

Collaborating For Youth Coalition Minutes 12/11/2023, 5-7pm, GARA

CFY

Guiding Principles

1. **Focus on children, youth and their families.**
2. **Data-driven decision-making, with outcomes and priorities derived from analysis of multiple data sources.**
3. **Work is accomplished through partnership-based, collaborative activity.**
4. **Priorities are informed by the Collaborative's capacity to fulfill them, taking into account realistic expectations in**

Attendees: Andrea Dolges, Mark Durgin, Commissioner Jim Martin, Isabella Lopez, Francisco Suarez-Moya, Commissioner Marty Qually, Wendy Gallagher, Hermila Perez, Marcela Rosales, Megan Cellucci, Nick Cellucci, Geoff Kolchin, Josefine, Ana Ramirez, Paul Kellett, Victor Fonseca Guerres, Marla Esther Estrada de Fonseca, Brenda Salazar Martinez, Rosaura Rios

Youth Coalition: Maia Niedererr, Jasmine Trejo, Olivia Perez, Ashley Rodriguez, Linda Lopez

Staff: Sami Slusser, Lyric Gallagher, Lisa Lindsey, Teresa Arias, Meghan Riordan, Griseydi Castaneda, Elizabeth Meighan

I. Introductions

- Those in attendance made introductions.
- A special thank you was given to Commissioner Qually and his wife, Elizabeth Meighan, for helping to set up and serve the meal.

A break was taken to enjoy food and fellowship.

II. About CFY and la Comunidad

- Collaborating For Youth has existed for 22 years with Megan Cellucci and Paul Kellett with us from the beginning.
- The goal is to see the youth of Adams County healthy and thriving.
- CFY focuses and works for the youth, families, and communities of Adams County.
- *If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*
- Try to keep things realistic with what we can do.
- CFY created a strong youth coalition by letting the youth lead.
- Our programs are in Spanish and English as much as possible.
- CFY has had after-school programming in every school district in Adams County.
- An initiative has been started to provide safe spaces for the LGBTQIA+ youth in the county.
- In August 2023, there was a rebranding of the Adams County Coalition for Overdose Awareness & Recovery (formerly known as the Adams County Overdose Awareness Task Force).
- Under Communities That Care (CTC), interested community members are gathered, and training is provided. Evidence-based programming is used. The

cycle is to Get Started → Get Organized → Develop a Community Profile → Create a Plan → Implement & Evaluate

- Adams County has been designated as a drug-free community (DFC). This was funded for 10 years. CFY has carried this forward. The goal was to reduce substance use among youth and, over time, reduce substance use among adults. Strong communities provide an environment for positive youth development.
- Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) works with the CTC processes. Assessment → Capacity → Planning → Implementation → Evaluation → Sustainability & Cultural Competence. The most important of these steps, and included in everything we do, is Sustainability and Cultural Competence. Representatives of all communities are encouraged to provide a voice in prevention for their communities.
- La Comunidad started as an idea and several focus groups. The first meetings started with just two people and with their help, more people gathered. It works because of the hard work put into it.
- The Wheel of Prevention (modeled from a Native Peoples thought process tool) shows how important it is for us to work together to move forward and keep our youth safe.
- Adams County representation means engaging voices from across sectors, school districts, neighborhoods, and imaginary boundaries. We need to bring more people from across the county around the table.

III. Youth Coalition Spotlight – Who we are and why to join!

Reasons the youth like being part of the Youth Coalition:

- The experiences are the most important part of the Youth Coalition.
- Learning to speak at big events and in our community.
- Being able to get out and do things, not just stay at home.
- Attending CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) and learning about vaping and substance use
- Leadership Camp allows the youth to open up to others and make friends from other schools.

CFY is always mindful that it has room to grow. We do not aim to speak for others.

1. Who is not present? Who is missing?
 - People in Education
 - Supports for nuclear family.
 - Faith leaders
 - Law enforcement
 - Owners of youth-friendly businesses
 - Lawyers / Legal Aid
 - A variety of cultures and groups that are not currently represented.
 - Health care
 - Community members in general
2. Does anyone know someone on the list above?

The community has the power to make positive changes.
3. What would happen if these people were around the table?
 - Would be able to answer questions.
 - Would form a better community network.
4. How do we involve the youth today to make change tomorrow?

- The youth have a lot to tell us.
- Some adults know best what the youth feel because they are always there.
- Mentors put in so much effort – Show Up
- Give the youth the power to make change now.
- Listen to them and don't put them off.
- Mentors are listening at meetings.

Parting thoughts from Our Youth on the Importance of CFY and the Coalition

- Put youth in places of leadership.
- Teaching skills, giving opportunities, and recognition
- Allow yourself to be a kid a little
- Be open, allow space, and make yourself vulnerable.
- Leading by example is huge! We repeat what we see.

New PAYS data is expected in the new year. There will be a new mental health report, and we will be able to see what our youth need from us.

Our voice is always strong if we speak together.

IV. Upcoming Events – Griseydi/Sami

Next Meeting: January 8, 2024, 11:45-1:00 at the Presbyterian Church

Upcoming Events:

12/21 – Youth event at Brighter Tomorrow's Center, "Express Yourself"

CFY
Guiando los Principios

Enfocádonos en los niños, jóvenes y su familia.

Decisiones basadas en datos – hacer con resultados y tener prioridades del análisis de múltiples fuentes de datos.

El trabajo se logra a través de actividades colaborativas basadas en asociaciones.

Las prioridades se basan en la capacidad de la colaboración para cumplir, con respeto al costo el presupuesto, el tiempo de voluntarios y personal.

- I. Acerca de CFY y La Comunidad
- II. Enfoque de la coalición Juvenil ¡quienes somos y porque unirnos!
- III. próximos eventos – Griseydi/Sami

próxima junta: enero 8, 2024, a las 11:45-1:00 en la Iglesia Presbyterian

próximos evenos: 12/21 – Evento para los jóvenes en Brighter Tomorrow’s Center, “Exprésate”

**CFY
Guiando los
Principios**

- 5. Enfocándonos en los niños, jóvenes y su familia.**
- 6. Decisiones basadas en datos – hacer con resultados y tener prioridades del análisis de múltiples fuentes de datos.**
- 7. El trabajo se logra a través de actividades colaborativas basadas en asociaciones.**
- 8. Las prioridades se basan en la capacidad de la colaboración para cumplir, con respeto al costo el presupuesto, el tiempo de voluntarios y personal.**