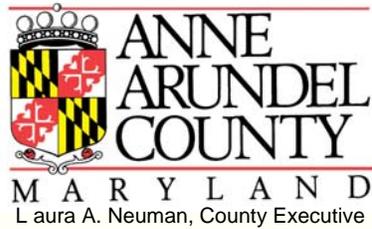


Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families



The Local Management Board for
Anne Arundel County

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

Message from the Chair & Executive Director

FY2013



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(ex-officio)

As 2013 closes, the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth & Families (The Partnership which serves as the state designated Local Management Board) remains unequalled as the neutral convener of the county's child serving agencies. This year we were actively involved in 43 partnerships and led 16 of them. Notable collaborations include the Youth Suicide Awareness Team, Green Housing Grow Jobs, the Community Service Initiative Care Team (CRICT), the Behavioral Health Round Table, the Medically Homeless Taskforce and Promise Live (the Meade Village Promise Neighborhood). Additionally, the Partnership received approximately 1.3 million dollars to fund 26 diverse programs that served over 8000 county residents.

In 2013 the Partnership focused on diverting youth and families from government systems, serving them instead in low cost and evidence based programs such as Community Conferencing and Systems of Care. Community Conferencing saved over 80 youth from entering the Juvenile services system. We also enhanced our partnership with SeedCo, a private company that owns a web-based eligibility screening tool. We served through this model 60 families who would have otherwise joined the lines for screening at the social services office.

As we look forward to 2014, the Partnership board and staff remain committed to reducing duplication of services to families while offering transitional support in an empowerment model. As the old adage goes, *an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*, and so the Partnership remains one of the most cost effective models in the county for family self-sufficiency and independence.

Sincerely,

Yevola S. Peters
Chair

Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D.
Executive Director



The Partnership's Mission and Core Values

Mission

The Partnership provides leadership to improve the quality of life for all children and their families in Anne Arundel County.

Vision

All families and children in Anne Arundel County thrive in healthy and safe communities



Core Principles

The Partnership subscribes to the following systems of care core principles:

Community-Based

A full array of services and supports is provided in the home community in which the child lives.

Family Partnerships

Family members of children and youth who need services work together with service providers to develop, manage, deliver, and evaluate policies and programs. Families and youth have a voice in the decision making and the coordination of services, as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community.

Interagency Collaboration

Child and family-serving agencies establish formal linkages to ensure that the system of care is adequately coordinated and integrated.

Cultural & Linguistic Competence

All services and supports are delivered in a way that is responsive to the family's race, culture, language and/or ethnicity.

Individualized and Strengths-Based

Every child and family receives an individualized service plan tailored to their unique needs.

Accountability

Outcomes measures are developed and tracked for individual children, youth and families as well as the system as a whole.



FY13 Partnership Programs

In FY13 the Partnership funded 26 programs and initiatives throughout the County targeting youth from birth to age 21.

Early Childhood Programs

BEST (Behavioral/Emotional Support and Training Program)

Youth Strategies

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol
Keep A Clear Mind
Treasure Hunter's Clearing House
Youth Empowerment Services (YES)
Gang Activity Control Program
Community Conferencing
Strengthening Families
Annapolis Youth Services Bureau
Pascal Family & Youth Services
Student Athletes vs. Substance Abuse
Teens In Partnership Youth Advisory Group
Turning Point
6th Annual Teen Summit

After School Programs

Star Academy—George Fox Middle School
Mills Parole Elementary School
Gems & Jewels
Brooklyn Park Teen Club

Systems of Care

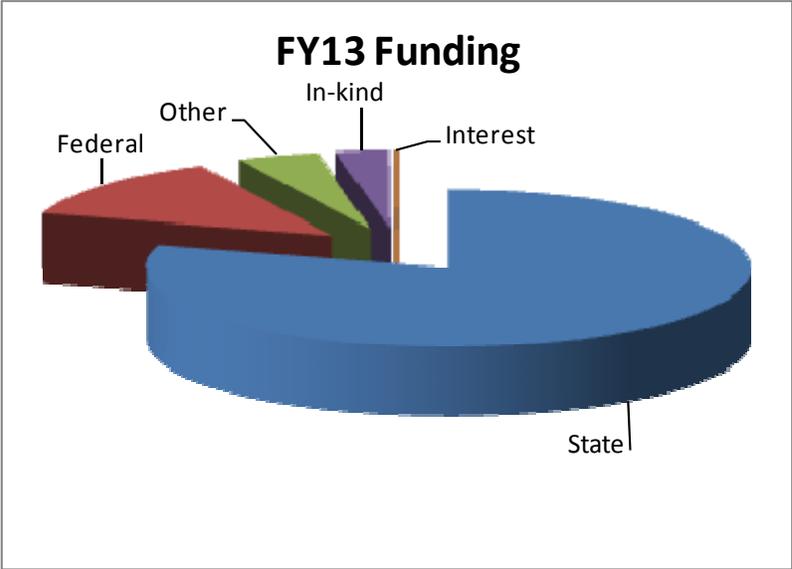
Local Access Mechanism
Family Navigator
Information Resource Line
Community Resource Initiative/Care Team
InfoAnneArundel.org

