

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2000
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Anthony Conyers, Jr., Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: Youth Services

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with background information prior to your October 25th work session on youth services. In our presentation, we plan to discuss:

- Needs of youth in the community
- Our goals for youth services
- How we provide services
- The services that we currently provide

We have also invited a few members of the Youth Advisory Council to attend the work session.

Needs

The youth of James City County have the same problems and issues as all youth. There are a variety of statistics and reports that highlight these issues. For example, a recent PRIDE survey conducted by the Schools revealed the following: 25.5 percent of 6th grade students said they drank beer within the past year, 47.7 percent of 8th grade students, and 57.6 percent of 12th grade students. The same survey showed that 3.2 percent of 6th grad students said they used marijuana within the past year, 20.6 percent of 8th graders, and 33.7 percent of 12th graders.

Some other interesting statistics include:

- 1,412 County youth were served by 9th District Court Services Unit in FY 00
- Social Services conducted 196 child protective services investigations in FY 00
- 10 percent of the school population were enrolled in the Parks and Recreation Before- and After-School Program in FY 00

Goals

We have two major goals that focus on prevention:

1. Prevent substance abuse, academic failure, foster care placement, neglect, and contact with the court system.
2. Promote healthy lifestyles and expand the horizons and opportunities for youth in our community.

How We Provide Services

Although youth are one of our highest priorities, we do not have unlimited resources to serve them. In providing youth services, we strive to be cost effective by applying for grants, taking advantage of Federal and State cost sharing opportunities, forming partnerships, and implementing fees. In our presentation, we will give specific examples of programs we offer using these methods.

Services We Offer

Attached is an inventory of many of the youth programs offered in the community. We will provide more detail about these programs and participation in them.

If you have any questions or want additional information, please let me know.

AC/tlc
youthsvcs.mem

Attachment