



Connections

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SEPTEMBER 2016



Youth and adults working together to build a
Healthy Community for Healthy Youth

Support

Community

Empowerment

Positive Identity

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHANGES



Jay Hansen,

Director of Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Health, retired from the Executive Committee in August. He has served on the Executive Committee

since 1996. Jay has been instrumental in the implementation of many substance abuse prevention and youth development strategies. He is an outstanding advocate for youth and will be missed in this leadership role.

Dr. Jadie Meyer,

Director of Special Education & Student Services, is the new Mason City Community Schools representative on the Executive Committee. She previously served as the administrator for our special school programs and coordinated the district's Challenging Behavior Team. Prior to coming to Mason City, Jadie served as a sector coordinator for the Mississippi Bend AEA and as a special education coordinator for the Urbandale Community Schools.



Tipping the
Balance

Changing
the Norm

A symposium focusing on needs and ideas
for youth behavioral health issues

AUGUST SYMPOSIUM ENGAGES PEOPLE FROM 9 COUNTIES

Fifty-five people, representing a variety of community sectors, attended the Youth Task Force symposium on August 10th. Eight presenters shared information about current and planned future mental health efforts. MCPD Chief Brinkley brought Julie Saxton, Mental Health Advocate from the Ames Police Dept. to the event to share what the Ames department is doing around this issue. They also shared input on the top issues impacting referral and service provision for youth.

All participants completing surveys indicated information from the symposium related to their work or community efforts. 80% indicated information related to their personal lives.



Youth Task Force ANNUAL MEETING

Sept. 28, 2016 11:30-12:15 Music Man Square

Open to the public and lunch will be provided

RSVP Required

RSVP: <http://doodle.com/poll/3ewhyk3svcxigvyh>

Like us on Facebook!

Web page: www.masoncityyouthtaskforce.org

Positive Values

Commitment to Learning

School

Boundaries & Expectations
Family

Constructive Use of Time



YOUTH
MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID®

ALMOST 500 FIRST AIDERS TRAINED IN YEAR ONE

By August 30, 501 adults will have been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid during the first year of North Iowa Project AWARE under a NITT AWARE-C grant from SAMHSA. The six Instructors certified as part of this grant have provided training to adults who interact with youth, ages 12-18, from a variety of community sectors. First year workshops have included:

- ⇒ Mason City Police Dept.
- ⇒ Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office
- ⇒ Clear Lake Police Dept.
- ⇒ Mason City Fire Dept.
- ⇒ Partners 4 Children agency members
- ⇒ NIACC
- ⇒ West Fork School District
- ⇒ Francis Lauer Youth Services
- ⇒ Garner/Hayfield/Ventura School District
- ⇒ Mason City Community Schools

A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO OUR INSTRUCTORS

AND

TO THE PARTNER AGENCIES WHO FUND INSTRUCTOR TIME TO PRESENT THE WORKSHOPS!

Francis Lauer Youth Services-a YSS organization (*Instructor-Nic Determann*); Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Health (*Instructor-Meagen Wentz*); Mason City Schools (*Instructor-Jeremy White*); Mason City Police Dept. (*Instructor-Capt. Mike McKelvey*); North Iowa Youth For Christ (*Instructor-Darwin VanHorn*); and Four Oaks (*Instructor-Robin Schwickerath*).



On June 28th, One on One mentors and mentees were treated to a dinner cruise on Lady of the Lake. It was a gorgeous night to spend with kids and adults in our program. Participants from Mason City, Clear Lake, West Fork, and the Garner program attended. This event was sponsored in part by the United Way of North Central Iowa and Alliant Foundation grants.



We are currently seeking mentors for boys and girls in our program. Contact Jessica, at 421-2708, to learn more!





**NEW YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR**

We welcomed Molly Beckmann as our new Youth Engagement Coordinator in August. She will be coordinating the Youth Action Teams at the three high schools

in Mason City. Molly also works at Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare as a Prevention Specialist.

She grew up in the Des Moines area and moved to Mason City shortly after graduating from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Family Services. She has a lot of experience working with youth and is excited about her new role with the MCYTF.

In her free time, Molly enjoys camping, being around friends and family, and looking up new recipes and crafts on Pinterest to make.

