# Youth Engagement: Hosting a Student Leadership Conference

**Jill Northey** 

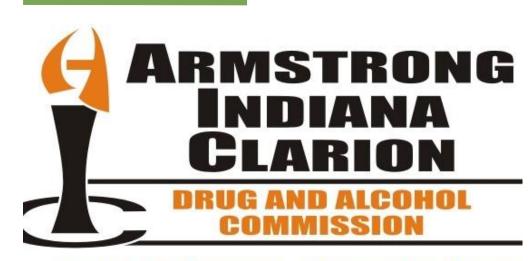
**Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug & Alcohol Commission** 

**Prevention Director** 

www.aicdac.org

### Introduction

- Single County Authority (SCA)
- 48 staff at the Commission
- Prevention offices in Clarion and Shelocta (Al counties)



Maximizing Resources... Empowering Change

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# **AICDAC Prevention Team**



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# **Objectives**

#### **01.** Importance

Understand the importance of hosting events for youth population

#### **02. Coordination**

Coordinate a youth conference to build leadership



#### **03. Event Evaluation**

Evaluate the event to make improvements and recognize success

#### 04. Funding

Describe possible funding sources to host the event

#### **05. Future Planning**

Develop new ideas for future events

Highest 2021 Risk Factors (2021 PAYS)



All grades across the state (% of youth at risk)

Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behavior: 51.5% 2019: 48.2% 2017: 46.2%

Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use: 49.7%

**2019:** 49.2% **2017:** 49.1%

Low Neighborhood Attachment: **44.2% 2019:** 43.5% **2017:** 42.5%

Low Commitment to School: 56.0%

**2019**: 50.2% **2017**: 44.7%

### Highest 2021 Protective Factors (2021 PAYS)



All grades across the state percentage: Family Domain

Family Attachment: 59.9%

Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement: 59.9%

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement: 56.3%

All values decreased from 2019.

## **Student Leadership Conference**

Purpose: a free event for high school students to learn about topics related to substance use, mental health, peer pressure refusal, and local resources. The one-day event brings awareness to students by fun activities, presentations, and prizes.

- Host two conferences annually in March:
  - Clarion County
  - Armstrong and Indiana counties combined
- Conferences are set up the same
- One day event during school hours
- Free event
  - Students attend at no charge
  - Lunch and snacks are provided for attendees
  - Reimburse school districts for transportation and substitute teacher costs
  - Offer continuing education credits for teachers-Act 48 credits

- All school districts in the three counties are invited to send around 10 high school students to attend
- Drug Free Coalition members are asked to volunteer and attend the event
- Local human service agencies set up info tables for the kids explaining resources
- Several prizes are donated for students to win



### **Pre Conference Timeline**

#### **Summer**

Determine conference dates and reserve facilities

Select conference theme

Plan for presentations/ speakers, activities

#### Fall

Schedule with presenters

Send out "save the date" flyers to school districts

Request for prize donations

Plan lunch menu

#### Winter

Official event invitations to school districts and RSVPs are returned

Invite human service agencies to the event

Design and order conference shirts

#### **February-March**

Confirm details with all parties involved

Create agenda, evaluation form, and room set up

Follow up with school districts who haven't RSVP'd

Purchase supplies

# **Agenda Items**

#### **Presentations**

- Listen Lucy
- "Magic of Hope" -Anthony Grupido
- "Think Fast" gameshow
- "No Big Deal"- Saltworks Theatre
- Topics from local professionals:
  - Video Game & Screen Time Addiction
  - Stress Management
  - Being Mindful

#### **Break-out Groups**

- Family Feud about mental health
- Impairment stations
- Recovery testimonies
- Vaping awareness
- DUI Simulation

#### **Vendor Exhibit & Prizes**

- Tickets to win prizes
- All students receive 5 tickets at registration
- Earn more tickets by interacting at the vendor exhibit
- Donated Prizes:
  - Local attractions & gift baskets
  - Pittsburgh Zoo
  - Altoona Curve
  - Kennywood
  - Erie Seawolves
  - Phipps Conservatory
  - Delgrosso's Amusement Park











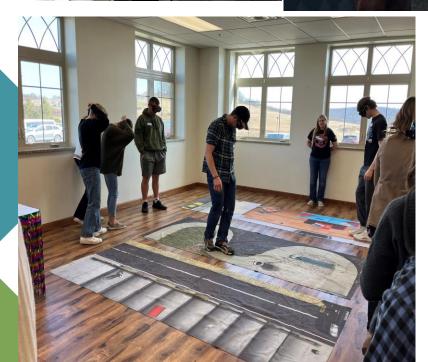
















### **Post Conference Timeline**

#### **March-April**

Send thank you cards to donors

Review completed evaluation forms

Send reminders about invoices for reimbursement

Submit Act 48 credit documents

#### **Spring**

Schedule planning meetings

### **Evaluation**

- Create conference survey for all attendees to complete
- Each agenda item is evaluated
  - Registration, Presentations, Activities, Vendor Exhibit, Food, Prizes
- Rating scale: Excellent, Above Average, Average, Below Average, Poor
- Test knowledge from conference content
- List favorite section of the conference
- Suggest topics for next year
- Additional comments



**Evaluations are compiled after the conference and assessed by staff** 

**Review successes and plan for improvements** 

**Evaluations are saved electronically and submitted for Act 48 credits** 

# **Funding**

Contract with Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP)

- Block Grant
- SOR
- General Prevention
- Gambling Grant for specific presentations

Drug Free Communities Grant (Clarion County)

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) Grant

Local donations



# **Every Connection Matters**

#### **Build partnerships**

School districts, human service agencies, drug free coalitions

#### **Connect with students**

Importance of youth engagement

#### **Offering local resources**

Extra support for students and families and how to help someone

#### **Bringing awareness to vital topics**

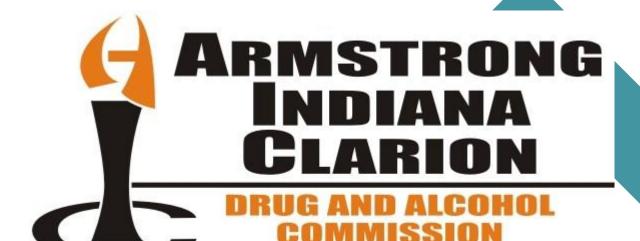
Supporting healthy behaviors and encouraging positive decisions

#### **Being a leader**

Enhance knowledge in order to help others







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