Other Initiatives

Annapolis Promise Neighborhood
Disproportionate Minority Contact Initiative
Youth Suicide Awareness Action Team



FY13 Funding



State Grants	\$1,096,699
Federal Funding	181,594
Other/Private Funding	60,180
County In-kind Contributions	38,400
Interest	564
Total Revenues:	\$1,377,437



Partnership Program Outcomes 2013

Behavioral and Emotional Support and Training (BEST)

93% of the children in the BEST program with formal assessments showed a marked improvement in social skills.

Youth Service Bureaus

98% of the youth served did not commit a juvenile offense during the course of their enrollment in the program.

Afterschool Program

97% of the **226** students enrolled in afterschool programs successfully transitioned to the next grade level.

Treasure Hunters Clearing House

76 new mentors were recruited to work with at-risk youth in the City of Annapolis.

Community Conferencing

92% of the youth that participated in Community Conferencing did not re-offend within 12 months following their conference.

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol

100% of the **4,531** individuals that participated in one of **29** education and outreach events held in FY13 reported an increase in knowledge about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse.

Systems of Care

791 families were able to receive navigation assistance and resource referrals by calling the Systems of Care toll-free line. **79** families with complex or catastrophic needs were served by the Community Resource Initiative/Care Team.

Strengthening Families

113 youth and **69** parents graduated from the Strengthening Families program in FY13.



FY13 Partnership Programs & Initiatives

Community Conferencing

The Partnership's Community Conferencing program was created to divert young first offenders from the juvenile justice system and address disproportionate minority contact. A community conference is a voluntary meeting of people who have been impacted by a crime. The meeting is convened by a neutral facilitator supplied by the Anne Arundel County Conflict Resolution Bureau. All of our facilitators are trained by the Baltimore Conflict Resolution Center.

For a community conference to be successful parents, victim, offender all have to agree to attend. Other community members impacted by the crime may also be in attendance. During the conference everyone has a chance to explain what happened from their point of view and how they feel about the crime and the offender. Conferencing is particularly successful for victims because they are given the opportunity to confront the offender in a safe setting. At the end of each conference all attendees participate in a signed agreement that includes sanctions for the offender. The agreement is tracked for compliance by the Community Conferencing Coordinator to ensure the offender complies with the sentence and does not reoffend. 2013 data shows:

- ◆ 55 Community Conferences
- ◆ 205 Participants
- ◆ 85 Youth
- ◆ 75 Minority Youth
- ◆ 96% of cases resulted in an agreement

Currently we are working in partnership with the public school system and the Anne Arundel County Conflict Resolution Bureau to apply the Community Conferencing model in public schools to reduce the rate of suspension. Results will be available in next year's report.



FY13 Partnership Programs & Initiatives



In January 2013, the Partnership, in collaboration with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, was pleased to launch **infoAnneArundel**: An up-to-date, user-friendly website containing an inventory of local human services. The primary objectives of **infoAnneArundel** are to link residents with needed resources and services and to support community needs assessments by analyzing the types and distribution of resources to better quantify gaps in services and plan for resource allocation.

infoAnneArundel is a community initiative relying on organizations to become “members” of the website. Membership is free and based on specific inclusion criteria (no cost, low cost, sliding scale, accept Medicaid/Medicare, or offer a unique service to the community that is not offered by any other organization that meets standard inclusion criteria). Organizations are taught how to enter their program information and are responsible for updating their site information. Membership participation and responsibility ensures that website visitors have access to accurate and current community resources. As of this fall, over 100 member organizations have contributed to the website by listing hundreds of local programs offered to Anne Arundel County residents.

Highlights of **infoAnneArundel**

Multiple Ways to Find Services

- ◆ Browse by target population, location, organization or type of service
- ◆ Keyword search
- ◆ Resource links/guides

Tools and Features

- ◆ Map service locations
- ◆ Narrow results through filters
- ◆ Search tips and online tutorial



Become a Member!

