

Donna Bailey
Director, Addison County Parent/Child Center
The need for prevention work with youth
House Human Services Committee
April 11, 2019

I am Donna Bailey, Director of the Addison County Parent/Child Center. I am here to talk a bit about our prevention programs in Addison County. Thank you for having me.

First let me say that I believe that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Addison County has and has had for decades, the lowest teen pregnancy rate in the state and lowest unwanted pregnancy rate - This is due somewhat to our social demographics (this is true for all of Vermont), but the consistently low numbers are also due to a focus on prevention and intention on wanted children.

We have worked hard in the last 40 years to create a culture that cares about kids Addison County is proud of our early childhood work and our work helping families.

We know that keeping teens in schools helps prevent early pregnancies.

Nationally, 50% of teen parents have children who are teen parents. In Addison County, we have dropped that number to 8%.

Donna Bailey
Director, Addison County Parent/Child Center
The need for prevention work with youth
House Human Services Committee
April 11, 2019

We do not want to tell teens that are not pregnant that we cannot work with them.

ACPCC has had a small grant through the Department of Health– it has been level funded for more than two decades and it is now blended into our funding and helped to create a culture of prevention through Integrating Family Services. The work started before school health curriculum and mental health clinicians were in schools and we have kept those services for young people through several contacts in the local high schools and middle schools – guidance workers, nurses and mental health workers – along with school administration and teachers.

With these limited funds, we have been able to focus on what works best for youth in our county regarding primary pregnancy prevention. This is what we have found:

Integration with individuals, schools, families and peers is important

Create groups where kids are; in schools, teen centers and at the PCC

Donna Bailey
Director, Addison County Parent/Child Center
The need for prevention work with youth
House Human Services Committee
April 11, 2019

Different level of services are needed and available – there is individual support for youth to get to a doctor, to learn about healthy relationships, pregnancy prevention, STI and STD prevention, trust and knowledge are the foundations. PREP is an evidence-based curriculum for pregnancy prevention for males and females in a group setting. We work on drop out prevention, not smoking, and information regarding the dangers of abusing drugs and alcohol.

We currently have individual meetings. There is a middle school boys group with our nurse, high school girls groups in two high schools and 4 youth in our full time program, alternative education program.

We are building skills to be able to move toward adulthood and building resiliency

We typically work with boys and girls grades 7-12

Primary pregnancy prevention with nurse or outreach (social) worker focusing on sexual education re physiology, relationships and safety – STI STD prevention and creating a medical home (43% of adolescents have been to doctor in last year in Addison County)

Learning Together is our highest level of prevention – it is our in-house school program, 4 of our 12 high school spots for

Donna Bailey
Director, Addison County Parent/Child Center
The need for prevention work with youth
House Human Services Committee
April 11, 2019

prevention – students have individualized supports and programming at the PCC and are enrolled in their local school. ACPCC is paid by schools for students in our alternative education, program Learning Together – contracts pay a base and then 83% of state wide average of student tuition (TPE)

I am wearing a t-shirt that is our prevention group logo – created by the group.

We have some amazing teens in our program that are here and can talk a bit about prevention and how it affects their lives.

Thank you.

Jasmine Arel

Morgan Edgerly