



# McDowell County FACES Newsletter

## The FACES of HOPE

August, 2014

facesfrn.com

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### BACK TO SCHOOL: AUGUST 18 AND TRUANCY

August starts our school calendar for McDowell County. I think it is appropriate that August is also designated as National Truancy Prevention Month. Children cannot learn if they are not in school.



If you look at the picture above, this school was in Caretta, McDowell County and children walked to school. Families were extremely poor, schools were too cold, too hot, small, had few supplies, etc.



Now look at this picture: We have beautiful buildings, bus-ing for children from their door to the building, state of the art equipment, constant temperatures, all the

supplies we need, and truancy is a problem.

Research, and our own experience, shows that the factors contributing to truancy stem from three realms: family and community, school, and personal psychological characteristics.

Components of effective truancy reduction programs include:

- Parent/guardian involvement, or whole family involvement;
- A continuum of supports, including meaningful incentives for good attendance and consequences for poor attendance;
- Collaboration among community actors such as law enforcement, mental health workers, mentors, and social service providers, in addition to educators; and
- Concrete and measurable goals for program performance and student performance. Good record keeping and on-going evaluation of progress toward those goals.

Research shows that truancy leads to dropout rates. The facts about dropouts (where McDowell ranks high) include:

- Each year 1.2 million high school students drop out of school

- Every 26 seconds a student chooses to drop out of school
- Dropouts are 6 times more likely than high school graduates to commit crime and become incarcerated
- 75% of American's prison inmates are high school dropouts
- More than 80% of prison inmates are functionally illiterate
- Each year dropouts cost the US economy \$329 billion in lost economic opportunity and additional social services (welfare, health care, unemployment, incarceration, etc).

#### What can you do you ask?

Make education a priority in your homes, families, communities, county, etc.

You, the parents/caregivers/guardians are the driving force that determines whether children attend school and get an education sufficient for them to reach their fullest potential.

We must make our schools important to our children so that they want to be in school, graduating, and becoming all they can be. You can help—make the choice!

## DHHR: CPS/APS Centralized Intake Unit

The new protocol for the Child and Adult Protective Service referral process begins this year.

This will impact how referrals are accepted at the county level. Currently each county has a separate intake unit or person that handles abuse and neglect cases daily. A contracted agency handles after hours intake.

Centralizing the intake process will consolidate the individual CPS and APS intake functions into one operation that we be staffed and managed by Bureau for Children and Families employees. All calls will

either go through a centralized system or referred to a centralized system and that group will make the determination on what is moved to intake and caseload. No intake can be done at the county level without going through this system.

When calling centralized intake, you need:

- demographic information;
- type of abuse or neglect suspected;
- is the child/adult in imminent danger;
- location of the child/adult and caregiver;

- is there a protective caregiver present;
- does the alleged perpetrator have access to the child/adult;
- general functioning of the child/adult and caregivers;
- any safety threats for first responders.

To call Centralized Intake:

1-800-352-6513

All local county staff will have to have you call this number as well.

## POWER: Positive Outcomes Within Education and Rehabilitation

WV Division of Rehabilitation Services Job Shadowing Program. POWER offers DRS transition students who are interested in professional careers an opportunity to spend a few hours or a day with a skilled worker in the student's vocational field of interest. DRS is the state agency responsible for the federal vocational rehabilitation program in WV. DRS enables and empowers people with disabilities by providing individualized services to help them prepare for or maintain employment.

DRS provides a variety of services to eligible individuals to help them achieve employment success. DRS services may include vocational counseling and guidance, training, assistive technology, physical and

mental therapeutic services and placement services.

DRS also assists employers in the areas of recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees with disabilities. DRS can provide consultation related to disability, as well as information about assistive technology, disability resources, potential tax credits, workplace accommodations, and other benefits to employers.

DRS POWER Program allows a student to explore a specific career of interest by observing an employee perform his or her work duties at his or her place of employment. The experience should provide realistic career information that will aid the student in making career choices.

Students acquire an understanding of the connection between school, academic achievement, work and accomplishing goals. Students develop a better understanding of job requirements and employers expectations.

All communities need new economic development opportunities. By participating, businesses help students become aware of the employment opportunities within their communities, thus better preparing them for their futures.

Contact:

WV Division of Rehabilitation Services at 1-800-642-8207 or 304-528-5585.

## HOPE Coalition News



During the June and July HOPE Coalition meetings, members shared feeling that the HOPE Coalition had lost steam and while there has been successes over the years it seemed like it has been struggling. All Coalitions must periodically ask the hard questions: have we served our purpose; do we need to continue; are we busy or effective; what impact do we have?

Several members met last month and questioned whether the Coalition should continue and if so, how do we make it stronger. It was felt that local people make informed decisions and changes should be from within the county.