- ◆ Include your programs for free
- ◆ Questions? Contact Julie Vanskiver at 410-222-7423 or email: admin@infoannearundel.org



FY13 Partnership Programs & Initiatives



In 2008, in the wake of a devastating string of youth suicides, the Partnership spearheaded the founding of a community-based collaborative of citizens, county agencies and other child-serving organizations to address this issue on a broad scale. This group, now known as the **Youth Suicide Awareness (YSA) Action Team**, meets monthly and is over 80 individuals strong with representation from over 20 county and community agencies and organizations.

In 2009 the YSA (through the Mental Health Agency) was awarded a comprehensive three year, multi-level grant called the Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant. With effective leadership, cooperative relationships and a strong vision, the YSA utilized these funds to tackle the issue of suicide awareness and prevention in profound and meaningful ways. In the schools, the AACPS health curriculum has been updated with an effective suicide prevention program called “Lifelines”; a listing of emergency phone numbers now appears on the back of every child’s school ID card; and all public school staff have been trained in suicide prevention. In addition, the YSA did a comprehensive roll-out of QPR Trainings throughout the County. QPR - "Question, Persuade, Refer" - is a simple but effective “gatekeeper” training that teaches people how to recognize the signs and risk factors of suicidal ideation, open a dialog with a person in crisis, and get them into the hands of a mental health professional. To date, nearly 18,000 people – including parents, social workers, community groups, and all public school employees – have received this training.

Five years later, the YSA is going strong with a myriad of initiatives planned for the coming months. We have developed new partnerships with our local hospitals and the local chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness. The YSA has been approached by other local jurisdictions to consult on the creation of similar initiatives in their communities based on the tremendous success we’ve achieved in our County. In addition, we’ve developed a new website – www.achocetolive.org – that is full of information and resources to help youth, parents, educators and community members combat youth suicide. The YSA was also fortunate to receive a grant for FY14 through Anne Arundel Women Giving Together to help support our ongoing prevention and post-vention efforts in Anne Arundel County. The group is now turning its eye towards prevention at the far end of the spectrum with a focus on building resiliency and protective factors among youth. 2014 and 2015 look to be years of tremendous growth and opportunity for this unique and collaborative initiative!



FY13 Partnership Programs & Initiatives

Green Housing Grow Jobs Annapolis

Changing Lives for Public Housing Residents

The Annapolis Green Housing/Grow Jobs program was developed through a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, International Electrical Contractors of the Chesapeake, the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County Community College, and Anne Arundel County Workforce Development. The program trained ten public housing residents (two of whom were also Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) employees) to conduct energy efficient lighting and retrofitting audits. Their practicum involved retrofitting a public housing building to increase energy efficiency that should ultimately lower utility bills at HACA and increase energy efficiency. Nine of the ten participants graduated successfully. All were unanimous in their praise for the program.



“When we came in, our minds were in public housing, but coming out we all just want to get out. Everyone looks successful - they think in a different way now. It gave me the motivation we didn’t have. We’ve got the knowledge and we’re ready to go.” - Program participant



Community Partnership Initiatives 2013

Each year, the Partnership is involved with a myriad of community collaborations in alignment with our mission. Here are a few of our 2013 initiatives beyond those highlighted elsewhere in this report.

Systems of Care – Collaboration with A.A. Co. Public Schools and the University of Maryland to provide information, resources and support for families with children.

Promise Neighborhood – A place-based initiative designed to help break the cycle of inter-generational poverty by providing a cradle to college continuum of care to children in low-income communities. The Partnership has been collaborating with a myriad of partners in Annapolis for over three years to build this continuum for public housing residents. A new initiative is being developed for the Meade Village public housing community.

Disproportionate Minority Contact Coalition – Collaboration with the County Executive's Office, Circuit Court, DJS, local Police Departments, the Mental Health Agency, State Attorney's Office, HACA, Annapolis Youth Services Bureau, Annapolis Rec & Parks, the Conflict Resolution Center, and the faith community to address the disproportionate rate of minorities represented in the juvenile justice system.

Early Childhood Coalition – Collaboration of all community early childhood service providers in the County in an effort to improve school readiness among preschool aged children. This year we have applied for a grant through MSDE to address school-readiness for children in the underserved community around Georgetown East Elementary school.

Student Athletes vs. Substance Abuse—A middle and high school program designed by the Coalition for Safe Communities to bring awareness on issues around alcohol and drug use and abuse and assist student athletes with making sound, positive choices, which positively affect non-athletes to make good choices as well.



Partnership Staff Contact Info



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www.aacounty.org/Partnership

Visit our website for:

- **The most current Partnership sponsored events**
- **Current Program information**
- **Direct links to programs supported by the Partnership**

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