



COLLABORATING

Doing what works
in Adams County

FOR YOUTH

2021-2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Mission

Collaborating for Youth is Adams County's community-based, data-driven coalition that works to support positive youth development and substance free positive futures.

Defining Principles

In all of its work, Collaborating For Youth keeps these principles central in its operations:

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

Prevention Science

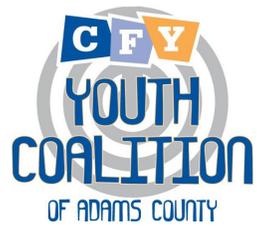
All CFY work is built on Prevention Science. Just as we know the predictors of heart disease and the effective prevention strategies to combat it, we now know the predictors of health and delinquency among young people - and effective ways to influence kids' development. Prevention science is a theory of social development that aims to identify and reduce antisocial behaviors among young people such as substance abuse, violence, school dropout, and other risky behaviors while simultaneously promoting healthy, positive attitudes, and behaviors that lead to productive, fulfilling lives. CFY accomplishes its work through the development and implementation of proven programs and strategies based on each community's specific needs.

*In September 2020, the Center For Youth and Community Development, home of Collaborating for Youth was awarded a 5-year grant through SAMHSA to implement Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) strategies in Adams County. While the Strategic Prevention Framework grant has four overarching goals regarding the reduction in use and misuse of alcohol and marijuana among youth and adults, **the common core to implementing the SPF strategies is the critical and on-going component of cultural competence and our ability to recognize community members are the experts of their own culture and heritage.***



Accomplishments in 21-22

BUILDING RESILIENT YOUTH



#UR / #TúEres Positive Messaging

While the CFY Youth Coalition members worked with national trainer, Joe Markewicz, the youth examined the needs of their community and based on the information and data they analyzed, the youth developed a **"positive messaging"** campaign that ran throughout the school year. This campaign included distribution of **108** posters/flyers, **200** stickers, and **50** sidewalk art pieces. The youth also created original social media content for CFY and CFY YC pages. The campaign was highlighted at the press conference during **National Prevention Week on Capital Hill in Harrisburg**, and was recently featured during the plenary session video for the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance 2022 Conference.

CFY Youth Coalition Leadership Camp

24 high school and 7 middle school youth participated in our annual **Youth Leadership Camp** held at Camp Thompson in Gardners, PA. It is a 4 night, 5 day camp featuring team-building activities, positive messaging and a service learning project with 12 mentors and 3 professional leadership trainers.



Service Projects and Prevention by CFY YC

- **Developed EXCHANGE** - a discussion group based on diversity and inclusion
- **Prevention Week** - youth joined statewide leaders to kick off **Pennsylvania's Prevention Week** representing all Youth in PA
- Youth volunteered in many local events such as the Heritage Festival, Medicine Take Back, Pippenfest, Adams County Farmers Market and Family Friday.



- Youth participated in a virtual Town Hall meeting featuring 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Data.
- **Project Sticker Shock** - 10,688 stickers warning of underage drinking laws were placed on products in four local beer distributors
- Youth recorded Radio Ads about underage drinking. They reached **411,623 listeners**

EXchange



Accomplishments in 21-22

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY



Pennsylvania Youth Survey

In the fall of 2021, CFY **assisted six local school districts** to administer the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (our most important data source) across Adams County.

Incredible Years Classroom

The goal of IY is to prevent and treat young children's behavior problems and promote their social, emotional, and academic competence. Of the 163 1st grade students supported, there was an **80% decrease in antisocial behaviors, 74% increase concentration and attention**, and 64% increased emotional competence.



Overdose Awareness Taskforce (OATF)

In August of 2021, OATF organized the 3rd Annual International Awareness Day Walk honoring loved ones lost to overdose and bringing awareness to the opioid crisis. OATF also participated in numerous community events such as the Adams County Farmer's Market, Pippenfest, Heritage Festival, and Black Balloon Day distributing important information on opioids and **136 life-saving Narcan kits**.



Medicine Take Back

Two Medicine Take Back events were held in October of 2021 and April of 2022. Between the two events, **2,701 pounds of unwanted medications were disposed**. These two bi-annual events increase awareness and education about misuse of prescription drugs. They also prevent dangerous medications from being put into the environment.



Communicating Prevention

- CFY hosts three Facebook and three Instagram pages - CFY, CFY Youth Coalition & OATF with a **reach of almost 60K people** in the 2021-2022 fiscal year
- Quarterly Newsletters were distributed for both CFY and the OATF with a combined **1,200 subscribers**
- Monthly afterschool newsletters & weekly summer camp newsletters
- CFY website continues to have traffic with **5,341 visits**
- Features were presented everyday in the Gettysburg Times during Prevention Week including daily articles about prevention and special banners representing who we are as a coalition.
- Parents Who Host billboard placements throughout Adams County

