A Comprehensive Plan: Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Prevention, Identification and Assistance Programming in the Pennsbury School District

A Report to the Board of School Directors
October 1, 2015
Introductions

- Dr. Donna Dunar – Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
- Mrs. Sherri Morret – Director of Special Education
- Mr. Sherwood Taylor – Director of Administrative Services
- Mr. Rich Fry – Assistant Principal and Supervisor of School Student Assistance Program
- Mr. Chris Becker – Principal, William Penn Middle School
A Community Effort – Comprehensive Approach

- Prevention–Identification–Assistance
- Relationships and Communication
- Caring, Dedicated, Vigilant Personnel
  - Culture of Caring and Respect
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- County-wide support
Focus on Prevention

- DARE / School Resource Officers
  - Townships, Boroughs and the School District support the programs
  - Contact with every child K-12
- Content Areas Curricula
- Health Curriculum
- TIMS
Focus on Prevention

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

◦ LYFT
◦ Heads Up!
◦ Peer to Peer
◦ BCIU Advisory Councils
◦ Student Conduct Policy
◦ Big Brothers / Big Sisters
◦ Peace Center Programs
◦ District Justices
◦ Suicide Prevention Awareness
◦ Caron Foundation
Focus on Identification

- HIPAA & FERPA – Confidentiality
- Child Study Team
- Student Assistance Program
Pennsbury Student Assistance Program

- Identify "at risk" students for substance abuse or depression
- Assist the student and family in identifying problems that impact on the student's ability to function in school
- Offer assistance
SAP Process – the Referral

- Mandatory Referral – results from a violation of the district drug/alcohol policy
- Non-Mandatory Referral
  - Sources: teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, students, self.
  - Reasons: drug/alcohol use or abuse, depression, suicide, eating disorders, and self-injuring behaviors.
**SAP Process – Case Management**

- Case Manager assigned
- Information gathered (observable behaviors)
  - Teacher progress reports
  - Counselor reports
  - Administration report (attendance/discipline)
- Data Review at Team Meeting
  - Intervention
  - Referral to school counselor
  - SAP services not warranted
**SAP Process - Intervention**

- **Parent/Student meeting**
  - Two or three SAP team members, parent(s), student
  - Observable information presented to the student/parent
  - Parent and student must agree in order for SAP process to continue

- **Follow – up**
SAP Process - Assessment

- Provided free of charge by The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania’s Student Assistance Program.
- Assessors are Master’s level clinicians w/ experience in substance abuse, adolescence, education, and mental health
- Interview(s) conducted with parent and student
- Recommendation/written report created
- Insurance/ability to pay is taken into consideration
- Referral to: community agencies, professionals, support groups, or in-school resources
SAP Process – Record Keeping

- SAP Case load – kept on secure Pennsbury network drive for access by all team members
- State Reporting – SAP information is entered into PA SAP database in June.
SAP Process – Peer to Peer

- Speakers provided by Libertae, Livengrin, and/or Today, Inc.
- Speaker meets with students during EOP period
- Mandatory SAP referrals and Twilight students required to attend, non-mandatory referrals are invited to attend
- Peer to Peer presentation – usually Nov. and May
Character Education
Culture of Caring and Respect
PHS Mentoring Program

- Students are identified in the middle schools.
- Mentors apply and are selected and trained during the summer.
- Mentor/Mentee gathering prior to the school year.
- Individual meetings are held throughout the year during first semester EOP.
Pennsbury HS Challenge...

The Class of 2019 Accepts the PENNSBURY CHALLENGE

Show Kindness
Be Compassionate
Build Friendships
Tolerate Differences
Respect Others
Pennsby HS Challenge...
Focus on Assistance

- Alternative Schools
  - Therapeutic services
- Private Treatment Facilities - Penndel, Lenape, Livengrin, Today Inc, Princeton House, Foundations, Horsham – just to name a few
- Transition back to school
- Juvenile Probation
- Facilitated In-school Groups
- Full-time Home and School Visitor
- Full-time Social Worker Services
- PA Youth Survey
Available Resources

- The Council of Southeastern PA 24 hr Information Referral Hotline 1-800-221-6333
- The Lenape Valley Foundation Crisis Intervention Services 215-345-5327
- Bucks County-Wide crisis hotline 1-800-499-7455
- School Watch Hotline 1-877-888-7140
- PA State Child Abuse Hotline (Childline) 1-800-932-0313
- Bucks County Children’s Crisis Support Hotline 1-877-HELP-709
- PHS School Counseling Webpage – access from PHS Homepage
Looking Ahead

- Elementary Student Assistance Program, ESAP
- Group Counseling at the High School
- Comprehensive Plan
  - Focus on Resiliency