



YorkCounts reports on charter school, policing initiatives

The group held its annual summit Friday at Penn State York.

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For the Daily Record/Sunday News

Updated: 03/27/2010 07:12:23 AM EDT

Plans are underway to improve York County's police protection, establish an International Baccalaureate charter school and improve graduation rates.

YorkCounts, during its annual summit Friday at Penn State York's Pullo Family Performing Arts Center, presented a variety of reports expected to impact the county.

Charter school: Dennis Baughman and Sue Krebs, co-chairs of the YorkCounts Educational Opportunities Committee, gave an update on the York Academy Regional Charter School.

Right now, pre-enrollments include 123 students from city schools, 48 from York Suburban and 39 from Central York. A board of trustees for the charter school will meet for the first time April 7 at Penn State York.

Initially, the school will include kindergarten, first and second grades and be located in the historic Smyser-Royer building at 32 W. North St.

in the city's Northwest Triangle development area.

Police: YorkCounts Public Safety Study Committee chairman Steve Hovis said nine municipalities and five police departments were represented on a board to study municipal police protection and the possibility of a county police department.

Under consideration are the effectiveness and costs of standalone, multi-municipal and countywide police forces; reconfiguration; and the potential elimination of some local departments.

The board is reviewing a proposal from the Police Executive Research Forum, a nonprofit that will study who is in, who is out, costs involved and how to deal with pensions, as well as look at staffs, budgets and facilities.

Efforts to combat crime cannot stop at neighboring borders, Hovis said.

YorkCounts plans to raise at least half the money for the study, estimated to cost \$72,000, and the City of York agreed to seek funding to help with the balance, YorkCounts director James DeBord said.

Truancy: Bob Woods, a YorkCounts board member and executive director of the United Way of York County, delivered the Stay In School report.

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Funding has been raised to create a Communities That Care prevention model, which will focus on keeping York County kids in school, Woods said.

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--- York Academy Regional Charter School's Web site: yorkarcs.org

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