

Resources to Assist Families with Attendance Concerns

Strengthening Families

The Strengthening Families Program is a parenting and family-strengthening program for high-risk families. It is an evidence-based family skills training program, which has been shown to reduce problem behaviors, drug, and alcohol use in youth, delinquency, and child maltreatment. It has been shown to increase social competencies and school performance for youth. The program is open to all York County residents with a concentration on youth of middle school age and above. This program is an 8-session cycle program with each session being 3 hours in length.

The four agencies listed below are currently leading this program. Each agency leads sessions at various schools within the County of York. This program is open to all York County residents. Participants are not restricted to the school district they reside.

The Agency is projecting an increase in utilization of this program to continue to address truancy and decrease placements. The Agency intends to continue to support funding and expansion for this existing community-based program.

Target Population: At risk youth of middle school age and above and their parents/caregivers who reside within York County.

Program service locations: Varying York County School Districts. Interested participants will be directed to their home school district or the closest service location.

Contact Information:

Memorial Hospital Community Health and Wellness
Attn: Helen S. Gyimesi, BS
1420 Sixth Avenue Suite 3, York, PA 17403
Phone: 717-815-2788 Fax: 717-851-1041

Adams/Hanover Counseling
Attn: Tami Rasef
1195 Roosevelt Avenue
York, PA 17404
Phone: 717-843-0800

Family-Child Resources
Attn: Marie Bell
3995 East Market Street, York, PA 17402
Phone: 717-757-1227 Fax: 717-757-1353
www.f-cr.com

It Takes a Village York/Adams county
Attn: Eileen Grenell
1 Market Way W # 207
York, PA 17401
(717) 650-1469

Family Child Resources, Inc.

Family Child Resources offers a wide array of preventative programs that aim to prevent or reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The supported programs are: Kids Group/Support/Psychosocial educational groups for children, Parent Education, and the In-Home Parenting of Infants programs.

Family Child Resources also offers several programs that provide families with learning opportunities intended to provide the skills to decrease truancy.

School Attendance Issues

This class is a 2-hour session for parents and adolescents who are interested in learning and understanding specific strategies to utilize to combat truant behaviors. This class defines both parental and youth responsibility regarding school attendance. Family communication, limit setting, using consequences, and building empathy are among the strategies discussed. Parents are given the opportunity to practice new skills or improve on their established skills to better ensure their youth's consistent attendance in school. Youth work on skill building in areas of decision making, social skills, and assuming responsibility for their behaviors.

This program is appropriate for youth middle school aged and above. Parent(s)/caregiver(s) and youth attend this 2-hour session together. Parents and youth meet together for the initial portion, then break into separate groups to focus on their respective topics. Families reunite for the third portion of the program.

All offered programs are free or at little cost to participants. Please refer to the enclosed FCR Service Matrix for further details regarding *target populations, program locations, and contact information* for each of the specific programs.

Check and Connect

Check and Connect is an evidence-based intervention program offered to families and youth who are in need of direct and immediate intensive services due to truancy. This program is one of 27-dropout prevention interventions reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse to date, and the only one found to have positive effects for staying in school.

The youth must be a nonviolent offender and the family and youth must be agreeable and cooperative with the services. Check and Connect provides intensive services by matching a mentor with the family and youth. The mentor aims to create a partnership with the family and youth by working consistently with them for a minimum of two years. During the two years the mentor helps to address student engagement in school by regularly checking on their school adjustment, behavior, and educational progress. Mentors also assist the family and youth by intervening in a timely manner to re-establish and maintain the student's connection to school and learning in addition to enhancing the student's social and academic competencies.

Target Population: Youth who attend the three school buildings listed below.

Program service locations: Check and Connect is currently offered in York county as a pilot program, therefore it is only offered at the following three schools;

York City School District's Edgar Fahs Smith Middle School

Southwestern School District's Emory Markel Middle School (9th Grade students only)

Northeastern School District's Middle School (9th grade students only)

Contact Information: Interested parties who meet the above criteria must contact their school building for more information.

Pennsylvania Counseling Services

Pennsylvania Counseling Services (PCS) offers a wide array of services that assist with mental health and addiction issues from a psychological and spiritual perspective.

School Based Outpatient Services (SBO)

SBO is a community-based alternative to traditional outpatient therapy. SBO places therapists in schools to meet the mental health and drug & alcohol treatment needs of students. This service allows students to have access to treatment during the school day. SBO offers individual, family, and group counseling.

Target Population: At risk children who are enrolled at the schools listed under program service locations.

Program service locations: Offered at all school buildings within the York City School District: Davis Elementary, Devers Elementary, Ferguson Elementary, Goode Elementary, Jackson Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Edgar Fahs Smith Middle School, Hannah Penn Middle School, Lindberg Academy, and William Penn High School.

Contact Information: Children's Services
128 North George St. York, PA 17401
Phone: (717) 848-6116 Fax: (717) 852-7580
www.pacounseling.com

Family Group Decision Making

Utilization of Family Group Decision Making through It Takes A Village continues to grow in York County. The outcomes of the practice for York youth have been favorable to this point, with decreased rates of re-entry for children and prevention of placement for those referred on the intake level.

Outcomes have also shown that children of families who have participated in a Family Group Conference are less likely to have additional substantiated abuses. From November 2008 to March 2010, 74% of the families who participated in a Family Group Conference had their cases closed within 12 months of the conference.

Family Group Decision Making seeks to strengthen partnership and collaboration between a family and agencies within their community by involving immediate and extended family, support people, community members, and service providers. Most conferences last between 3-5 hours, depending on the amount of time the family uses during the Information Sharing and Private Family Times. Each family determines the invitation list and location for their Family Group Conference. Preparation for a Family Group Conference takes approximately 3-4 weeks. Anyone in connection to the family is able to refer for this service.

Target Population: All at risk families.

Program service locations: Throughout all York County.

Contact Information: York County Human Services
100 W. Market Street Suite 401, York, PA 17401
Phone: 717-771-9347 or 1-800-441-2025

Educational Screening

Educational Screening is a tool York County's Office of Children, Youth, and Families caseworkers will utilize to determine the appropriateness of a student's educational placement. This program is presently in its beginning stages, thus its details are currently being refined.

Target Population: All youth currently working with Children, Youth and Families.

Contact Information: York County Children, Youth, and Families
100 W Market St
Phone: 717-846-8496

Additional Community Services

The purpose of this document is to highlight some of the evidence-based programs offered within York County that aim to assist families in developing the necessary skills to prevent and resolve attendance issues and fines. However, it is believed that truancy is often a symptom of a larger issue within a family, thus families may sometimes be in need of additional assistance that may not necessarily be truancy focused.

Information regarding additional local community services can be found at www.yccvcs.org and in the enclosed 2011 Resource Directory. These resources provide descriptions and contact information for services in categories such as but not limited to; Abuse/Neglect, Case Management/Debt Management, Child Care, Elderly Supervision Services, Community Center, Counseling/Mental Health Services, Education, Elderly/Disabled, Employment, Financial Assistance, Food, Personal Items, Clothing Needs, Household Needs, Housing/Utilities, Legal Services, Medical/Dental Services, Substance Abuse, Transportation, and other miscellaneous services.