



Community Collaborative for Youth and Families

www.thecommunitycollaborative.org

2017 State of the Collaborative Annual Meeting

Background

Over the past year, the Collaborative transitioned to new leadership with a shift in the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions. With that transition there was a renewed focus on the infrastructure of the organization as well as defining the purpose of the Collaborative not only for the members themselves but in preparation to market to the community at-large. The creation of a mission moment and learning moment was established as a part of the monthly meeting to provide opportunities for agencies to share meaningful information to the membership as well as share their experiences within their own agencies that impact the mission of the Collaborative in their everyday work.

Specifically, a primary focus on improved notification to our membership and wider community was initiated by establishing a Facebook page and website that demonstrates and highlights the work of all Collaborative committees, which provides a link to all of our member agency websites. Continuing to strengthen our foundation and links between and among one another is paramount and will help ensure we are a successful organization.

Make sure to “like”

www.facebook.com/thecommunitycollaborative/ and
bookmark www.thecommunitycollaborative.org

Jail Survey

In February 2016, a project sponsored by the Office on Youth and led by Chairman Emeritus, Ben Nagle, was established. This was a unique opportunity to interview and survey inmates at the Rappahannock Regional Jail. A total of 309 inmates and community corrections individuals completed the survey.

Connecting the Dots

In April 2016, the Leadership Team provided a presentation entitled “Connecting the Dots” detailing the evolution of the Collaborative and all of the work that has been accomplished throughout the many years the group has been in existence, including its preceding organization - the Prevention Planning Partnership.

The Collaborative sought to be a broader and more inclusive group to increase overall effectiveness of agencies delivering services through a multiplier effect: coordinated, effective service delivery to youth and families that will markedly improve our community’s well-being over time.

The nature of a multi-agency, multi-community collaboration is that it requires frequent ‘reinforcement’ in the form of discussion of its mission, progress to date, and how the current or proposed activities support long-term objectives. Given that each member is typically much

more comfortable thinking and acting as an individual agency member, with less experience in true collaboration. An effective model of a collaborative has subcommittees or workgroups to do research and have focused discussion as it relates to specific topics and then bring suggestions or ideas back to the large group when needed.



Horsepower for Change

In June 2016, the Collaborative utilized the survey entitled, “Does Your Community Have the Change Horsepower It Needs?”. The large group spent the next several months thoroughly working through this survey. This work included questions/answer sessions, small group work, voting, and discussion.

The results from this work will be the basis of developing specific action steps within a common plan for the Collaborative. In October 2016, a detailed report was distributed and presented outlining the areas of needs, road blocks identified within each area, and action steps that need to be taken to achieve success within all three identified areas.

What issues is the Collaborative trying to resolve?

By utilizing the Horsepower for Change Survey, the membership identified three (3) core areas:

- Data – We have data sets at the local, agency, and program level but it is not accessed nor used to plan, design, or assess services outside of the individual agencies generating the specific data.
- Membership – We are missing as much as 2/3’s of the necessary stakeholders as part of the Collaborative. Representation is missing from the following groups: private/individuals; youth and families (end users of services or customers); decision makers/policy makers; faith-based organizations; and businesses.

- Common Plan – We lack a common plan across agencies and jurisdictions, as goals and objectives for services and programs are often unique to the agency. (I.e. the need for a regional human services plan for all of Planning District 16; Stafford County Human Services Master Plan cited as example).

What are the challenges?

- Data – Obtaining data, sharing data, interpreting data. Working together, we can collectively begin to address the holes in local data and obtain a clearer picture of our community. One initiative underway is the creation of a state-wide dashboard that pulls together data from various state agencies into a single website.
- Membership – Who is at the table? Who is missing from the table? Who came once but hasn't returned? How can we reach more youth and families?
- Common Plan – It's more than creating a plan. It's also building buy-in and support from local leaders and policy makers.

As we continue to grow and evolve, it's important to find the balance between educating new and potential members and too often repeating the same information. These are normal growing pains for any organization. Many of us are task-oriented people and for the past several years, the work of the Collaborative has focused more on big-picture concepts. We are now reaching the point where those two perspectives intersect. Membership involvement and support has never been more crucial to the success of the Collaborative moving forward.

We urge members to stay engaged. Join a committee. Come to the monthly meetings. Most importantly, talk about the Collaborative. We each interact with a broad population each day in our professions. Many of those we interact with have something to contribute to the Collaborative and will benefit from participation as well.

What is the way forward?

For 2017, the Collaborative will continue to focus on our targeted outcome:

“To Move the needle on reducing the percent of youth who enter and/or re-enter the juvenile justice system.”