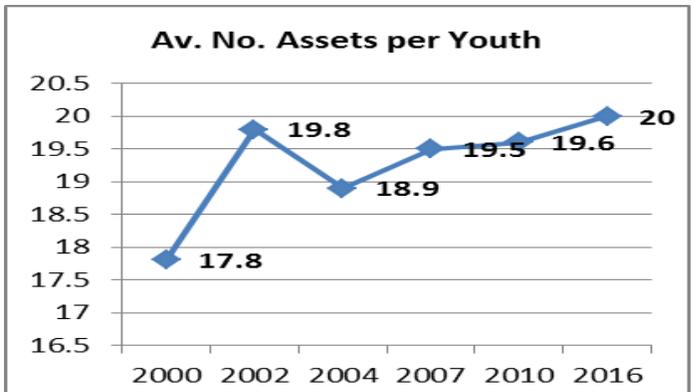
**YTF PARTNERS ON
NORTH IOWA
TRAUMA INITIATIVE**

The Youth Task Force is a member of the application team in a grant received by Four Oaks from the Telligen Community Initiative. The goal of the North Iowa Trauma Initiative (NITI) is to improve the quality of trauma informed care provided to children and adolescents and to increase access to effective trauma-focused responses for children and adolescents across a six county N. Central Iowa area. This funding will bring the services of the Midwest Trauma Services Network and the International Trauma Center to North Iowa over the next year. A leadership team is in the process of being established and community sector groups from across the area will be recruited.

**WHAT THE NEW
PROFILES OF STUDENT
LIFE SURVEY TELLS US**

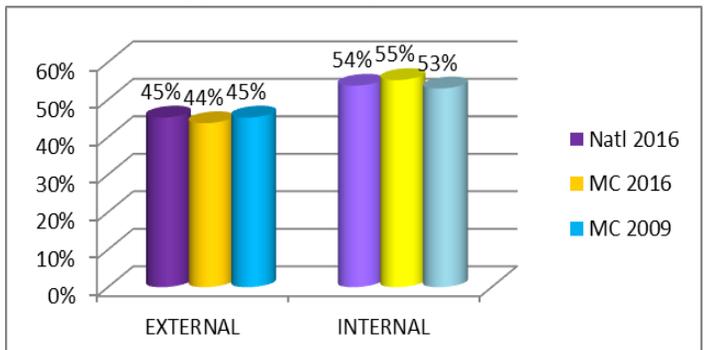
This survey measures positive youth development assets in youth. 235 students in grades 7, 9, and 11 completed surveys during the third week in March 2016. This represents approximately 40% of students in these grades at John Adams Middle School and MCHS and is the same percentage of students surveyed in previous years.

Assets are building blocks. The more assets a young person has, the better!



There has been a 12.4% increase in the average number of assets reported/youth since 2000.

There are 40 developmental assets measured by this survey. Half of these are external assets-what communities and families can provide youth. Half of these are internal assets-what communities and families can help young people develop in themselves.



More local youth report internal assets than report external assets.

September & October 2016

YTF Meetings & Events

SEPTEMBER

- 16-Marketable Skills Promise Team meeting
- 20-Mason City High School Youth Action Team meeting
- 22-Newman High School Youth Action Team meeting
- 21-Co-sponsor: Heroin/Opioid meeting
- 28-Youth Task Force Annual Meeting**

OCTOBER

- 4-Co-Sponsor: Community agency collaboration lunch -United Way
- 4 & 18-Mason City High School Youth Action Team meeting
- 13 & 27-Newman High School Youth Action Team meeting
- 19-Executive Committee meeting
- 19 & 20-Co-Sponsor: North Iowa Trauma Initiative community sector meetings

NOW RECRUITING YOUTH ACTION TEAM VOLUNTEERS!



As the beginning of the 2016-17 school year approaches, the Youth Actions Teams will begin looking for new members to join. Youth Action Teams meet twice a month at Newman Catholic, MCHS, and MCAHS. The only requirement to participate is that you attend one of the high schools listed and are in grades 9th-12th.

Youth Action Teams are a great way for youth to learn about and educate peers on issues like alcohol, tobacco, and violence. Each year the youth work hard to educate others on these issues and are invited to participate in the planning of a fun youth led event second semester.

*It's also a great way to meet people
and to build a resume :)*

If you are in high school or know someone who may be interested, contact our Youth Engagement Coordinator Molly Beckmann.

mbeckmann@masoncity.net or call (515) 314-3094

MENTORING MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

♥ 100% of 2016 mentees reported they did not use alcohol, marijuana, or tobacco during the past 30 days.

♥ 81.5% of local youth with mentors believe people in our community care about youth their age, compared to 19% of youth in the general population.

There are currently 19 youth in Cerro Gordo County waiting for a mentor!

Contact Jessica Prazak-Mentoring Coordinator
Email: jprazak@masoncity.net PH: 421-2708



If you would like to receive this newsletter by email,
please contact us at mcytf@masoncity.net!