact Iris Wheaton).

- **Franklin County Resource Network (FCRN)**

Sponsored by: Franklin Community Action Commission

Contact: Sara Cummings at 413-376-1129 (scummings@fcac.org)

Franklin County Resource Network is a broadly based informal coalition of community agencies that meets monthly. Although not specifically focused on youth, the Network very often is discussing and addressing youth related issues, programs, and services.

- **Gill/Montague Community-School Partnership**

Sponsored by: Member agencies

Contact: Doug Brown (dbrown@montague.net)

This coalition, which includes community agencies, schools, and public officials, was organized to help foster safe, caring, and constructive environments within the local schools and communities. It has sponsored a series of events and activities to help address concerns about crime and violence in the communities. Meetings occur once a month (or more as needed) at the offices of Montague Catholic Social Ministries or the Superintendent's office.

- **Greenfield Youth Commission**

Sponsored by: Town of Greenfield

Contact: Bryan Smith (bryans@townofgreenfield.org)

The Youth Commission was reconstituted by the Greenfield Select Board in October of 2002 at the request of the Youth Services Roundtable. In addition to the management of the Greenfield Community Youth Center and the sponsoring of dances and concerts for Middle School age students, the group has been exploring new ways to have a positive impact on local youth. Meetings occur on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Greenfield Community Youth Center (Sanderson St.) from 6:30-8pm.

- **Greenfield Youth Task Force**

Sponsored by: Greenfield Youth Commission

Contact: **Bryan Smith (bryans@townofgreenfield.org)**

A student led committee that serves an advisory role to the Greenfield Youth Commission and the Mayor of Greenfield.

- **Mayor's Task Force on Youth and Education**

Sponsored by: Town of Greenfield

Contact: **Mayor Forgey 413-772-1580 (mayor@townofgreenfield.org)**

This group was convened by the Mayor in 2005 to serve as a forum for non-profits and school administrators to discuss issues related to Greenfield youth. The Task Force is in the process of developing a mission and vision statement.

- **Nine-Town Community Partnership**

Sponsored by: Member agencies

Contact: **Phoebe Walker 413-774-3167/119 (health@frcog.org)**

This is a gathering of West County organizations to discuss and act upon issues (including youth-related issues) facing the towns within Western Franklin County. Meetings occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 3-4:30pm at the Buckland/Shelburne Elementary School.

- **WESTMOST Network**

Sponsored by: The Davis Family Foundation

Contact: **Susan O'Oconner 413-256-8003 (scoconnor2@verizon.net)**

The Western MA Out-of-School Time Network (WestMOST) is a network of youth coalitions operating in Western MA. It seeks to strengthen its member groups through education and advocacy. It facilitates communication and cooperation among those groups working to serve youth during their out-of-school time, and sponsors an annual OST conference in Western MA. Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 9:30-11:30am.

- **Youth Council**

Sponsored by: Franklin/Hampshire Regional Employment Board
Contact: Patricia Crosby 413-773-1833 (fhreb@crocker.com)

The Youth Council is a formal component of the F/HREB, and is a broadly based coalition of youth services providers, business leaders, and public officials. It meets several times a year to discuss issues related to youth - particularly in regard to employment, vocational preparation, and work force development – and generates resources to support youth development work.

- **Youth Policy Board (YPB)**

Sponsored by: The North Quabbin Community Coalition
Contact: Cathy Savoy (Cathy@nqcc.org)

The Youth Policy Board is comprised of over 50 community members representing the schools, community agencies, the clergy, and public officials. The purpose of the group is to discuss and design responses to youth-related issues in the North Quabbin, and in doing so, to help prevent youth violence. Meetings will be announced over the YSR Listserv.

- **Youth Services Roundtable (YSR)**

Sponsored by: DIAL/SELF Teen Services
Contact: David Voegele 413-774-7054/107 (director@dialself.org)

Begun in 2002, the Youth Services Roundtable (YSR) is an informal association of area youth services providers. Its purpose is to promote the healthy development of youth in the Franklin County/North Quabbin area through information sharing, collaboration, and by impacting public policy. Membership is open to youth serving agencies and individuals, both public and private, who support the mission of the Roundtable. It meets monthly, maintains a listserv, and has sponsored several collaborative projects. Meetings occur on the 4th Thursday of each month, from 12:30-2pm at the Greenfield Community Youth Center (Sanderson St).