

TCYSD COMMUNITY UPDATES

OCTOBER 14, 2016



We are honored to be charged with investing time, resources, and funding in local Tompkins County communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life, and hope that this quarterly communication will serve as another resource to help create a community where all youth are given the opportunities to thrive.

County Youth Services, *Celebrating* **40** *Years*

In 1977, minimum wage in New York was \$2.30/hr, a gallon of gas cost 0.65 cents, and the Tompkins County Youth Services Department, known at the time as the Tompkins County Youth Bureau, was established. Under the banner “One Caring Adult”, the Youth Services Department is planning a yearlong 40th anniversary celebration.

According to a March 2015 study released by Harvard’s Center on Developing Child, “Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a

supportive adult.” With this in mind the words “One Caring Adult” will be celebrated throughout Tompkins County in 2017 with the hope that many adults realize they can be the difference in supporting a young person to become the next success story.

Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and our newsletters for more information about numerous upcoming events planned throughout the county including a special kickoff in April 2017.



Monthly Messages

In 2010, the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth (CCHY) launched Monthly Messages in an effort to provide helpful information to parents and other allies and advocates of young people. The messages are disseminated electronically and posted on [the CCHY website](#). The early messages focused on such topics as youth and pharmaceutical safety, summer festival safety, and alcohol-free holiday parties since CCHY’s concentration was reducing and preventing youth substance abuse.

Staff members from County Youth Services are now responsible for the messages. In recent years, the messages have broadened to other topics supporting

healthy youth – eating breakfast, teen dating, teen driving, and even the benefits of dog ownership! We gladly welcome article submissions by other community agencies on topics in which they have expertise.

All the monthly messages are archived on [the CCHY website](#) and most are still timely, helpful, and relevant. Please check them out! If you would like to be on our list to receive a message each month, please email us to let us know. And please share them with others who you think may find them helpful.

Sexual Exploitation of Youth it's Happening Here

What is CSEC?

CSEC stands for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. It is defined as “sexual activity involving a child or teen in exchange for, or promise of, something of value to the child or another person.” Something of value” does not always mean money, drugs, or alcohol. More often than not, it includes common and expected needs, such as food, clothing, or a place to stay.

Commercially sexually exploited children may look like the youth you see or work with every day. It is common that exploited individuals do not identify as victims, but rather see their exploiter as a dating partner or trusted adult.

CSEC is happening in Tompkins County, and we as a community are working to combat this issue.

Steps to Action

In March of 2016, individuals from various community organizations and agencies came together to create the CSEC Planning Group. This group meets quarterly, and has been steadily working towards building an

awareness campaign around the topic of CSEC within the Tompkins County community.

Beginning in October 2016, members from the CSEC Planning Group who have received training will begin to train staff from community organizations and agencies, utilizing a CSEC 101 Training Program. This training program will help our community professionals who work directly with youth learn to identify and assist individuals who are being commercially sexually exploited.

In November of 2016, a community awareness campaign will be launched. This will include the utilization of posters and an informational website for public awareness, as well as the dissemination of educational materials to professionals working directly with youth populations.

For additional information on the awareness campaign, or to inquire about hosting a CSEC 101 Training for your organization/agency staff, please contact Caitlin Weems at cweems@tompkins-co.org or 607-274-5310.



School Staff Listing 2016–2017

Each year the Tompkins County Youth Services Department prepares a listing of staff in each of the schools in Tompkins County. The 2016-2017 listing is [now available!](#)

Achieving Youth Results: The Action Step

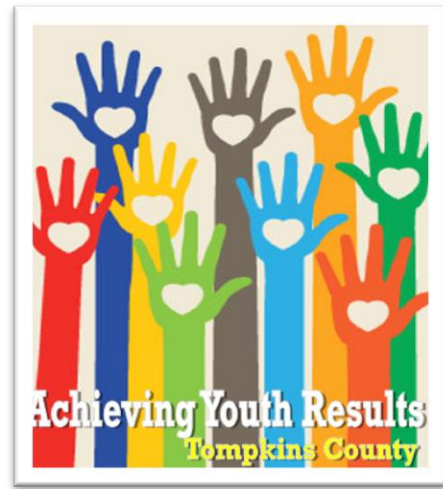
When we began the *Achieving Youth Results* process in the spring of 2015, it was extremely important to the members of our staff that we ensured that the process was open, transparent, and useful to our community. Setting goals and indicators for our youth and families is not something we took lightly. However, I don't think

any of us could imagine how important this work would be to so many in the Tompkins County region.

Our staff has been working with various partners to pull together a community action plan. This plan will include strategies that our community can implement to make changes to support the positive movement of our

indicators and the accomplishments of our goals. Although we don't know what strategies will be put in place, we do know that no one strategy will accomplish all of the goals. In order to move the indicators we need so much more than one agency, organization, or individual can ever accomplish, we will need the whole community to make a difference.

If you and/or your organization would like the opportunity to review the proposed action steps please contact Amie Hendrix at ahendrix@tompkins-co.org.



Program Spotlight: Rural Youth Services Girl Ventures

What does going to a restaurant with table cloths for the first time, building a wall, and meeting new friends from different communities have in common? Ask the 30 girls who are in "Girls Ventures"! Thanks to the City Federation of Women's Organizations, Women's Building Community Grants, the "Girls Ventures Group" was formed. This program targets low income girls who may have low self-esteem, few career aspirations, and a narrow view of the world. The participants are from Groton, Lansing, Dryden, Enfield, Caroline, & the Town of Ithaca. The program is designed to empower young women, build confidence, improve self-image, expand physical ability, and perceptions of "women's work". Some of the activities include visiting Seneca Falls Women's Rights Museum, going to Sister Friend, canoeing, high ropes course, carpentry for women course by Hammer Stone School, and lots more. The girls get together monthly and many were placed in jobs for the summer. The first year was a success with improvements shown in the increase of participants self-esteem and confidence as measured by pre and post-tests.



Going to Sister Friend, an first time experience all of these girls shared.



Group team building activity!

Opportunities for Involvement

Do you support the mission of investing time, resources and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life? Are you willing to commit to providing your thoughts, insights, and time to help advise the Youth Services Department?

If you answered yes to these questions perhaps membership on either a local youth commission or the Tompkins County Youth Services Board is the right fit for you!

Current vacancies include:

- **Tompkins County Youth Services Board** is in need of representatives from Caroline, Danby, Groton, Newfield and Ulysses/Trumansburg, as well as two Tompkins County youth ages 16-21.
- **The Joint Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Towns of Ithaca and Caroline or the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing.
- **The Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Town of Dryden.
- **The Town of Ulysses and Village of Trumansburg Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members reside in the Town of Ulysses and Village of Trumansburg.
- The **Community Coalition for Healthy Youth** continues to meet monthly to bring partners together to reduce youth substance use. Please come to a meeting if you think you might be interested; dates and times can be found at www.healthyouth.org.



For more information on ways you can get involved please contact Amie Hendrix at ahendrix@tompkins-co.org.



Tompkins County Youth Services Department
320 West State/MLK Jr. Street
Ithaca NY 14850
607-274-5310

www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth

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Department invests time, resources, and funding
in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work, and life.*