This is a long-term objective. It will take several years to see an impact. The creation of a common plan is one step towards reaching that goal. Using the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets along with all of our collective research over the past several years, the Collaborative is getting closer to clearly defining the needed action steps for our community.

Membership agencies will be asked to review the action steps to see where their work aligns. These specific, common, and reachable objectives will help identify programming, resources, and talent toward reaching our long-term goal. Collectively, we can make a substantial difference within Planning District 16.

This goal was based on the work done by all the Collaborative members through multiple large group sessions, completion of multiple assessments, and numerous communications.

We have identified the local risk factors that can lead to youth entering or re-entering the justice system. These include: homelessness; substance abuse; mental health challenges; unemployed household; living in poverty; lack of education; lack of meaningful relationships and connections; and peer pressure.

We are evaluating the protective factors that can enhance good behavior: family relationships; peer relationships; positive role models; educational support; prevention of substance use; social activities; nutrition; and more.

Yet, there is still much work to be done. However, we have this wonderful group of caring, engaged, and passionate individuals coming together for this common goal. We can do this work. We can accomplish our goal. We can collaboratively improve the quality of life for youth and families residing in Planning District 16.

Executive Summary of Jail Survey:

The Collaborative, following several years of data collection, needs assessment, and strategic planning, determined that the most pressing priority for our community was to move the needle on the number of juveniles entering and re-entering the juvenile justice system. This goal encompasses work and efforts of nearly all sectors of the community, as the risk and protective factors for juvenile delinquency are broad, meaning that all member agencies of the Collaborative can have an impact.

As we learned more about specific efforts toward our goal from each agency, and continued to collect data, we took a bold step and embarked on a journey to gather a specific set of data from an often overlooked population – incarcerated adults. We felt this would provide vital information to help determine how to truly move the needle on juvenile delinquency. The Collaborative then designed and implemented a survey for those adults being held at the Rappahannock Regional Jail.

At the close of the initial data collection cycle, 573 inmates had been surveyed. Of those, 309 completed the survey (53.9% response rate). Respondents were 63.7% male / 37.3% female; 54% white, 41% black, 5% other races. Young offenders (ages 18 to 24) represented 15.5%, offenders (ages 25 to 39) represented 50.8%, and older offenders (ages 40 and above) represented 32.4%; 1.3% did not indicate current age.

From this dataset, we feel the following are major areas of concern:

- 85% of all respondents indicated that they had been incarcerated multiple times;
- 36.9% of all respondents indicated involvement with the justice system as juveniles;
- 59.2% of all respondents indicated having been suspended or expelled from school as a juvenile;

- 55% of all respondents indicated that they had an adult role model they looked to for guidance as a juvenile;
- 76.1% of all respondents indicated that they were a parent;
- 52.1% of all respondents indicated having been ‘brought up’ by either a single parent or other caregiver, rather than both parents;
- On average, 35% of all respondents indicated experiencing some form of abuse (physical, verbal, or emotional) in the home as a juvenile;
- 90.3% of all respondents indicated using alcohol, 87.4% indicated using marijuana, and 65.7% indicated using other drugs; and
- 63.8% of all respondents indicated belief they had a drug or alcohol problem, though only 44% indicated having received any drug or alcohol treatment.

Finally, respondents could provide a narrative response to what would have been helpful to avoid contact with the justice system, either as a youth or young adult. These responses mirrored the above, falling into five categories of response:

1. Positive family supports/relationships;
2. Positive role models/mentors;
3. Problem solving/coping skills;
4. Substance (drug and alcohol) abuse rehab/programs; and
5. Jobs/Work Release Programs.

From this data, the Collaborative hopes to develop a plan of action that will lead our community to reduce delinquency by addressing specific risk and protective factors, as highlighted in this report and other sources

Committee Annual Reports:

There are four (4) active committees within the Collaborative, in addition to the Leadership Team.

Education and Training Committee

Organized a three-part series on trauma:

