



## CASASTART (Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows)

### Results Based Accountability Report Queen Anne's County Community Partnerships for Children and Families July, 2008

#### Target Population

CASASTART is a school-centered positive youth development program aimed at preventing substance abuse and violence among high risk 8-13 year olds.

#### Program Summary

CASASTART case managers work closely with teachers and other school personnel, police officers, social service agencies and neighborhood residents to coordinate, arrange for and provide needed services and support to prevent or counteract the familial, social, educational and psychological factors that make children vulnerable to substance abuse and juvenile crime.

- It focuses on a targeted population
- It reaches children early—before they get hooked on alcohol or drugs
- It focuses on families and creates a support network outside of the program

CASASTART helps families dig out of crises that may be contributing to a child's substance abuse or delinquency, but, more importantly, it places heavy emphasis on building strengths that will help the family – and the child – confront new crises in the future, after their participation in CASASTART has ended. A focus on building assets and resources that endure beyond involvement with CASASTART, even while addressing immediate crises, is central to the program's mission.

#### Fiscal Year 2008 Funding

(1) Maryland Governor's Office for Children	\$ 73,200
(2) Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention	\$ 103,990
Total Funding	\$ 177,190

#### Maryland Child Well-Being Result Areas Addressed

- Children Successful in School
- Communities that Support Family Life

### *What and How Much We Did in Fiscal Year 2008*

- One full time and one part time *CASASTART* Case Managers served 28 at-risk youth under the *CASASTART* grant funded by the Governor's Office for Children
- One full time and one part time *CASASTART* Case Managers and a part time Attendance Officer served 66 at-risk youth under the *CASASTART* Truancy Prevention Grant funded by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- 73 youth were processed for being truant
- 113 client and family assessments were performed

### *How Well We Do It*

- Over 90% of parents were updated on participant progress monthly during the school year
- 87% of the program participants stay enrolled in the program for at least 3 months
- 98% of the parents responding to the Satisfaction Survey indicate that they are satisfied with the services provided

### *Families and Children are Better Off*

- 91% of participants had no Department of Juvenile Services referrals while enrolled in the program
- 84% of participants had less than 8 behavioral referrals in the six months since program enrollment
- Participants data for Kent Island High School, the only school with a full time case manager shows:
  - o An improvement in school attendance rate from 79% at enrollment to 91% by the end of the school year
  - o An increase in GPA from 68% at enrollment to 77% by the end of the school year
  - o Improvement in at least three areas of personal change during program enrollment for all participants

### *A Youth Prevention Model that is a Good Fit for the Community*

- Juvenile crime data for Queen Anne's County shows an increasing number of arrests during the school day.
- The percent of students in Queen Anne's County missing more than 20 days of school has been higher than the state average for the last three years.
- *CASASTART* (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse-Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows) case management program designed by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University is rated as a model program for truancy prevention/reduction by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (U.S. Department of Justice).
- Funding for *CASASTART* programs has had a positive impact on school attendance, grades and behavioral referrals for *CASASTART* participants furthering Queen Anne's County commitment to "Children Successful in School."

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