

2012 CCAP Best Practices Award: Chester County Youth Center Program

The Chester County Youth Center (CCYC) is proud to announce its entry to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) for the Best Practices in Juvenile Detention and Shelter Award category. In June of 2006, the Chester County Youth Center opened its doors to serve the community. We have collaborated with our local community, partnered with key stakeholders and engaged the public to enhance our facility. Our Center has transformed from being a detention-only center, to now running five successful programs under one roof and currently working on the development of a sixth program. The successful partnership with our Juvenile Probation Department and our Children, Youth, and Families department has demonstrated a unified team when it comes to the youth in Chester County.

Presently, our Center has five programs running simultaneously. Our 48-bed, 4-pod detention unit, a 12-bed shelter for females, an Electric Home Monitoring/Global Positioning System program (EHM) , a Weekend Respite Program (WRP) for females and our newest program, an Evening Reporting Center (ERC) for young men work together to give Chester County many options when it comes to dependant and delinquent youth. Three of these programs, the EHM, the ERC and the WRP, are considered diversionary programs. It is a very unique program that we run here at The Chester County Youth Center, and we could not do it without our highly trained and dedicated staff that are devoted to serving at risk youth.

A new project that CCYC is proposing for 2013 is the creation of a 90-day, Community Residential Program (CRP). We have begun the process of creating a timeline of goals, a proposed budget, and have collaborated with JPO and CYF on the creation of a much needed community –based program. This would be CCYC’s sixth program that would be run out of our facility. The Youth Center prides itself on being innovative when it comes to the serving youth in Chester County.

A system wide collaboration with community partners for programming and training, collaborating with local non-profit organization for services and involving key stakeholders in the community, we feel that we run a state of the art program, nationally recognized model program. In the last two years, our Center, our local Communities That Care Mobilizer, a local school district representative and our Juvenile Probation Department were invited to present a best practice model at two conferences. The Performance Institute based out of Washington, D.C., the Juvenile Court Judges Commission’s fall conference in Harrisburg and the Juvenile Detention Center Association of Pennsylvania’s fall conference held in Pittsburgh invited the this group to present its successful outcomes with community collaboration.

Our county commissioners began a strategic plan for Chester County in 2010. We have been involved with this plan since its inception by gathering statistics to support our goals and mission. The strategic plan statistics currently prove quality results when it comes to cost savings and positive outcome measures for the community and youth that we serve.

Submitted By:
Carrie Avery
Program Coordinator
610-793-5910 ext 5014