



SOMERSET COUNTY LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

EMPOWERING CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Issue 2

December 18, 2007

DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

It is that wonderful time of year when individuals and families come together to celebrate the holidays. During this time we often reflect on the assets and strengths we have within our family units.

The Somerset County Local Management Board also wants to celebrate our families and children throughout the year. The

Somerset County Local Management Board worked with the Somerset County Commissioners in proclaiming November 18-24 2007, National Family Week in an effort to do just that.

We are actively seeking to engage adult mentors to work with youth in our county. If you, or someone you know is interested in mentoring do not hesitate to

contact the LMB for further information. Having a caring adult who provides guidance, nurturing, and direction can have a great impact on our youth. We are continuing to look for funding for program development and enhancement.

Have a great holiday!

Tracey Cottman, LCSW-C
Executive Director

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From the staff of the Somerset County Local Management Board

Tracey, Adam, Patricia, Susanna, Tonya

County Facts:

- Somerset County has approximately 301 farms as of 2002.
- The Chesapeake Bay has supported traditions of fishing, hunting, and sailing for over 300 years.

From the Somerset County Needs Assessment

NEW PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The Somerset County Local Management Board has acquired funding for two new programs for the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

The first program is "Seasons 4 Success" which provides services and support for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the Crisfield area with attendance and reading problems. During the school year this program will run Monday through Thursday. During the summer the program will run Monday through Friday, 7 hours a day. Participants will use the Kumon Reading curriculum daily, and will attend the Kumon Learning Center in Salisbury one day each week. Participants can earn incentives by reaching

attendance and reading goals.

"The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant number YSPI-2008-1003. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency."

The second program is the Princess Anne Youth Center Targeted Outreach diversion program, which serves Department of Juvenile Services youth with first offences and misdemeanors. The program also serves at-risk youth living in the Hampden Avenue area of Princess Anne. The Princess Anne Youth Center is based on a Boys and Girls Club model of recreational and social programming that will provide youth ages 8 to 16 with a safe place to

connect with caring adults, participate in challenging activities and have a place to belong. The targeted outreach part of the program includes individualized case management that involves law enforcement, Department of Juvenile Justice, school, family and youth center staff and volunteers. The goal is to increase support and cooperation among all domains of a student's life so that he/she will decrease negative behaviors and improve pro-social activities like association with positive peers, school attendance and academic achievement.

"The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant number JABG-2006-1010. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency."



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

In a joint effort between the Somerset County Local Management Board and the Somerset County Board of Education through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative, the "I Am Beautiful" Girls Summit was held on November 17, 2007 at Crisfield High School for the girls of Somerset County in grades 5-12. The sub-theme was "It's always too soon to quit, but never too late to start".

This summit was similar in structure to the "Steppin' Up Our Game" Youth Summit held for the boys of Somerset County in June of 2007.

The "I Am Beautiful" Girls Summit was a day geared toward providing education and empowerment for the youth. Transportation was provided to and from the event. The youth participated in three workshops of their choice, focused on providing life skills, empowerment and education. The workshop themes included Healthy Choices, Images, and Impressions, Careers for Women, and Fatherly Advice

About Life. The girls were provided with a breakfast and lunch as well.

The morning keynote speaker was Shanae Watkins, who was featured in the award-winning documentary "Girlhood". Ms. Watkins spoke with the girls about her life experiences and how she turned her life around by making positive choices. The participants were able to ask Ms. Watkins specific questions regarding her presentation.

David Miller, Chief Visionary Officer of the Urban Leadership Institute, was an integral part of developing the summit and provided many of the speakers for the day.

In addition, a DJ was enlisted during lunch for entertainment, and informational kiosks ranging from local summer activities for youth to college recruitment information were set up for the youth to peruse during lunch. A step troupe from the St. James United Methodist Church performed a routine in the morning, and was also available during lunch to teach dance steps to

the girls.

Additionally, a comment sheet was posted during lunch, where the girls were able to express their feelings and impressions of the day's events. Comments such as "This is great, I would love to come again", and "Thanks" were seen throughout the comment page.

The "I Am Beautiful" Girls Summit was transformed from vision to reality because of the dedication of the planning committee, who worked for several months in the development of this event. The planning committee was comprised of DJS, Gear-Up, Family Services of the Circuit Court, Maple Shade, TLC, Green Gate Farm, SCPS Safe Schools/Healthy Students, St. James United Methodist Church, DSS, parents, and community members.

At registration, each girl was given an "I Am Beautiful" T-shirt, designed by Freedom Art whose directors, Dia Liggons and Eboni Reavis, later led the Paint Your Pain Away workshop.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SOMERSET FAMILY LINK (LOCAL ACCESS MECHANISM)

The Somerset Family Link is a program that acts as an information / referral system, coordinates and links families to services and resources, provides individual family to family support, builds family to family support in the community, coaches families on using effective advocacy skills, develops a plan of service through family collaboration, and provides follow-up services with families.