Accomplishments in 21-22

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY



Hispanic Community Coalition

Seven focus groups were conducted in Spanish to seek out the needs of the Hispanic community. Information was presented from various data sources about drug, alcohol and mental health. Responses around specific content areas asked about participant perspectives on validity for the Hispanic community in each category as well as the manifestation of problems and lack of resources to meet cultural, linguistic, and community needs. Participants were eager to continue conversations about the needs and barriers for the Hispanic Community in Adams County. In response, an **expansion of our coalition was created: la comunidad.**



Girls Circle

Girls Circle is a support group held in our Century 21 Afterschool & Summer Camp Learning Centers that teaches relational theory, resiliency practices, and skills training. **We served 106 students with a 90% increase in self-effectiveness.**

Dialogue & Action Circles and Diversity Workshops

An on-going component of our programming is cultural competence and our ability to recognize that community members are the experts of their own culture and heritage. CFY held three **5-week Dialogue & Action Circles** which are small groups having a community dialogue about race, identity, and culture. CFY staff and board members also attended a diversity and inclusion workshop involving youth coalition members.



Family Friendly Alcohol & Substance-free events

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Collaborating for Youth held four alcohol-free family events. In October, **Fall and Farm Fun** brought over **500 people** to our local Rec Park. In February, CFY hosted a virtual paint night and in May there were two events: **Kids Day**, a traditional Mexican event honoring children and **Family Fun Day** featuring a helicopter, ambulance and fire trucks - all were a great success!



Century 21 Afterschool & Summer Camp Learning

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers provide academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities for students and their families. This fiscal year we provided free **afterschool programming to 475 youth and summer camp to 128 youth.** For those that needed improvement, **82% improved in math** and 37% improved in English. **63% improved in classroom participation** and 64% in homework completion.

Strengthening Families Program 10-14/Familias Fuertes

SFP & Familias Fuertes are our evidenced-based 7-week prevention programs that uses "Love and Limits" to build positive communication skills, assist parents in setting well-rounded expectations with age appropriate consequences while preparing our youth with the tools and confidence to achieve their goals. We served 60 families of which **97% reported improved family problem solving**, 92% reported improved parent youth relationship, and **92% reported improved positive parenting behaviors.**

The History of Collaborating for Youth

Collaborating for Youth (CFY) was born out of a desire on the part of community residents and leaders to make community wide changes which would **improve the lives and futures of youth in Adams County**. A coalition was formed which included 20 to 30 members from schools, churches, government, nonprofits, health care, parents, and concerned citizens. The group was interested in doing something big that would have an impact for years to come, and that would **set a foundation for creating a caring community that supported healthy youth development**.

Historical Timeline

- **2001** - the group applied to become a **Communities That Care** site and was successful in being selected by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to be trained and supported on this journey.
- **2002** - A key leadership team was formed and trained as to best practices which were then implemented by the full group. The first **community prevention plan** was completed.
- **2002-2005** - The **Alternative Sports Park** was created at the Gettysburg REC Park with contributions and efforts of local youth.
- **2003-2004** - The scope of CFY expanded from focusing on the Gettysburg area to being county-wide.
- **2003-2005** - CFY became a federally designated **Drug Free Communities Coalition** (DFC) under the management of **SAMHSA**. The designation was important as it brought with it technical assistance, continuous training and monetary resources.
- **2007** - CFY was again asked to grow its sphere of work to address systemic level issues that create barriers or limit access for youth and families to the services that they need. This included putting out easy to understand and obtainable resource information through directories, thus reducing the number of youths being placed in out of home care by **creating community-based alternatives**.
- **2007** - **The Center for Youth & Community Development (CFYCD)** was established as the nonprofit home for CFY. 2007 also marks the first time that all six school districts in Adams County participated in the county-wide **Pennsylvania Youth Survey**. The first survey was conducted in 2001 of the Gettysburg Area with other local school districts to follow.
- **2013** - CFY had secured funds to pay for the survey and provided technical assistance. In 2013, the survey was adopted by a consortium of state stakeholders: Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Drug and Alcohol Programs and others. The survey is administered biannually on each odd year and continues to be coordinated by Collaborating for Youth.
- **2009** - the **CFY Youth Coalition** was established. The Youth Coalition represents youth voices. The first **Youth Leadership Camp** was held in partnership with the PA National Guard Counter Drug Demand Reduction Program at Fort Indiantown Gap.
- **2010** - CFYCD became the provider for a CFY partnership evidence-based program, **Strengthening Families**. In 2015, that program was expanded to reach the Spanish language population through **Familias Fuertes**.
- **2018** - CFYCD became the provider for **Century 21st Afterschool** program funding. This significantly expanded the 21st Century programs in Adams County through a partnership with Respective Solutions Group. CFYCD continues to act as a conduit for bringing grants and programs into the community that build the capacity of CFY to fulfill its mission.
- **2020** - CFY consistently met, performed as a coalition, and supported our communities during COVID-19. Growing in purpose and impact, CFY engaged in a new endeavor, through the **Strategic Prevention Framework** (SPF), to better serve Adams County.
- **2022** - CFY expanded its coalition to include a Spanish language branch of the coalition **la comunidad** in response to cultural and linguistic barriers.



2022 CFYCD Staff

Find us on
social media:



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Interested in volunteering? Email:
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