



## **Barnstable County Council For Children, Youth and Families**

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### **About the Barnstable County Council for Children, Youth and Families**

The Barnstable County Council for Children, Youth, and Families is a unified network that promotes the health and well-being of children, youth, and families on Cape Cod and the Islands. The Council, a group of 150+ members, representing service-providers, educators, funders, administrators, law enforcement officials, businesses, parents, and other interested community members, is led by a 12-member elected steering committee.

The primary function of the Council is to not only mobilize and unite all those working on or interested in issues facing children, youth, and families but to also ensure true collaboration and integration of resources to maximize services and programs and to avoid duplication. A recent survey of our steering committee revealed that just in the leadership of the Council, there are over 50 different networks and coalitions represented, speaking to our strength of bringing diverse community voices together to collectively build on our regions' strengths while collaboratively addressing our challenges. Within our membership, there are a multitude of examples of collaborations and partnerships that have been spawned or strengthened because of Council connections.

The Council has been the authoring body of the application on behalf of Barnstable County to be named one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People* in the country by America's Promise Alliance for three years in a row, and our work and initiatives align with the five promise model of youth work: caring adults; safe places; effective education; opportunities to help others; and a healthy start.

### **2010-2011 Steering Committee**

Kerry Bickford, Co-Chair, Barnstable County/UMASS Extension  
Beth Gaffney, Co-Chair, CACCI/Child Care Network  
Scott Fitzmaurice, Cape & Islands Gay & Straight Youth Alliance  
Kate McHugh, Barnstable Counseling Associates  
Michael Medeiros, MENTOR Network, Barnstable County Human Rights Commission  
Bobbi Moritz, Barnstable Public Schools  
Katri Mullaly, Girl Scouts Eastern Massachusetts  
PJ Richardson, YMCA Cape Cod  
Robin Robinson, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth  
Kathy Quatromoni, Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office  
Lauren Titus, Independence House  
Tina Toran, Coalition for Children

### **The BCCCYF Priority Areas**

Each summer, the Council's steering committee has a retreat to create the work plan for the coming year, keeping in mind that we accomplish our mission by: identifying needs and assets; mobilizing resources; influencing policy; advocating for positive community connections; and promoting and sharing best practices around the five promises. The 2010-11 plan will be developed in September, but here are the priorities from 2009-10.

*Cape & Islands Youth Congress:* A diverse group of high school-aged individuals who are working together to enhance their community, promote positive change, and better prepare themselves and their peers for the challenges they face.

*7<sup>th</sup> Annual Children, Youth, and Families Summit:* A one day event with the purpose of bringing together stakeholders to identify existing services, gaps in services, promote best practices, and connect resources for regional collaborative efforts with the goal of more effectively meeting the needs of children, youth and families on Cape Cod.

*Cape Cod Justice for Youth Collaborative:* A collaborative effort between Barnstable County, the District Attorney, human service providers, police/sheriff, correction and probation officers to develop a comprehensive continuum of effective strategies to address positive interventions to prevent at-risk youth from entering the justice system and to keep youth who enter the justice system from recidivism.

*Child Care Planning Project (includes after-school/out of school time programs)*: A diverse group who work collaboratively with the community to: better define the need for and utilization of child care among working families; identify common barriers to affording, accessing, providing, and building the capacity of high quality child care services; and outline a series of short and long-term goals and recommendations to increase access to affordable, high quality child care for Cape Cod's working families. Work will also focus on supporting grandparents raising grandchildren.

*Effective Education*: To identify educational partnerships and collaborations, including alternative education models and support regional efforts to improve graduation rates. Also includes efforts to support diversity education in schools.

*Mental/Behavioral Health Prevention/Intervention*: To support current community efforts by promoting available resources and encouragement of identification and engagement of at-risk populations early. Also includes efforts to support positive youth role models and mentors.

Interested in the Council? Email [bccyf@gmail.com](mailto:bccyf@gmail.com) for more info. Meetings are open and occur every month other than March from October-June on the second Tuesday from 3-4:30pm at the Hyannis Transportation Center.