In July of 2007, the Family Navigator began working with a family, in particular their son, who had no idea what his future held. The Family Navigator began working with this young man and his family, and after several family gatherings and outings, he began mak-

ing remarkable strides. The changes began after he told the Family Navigator that his girlfriend was pregnant. They discussed his future, and he confided that he planned to get a job and take care of his responsibilities. He heard that a local organization was hiring kitchen help. The Family Navigator assisted him in filling out the job application, provided interviewing techniques and staged a mock interview when he was asked to come in for interviewing, and aided the young man in filling out his employment paperwork after he was hired for the position.

He has shown great responsibility, reporting to work on time and developing

a good working rapport with his co-workers. He has since been promoted from dishwasher to working with the catering department. He has opened a checking and savings account, received a valid MD Identification card, and obtained copies of his social security card and birth certificate. He is even paying for his own cell phone bill. He is developing into a responsible young adult, and still receives support and encouragement from the Family Navigator.

Somerset Family Link can be reached at 410-623-2248

COMMUNITIES MOBILIZING FOR CHANGE ON ALCOHOL

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) is a prevention strategy aimed at reducing the availability of alcohol to minors (13-20 years old) by affecting public support of underage alcohol consumption, changing institutional policies that enable alcohol use by minors, and enforcement laws regulating alcohol sales. This is done through community involvement, media education, skill development and alcohol sales compliance checks.

The Somerset County Local Manage-

ment Board, the Somerset County Health Department and the Maryland State Police have worked together in recent months to conduct underage alcohol buying stings all over Somerset County. As citations, fines and license suspensions were handed down, alcohol selling establishments got the message that if they wanted to do business in Somerset County, selling to minors would not be tolerated. As a result, fewer merchants have failed recent compliance checks.

A lot more needs to be done to prevent underage alcohol use in Somerset County. If you would like to see how you can make a difference, contact Jessica Lambertson, CMCA Coordinator, at 443-523-1760.

"The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant number EUDL-2006-1505. All points of view of this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency."

HEALTHY FAMILIES

Healthy Families Lower Shore is a home visiting program for families who are prenatal or have newborns. We would like to take this time to highlight a success story of a family that this program has been working with.

The mother is a 16 yr old single mom who did not have stable housing, which made contact difficult. Intensive creative outreach" efforts were utilized, and the family was engaged in services. The home visitor was able to assess in conjunction with the mother services that were needed. A plan of services was

then implemented, including providing the parent with educational material, etc.

After subsequent visits, the home visitor began emphasizing the importance of bonding and attachment during the first year of life, and assisted the family in finding a stable home with support relatives. The mother has recently become receptive to the child development information, and is interacting with the baby in a very positive way. The home visitor discovered that the mom loves to read, and is now emphasizing parenting

materials that accent her love of reading.

The home visitor has seen a tremendous difference in the mother's interaction with children since the beginning of the program. This young family is now on a positive track with continued support from her family and the program.

Healthy Families Lower Shore can be reached at 410-621-0889.

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Empowering Children, Youth and Families

We're on the Web!
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FUN AND GAMES

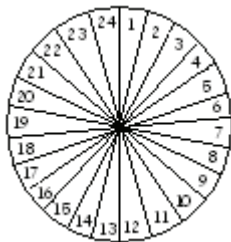
The 40 Developmental Assets are positive experiences, relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. They are also the building blocks of healthy development that take a common sense approach to helping young people thrive. In each newsletter, we will be highlighting one of the 40 Developmental Assets by providing the definition and an activity that helps to build and develop that particular asset.*

In this newsletter we will be focusing on Assets 17-20: Constructive-Use-Of-Time. These assets are as follows:
Creative Activities: Young person spends 3 or more hrs per wk in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts. Youth Programs: Young person spends 3 or more hrs per wk in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community. Religious Community: Young person spends 1 or more hrs per wk in activities in a religious institution. Time at Home: Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" 2 or fewer nights per wk. These assets reinforce the idea that children and teenagers need opportunities to explore who they are and where they fit in—to find satisfying activities and learn new skills. This activity will help create a

conversation about ways young people can use their time in asset-building ways.

Time Chart

Draw two circles, as shown below. Label one "How I spend my time now", and the other "How I'd like to spend my time".



1. In the first circle, representing a 24-hour day, have your child fill in the hours he or she now spends on various activities (sleep, television, meals, school, play, homework, etc).
2. In the second circle, have your child fill in how he or she wishes the day looked.
3. Talk about what your child changed in the second circle and how to make some of the changes happen.

Mission:

To promote a safe, healthy and stable environment for all Somerset County children and families by achieving a comprehensive system of education, health, and human services through public and private interagency collaboration.

Vision:

Somerset County is a community in which the entire family feels safe, supported and involved; youth are active and involved; adults excel in the workforce; and people from all socioeconomic levels contribute to the community.

4. With preteens and teenagers, discuss the assets in the constructive-use-of-time category. Ask your child which activities he or she would like to participate in that would build these assets, and why.
5. Share with your child any of the activities you enjoyed at his or her age and why you think they were important to you.**



* Adapted from *Building Developmental Assets in School Communities*. Copyright © 2004 Search Institute®, Minneapolis, MN; 800-888-7828; www.search-institute.org. All rights reserved.

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