

**ARCH Annual Meeting**  
**September 10, 2004, 9:00 –10:30 AM**  
**Summary of Notes**

Twenty-five people were in attendance: Jane Hagy, Lisa Lenker, Sgt. Charles Marsch (Easttown Police Dept.), Ken Hill (Paoli Hospital, Community Services), Jo Anne Hilly, Pattie Littlewood (TESD, Community and Volunteer Services), Cheryl Bergsma, Lisa Kaupp, Terry Kenworthy (COAD), Matt Gibson (Principal, VFMS), Steve Riggs (Principal, TEMS), Fairlight Collins-Jones (Wayne Presbyterian Church), Brad Zerr (Upper Main Line YMCA), Doreen Ellis (Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth), Loretta Boyle, Tracey Blickos (Paoli Hospital), Tim Donovan (Principal, Conestoga HS), Betsy Fadem, Joyce Videlock (TESD, Student Services), Libby Dalrymple, Susan Poritsky, Jim Mutter (Tredyffrin Police Dept.), Lauri Koropey, Bonnie Lyon, and Ellen Moeller.

Bonnie Lyon conducted the meeting. Introductions were made. Bonnie gave a brief history of ARCH, which is summarized on the reverse side of the agenda. Ellen Moeller read the ARCH Statement of Purpose and shared the handout on effective prevention strategies. The discussion was then opened to ask each person who was representing an organization in partnership with ARCH to respond to the following questions: 1. How do you see your involvement in our partnership? 2. What are you seeing in our community that we can address in our partnership? 3. How can we address these issues?

The following is a summary of the ideas that were discussed.

- COAD has resources on tobacco, drug, and alcohol specific topics. COAD also has trainings available for coalition members. COAD conducts the Youth Survey of 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders every two years in the TE School District.
- TESD helps with publicity and gives access to its buildings for meetings, and its newsletters for announcements. Youth alcohol and other drug use is a COMMUNITY issue, not just a school issue, nor just a police issue.
- Paoli Hospital has tobacco education and smoking prevention curriculums. The hospital has not connected with Conestoga High School to date. Programs are NOT, TATU, Tobacco Explorer, and Tobacco Resource Kits.
- ARCH continues to encourage partnership with groups of students in the High School: REACH, SADD, TATU.
- TESD is introducing a new curriculum in the middle school, beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is Life Skills Training and will focus on alcohol and other drug issues. It will expand to other grades in successive years.
- ARCH party guidelines and contract: names of participating families are posted on the ARCHcares.org website.
- It is becoming increasingly evident that ARCH should target elementary school-age families with the prevention message. If families are not teaching drug free ideas in elementary school, it very rapidly becomes too late.
- Conestoga High School invites dynamic guest speakers to deliver a message of prevention and careful decision-making, to the students.
- TESD has open communication and good relationship with local police.

- CAPCO (after-Prom party) has had growing participation.
- High School areas of concern: Dances? How to effectively monitor and supervise; Senior privileges – encourage responsible behavior, but are they abused by some?
- Police Departments report seeing younger ages of youth for overdose, usage, and increase in use. The trend seems to be that younger kids are being identified as using.
- Could we send ARCH party guidelines/contract to neighborhood associations and town watch groups?
- The SAP (Student Assistance Program) in the High School is seeing an increase in abuse of prescribed medications and over-the-counter drugs.
- Tredyffrin Township Police Dept. offers the DARE program in the middle schools. DARE is a research-based program and changes in response to the trends.
- Parental involvement seems to be key in the eyes of many of the people in the discussion around the table. How do we reach parents and keep families connected? How do we continue to build supporting communities? Parents who want to be a “friend” to their child are not always helping. They may be enabling.
- Devon District Court utilizes parents and peers in considering consequences for youth arrests.
- Consider adding treatment providers to the ARCH Board of Advisors. Treatment Providers would add another dimension to our community perspective.
- How does ARCH recruit members, raise awareness, and continue to recruit, given that often families are very transient in their involvement. Families move into the age of adolescence, and their children have transitioned out of high school before they know it. If the family was active in ARCH, they have all moved on in a relatively short time. How do we recruit families and encourage them to stay involved for a longer time period?
- Program presentation for parents and child together (possible pre-prom mandatory meeting)
- ARCH could benefit from a strategic plan – perhaps hire an outside consultant to facilitate our process. Identify key goals. Focus on a few key goals. We know there is a problem—what are our goals to address the problem?
- Great Valley PHY sponsored a Youth Focus Group- a diverse group of kids for one day—a great opportunity to let the kids talk and have the adults in the community listen to them.
- Students and parents can utilize the Annoymous Tipline. Both police departments stated that the tip line does yield results. (This was discussed after the meeting was adjourned.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM. ARCH will summarize the discussion and post the notes. The discussion ideas will be used to formulate the year’s goals.

Thank you was expressed to all for their participation in the discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Moeller  
ARCH Secretary