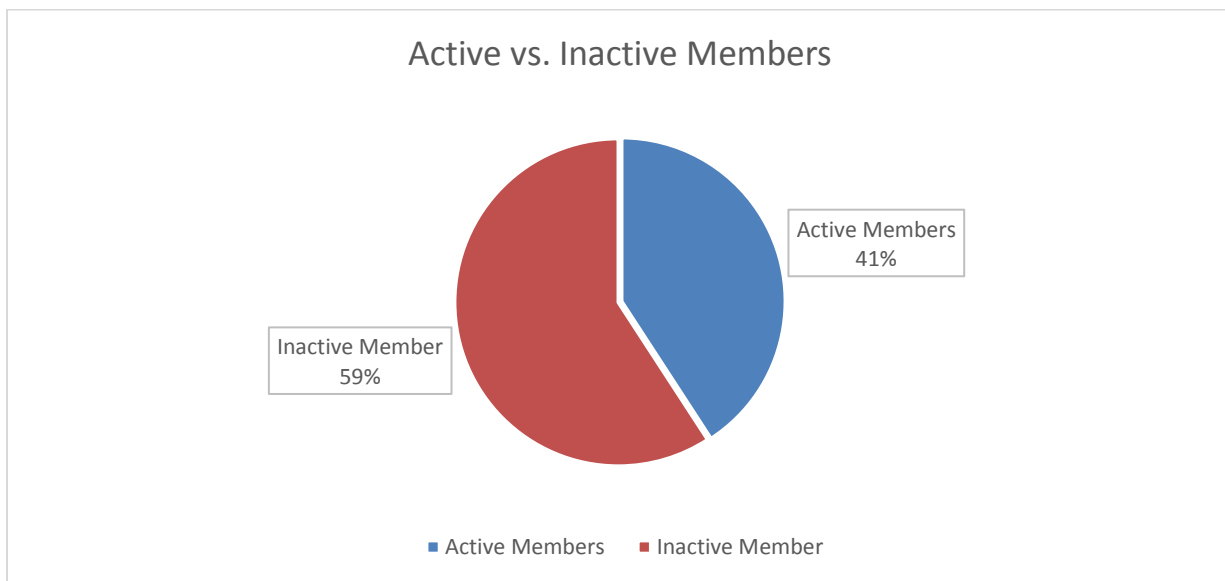
- “Got Trauma? How it affects you” was held April 18, 2016 for professional working with those who have experienced trauma. The speakers were Glenda Knight (spoke on substance abuse/trauma), Amy Gulick (gave local statistics on traumatic and substance abuse injuries) and Tia Bach (spoke about types of childhood trauma, trauma exposure and impact, and trauma focused cognitive behavior therapy). There were 63 attendees.
- “Got Trauma? Part 2” was held September 28, 2016, with its target audience being parents. The speakers were Glenda Knight (similar topics from training #1, plus ACES discussion), Amy Gulick (same as training #1) and Lauren Weidner (spoke about trauma and brain development, trust-based relational intervention, giving tools for parents to use). There were a total of 32 people were in attendance.
- “Vicarious Trauma” was the final workshop held November 16, 2016. Kristel DiGravio was the trainer. She defined Secondary Traumatic Stress, gave examples and who is susceptible, as well as how to prevent it. There were 28 attendees.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee had a productive 2016. Our committee has grown with the addition of Jennifer Brown from Intercept Youth, Joan Gillis from Programs for Teen Parents and Donna Krauss from Stafford County Human Services.

The Membership Committee has put into place a cohesive and structured approach when meeting and engaging new members. For the 2016 calendar year, the Community Collaborative has welcomed 43 new community members. New members are encouraged to join the Collaborative email list serve and to visit the Collaborative Facebook page. New members are given an extensive information welcome packet and include how they can contribute their time and talents toward our overall mission of reducing youth incarceration and recidivism.

The Membership committee has also been reaching out to members of the Collaborative who have not been regularly attending meetings. We have been successful in re-engaging a number of these members through emails and phone calls.



The Membership Committee implemented the use of name badges to help ensure a Collaborative member continues to feel needed and included. This initiative has been met with great enthusiasm and success. One Collaborative member made the comment, “If I know that I have a name badge waiting for me I will be more likely to attend meetings.”

Moving forward in 2017, the Membership committee hopes to add to its recruitment efforts through promotional efforts in the way of “Next Meeting” cards that all Collaborative members can utilize. The Membership committee is also looking forward to being able to engage new members with the use of sponsored breakfasts for each of the monthly Collaborative meetings. We hope to be able to engage key stakeholders through this new initiative and the benefits of promotional opportunities through the Collaborative’s use of various social networks.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee initiated a Facebook page and assisted with an update to the website. The Committee held a joint meeting with the Membership Committee to discuss opportunities for collaboration. The Committee is developing several new communication products to include a postcard with mission, meeting dates, and contact information. Additionally, the Marketing Committee would like to start an e-Newsletter to highlight the work done by the Collaborative and its member agencies.

Data Committee

The Data Committee has spent much of the year reviewing aspects of the jail survey and discussing the data collected, lessons learned, and priorities for action. During the data collection process, the data committee set out to research existing risk and protective factors related to youth and their success in life. Many national sources were utilized to create a master list of those risk and protective factors that we felt impacted the youth and families of our local community. These were then aligned to the programs of member agencies from previous large group discussions. In addition, committee members began identifying programs and their respective agencies that were not members of the larger group, and made recommendations to the Leadership Team for outreach. The committee has also been utilizing the jail survey responses to link to the risk and protective factor research to programs that may address priority areas and issues revealed in the jail survey.