The new structure has four Task Force Headings including:

1. Health;
2. Family Issues;
3. ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) Prevention; and
4. Child Abuse/Domestic Violence Prevention.

Health would have two subdivi-

sions specifically health and wellness and treatment of chronic disease.

Family would include services to new families, fatherhood initiatives, health and safety for the whole family.

Each person currently and recruited to work would determine where they want to commit and it is permissible to serve on more than one task force.

Each Co-Chair would need to make sure elderly issues are addressed.

The co-chairs should receive training on how to facilitate and move these task force groups forward.

### Co-Chairs

Health & Wellness:  
Nathan Acosta  
Jennifer Farmer

Treatment of Chronic Disease:  
Donald Reed  
Shelia Muncy

Family: Jay Wilson  
Karen Wilson  
David Rudolph

ATOD:

Ginger Day  
Laura Trent (unconfirmed)

Child Abuse/Domestic Violence:

DeeAnn Heptus  
Rosie Jackson

The Co-Chairs will contact agencies and individuals for recruitment to their task force. The co-chairs will report out each meeting to the HOPE Coalition and bring any issues to the table for networking, support, etc.

The task force groups will meet as needed during the month

The Coalition will work on job descriptions for co-chairs and it needs to concentrate on what we can accomplish in one year.

For more information or to become involved in this exciting new structure and the work it will encompass contact:

Donald Reed, Chair at 304-436-9001.

Meeting dates: 4th Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at FACES Office—25 Bank Street.

## Social Security Notes

Beginning August, 2014 Social Security will no longer issue Social Security number printouts in the field offices. Individuals who need proof of their Social Security number and cannot find their card will need to apply for a replacement card. In October, 2014 field offices will stop providing benefit verification letters, except in emergency situations. Benefit verifications are available online, and can be obtained anytime by registering for a my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) or registered through the national toll free number at 1-800-772-1213.

# Students Against Destructive Decisions: (SADD) Chapter



## Mission:

To provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, and other destructive decisions.

SADD believes that young people can have fun, enjoy life and nurture positive personal relationships without the distraction and distortion of alcohol. SADD seeks to demonstrate positive and attractive alternatives to alcohol and other drug-infused activities for teenagers.

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SADD does not believe that it is possible to break the law responsibly. SADD and its chapters do not support or condone activities that encourage or enable the use of alcohol by underage young people.

SADD is an inclusive, not an exclusive, organization. SADD recognizes that the pressures on young people to drink, use illicit drugs and engage in other unhealthy behaviors are strong. SADD seeks not to punish or alienate those students who make unfortunate choices but rather aims to inform, educate, support and empower young people to make positive decisions in their lives.

SADD's unique approach involves young people delivering education and prevention messages to their peers through school- and communitywide activities and campaigns

responsive to the needs of their particular locations. Projects may include peer-led classes and theme-focused forums, teen workshops, conferences and rallies, prevention education and leadership training, awareness-raising activities and legislative work. Independent studies have shown that students in schools with an established SADD chapter are more aware of and informed about the risks of underage drinking, other drug use, and impaired driving. Students in schools with a SADD chapter are also more likely to hold attitudes reflecting positive reasons not to use alcohol.

**McDowell County SADD is recruiting students to participate now. Contact Ginger Day at 304-436-5255 for more information and to sign up.**

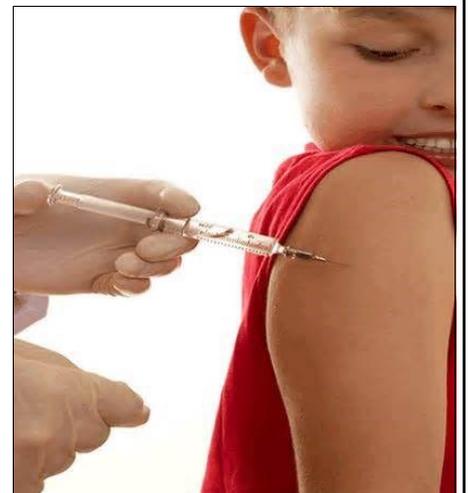
## IMMUNIZATIONS AVAILABLE

### Back To School Shots

**August 1, 2014 at McDowell County Health Department  
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

Regular immunization days are Wednesdays or you can call for an appointment if you cannot come on Wednesdays.

**Remember, your child cannot attend school without being up to date on their immunizations—protect your children, protect others, get your shots now!**



# McDowell County Upcoming Events

## Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes

If you would like to participate in this six-week FREE class!

Contact Ginger Day at 304-436-5255

### McDowell County FACES

August 14, 2014

12:00 noon

Refreshments will be provided, please  
RSVP to 304-436-5255.

### McDowell County

HOPE Coalition

Meeting

August 25, 2014

10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon

## SOUTHSIDE SOCIAL



August 8, 2014

Open House

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Followed By:

Community Schools

Forum

1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.