



Department of Youth Ministry

Living the Orthodox faith in Christ

JUNE 2010

Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth **OCCHY**

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura
Department of Youth Ministry
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Why we need to address the issues of substance abuse.

Source of data used below is from the 2007-2008 Antiochian Archdiocese Survey.

Alcohol use in the 12 months prior to the survey:

38.4%	All teens 10.4% once – 14.7% – 2 to 6 times – 5.8% 6 to 12 times and 7.5% more than 12 times slightly more females than males drank, though not a statistical significant difference
25%	Ages 13-15 (22.5% males and 27% females)
48.8%	High School (22.5% males and 27% females)
66.7%	College Teens (68.2% males and 65.5% females) 16.4% of all females drank 12 or more times in the last month, 15.9% of males
2.5%	Pre-Teens (ages 10-12)

Plan of Action 2010

In response to the needs of our young people and their families, we plan to establish at least one “Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth” (OCCHY) in each diocese and in some of the larger dioceses perhaps two or more with the blessing of the local bishop. The purpose of the coalition is to help educate pre-teens, teens, young adults and parents towards living healthy Orthodox Christian Lives and enabling our youth to live drug free. We will also include education and other efforts towards delaying the onset of sexual activity in youth with the intent of preparing young people for marriage or monasticism and work to assist parents in this endeavor. We seek to do this work in an Orthodox Christian manner and to develop an Orthodox model to be used by other Orthodox parishes and jurisdictions.

Each coalition will work with the local parish and the local community and act as a resource and teaching center for each diocese. Our focus in the first years will be to address the issues of alcohol abuse, tobacco and marijuana use amongst our young people. Our studies indicate that these behaviors, in and of themselves are problems. They are also gateways to other major health and moral issues for our youth. The Federal Government provides matching grants up to \$125,000 annually for up to 10 years to address the issues of substance abuse in the local community. These are local grants – granted to a Coalition in a local area. There is a specific criterion of what the Coalition must do to be eligible for this grant and who is on the Coalition in terms of type of representation.



What do we need to do now to be in a position to request funding for September 2011 for each coalition:

1. Each coalition must have its first documented meeting prior to August 15th of the year prior to requesting a grant. i.e August 15, 2010 to be eligible for September 2011 grant.
2. We need to select one or two host parishes in each diocese that will serve as the local coalition and are willing to do the work on the local level as well as to serve as a resource on the diocesan level for our youth and families.
3. Each Coalition needs to match the Federal Grant each year (for each coalition) in either cash or in-kind donations. I suspect most of us will rely heavily on in-kind donations for professional services, facilities, printing, etc.

The Coalition Host (Parish) will need to:

1. Build the list of the twelve types of people listed below – from the host community area.
2. To apply for funding for September 2011 the coalition needs to have its first official meeting before August 15 – (this would be the start of the actual planning process and no funds need be expended)
3. Work with the coalition to raise its matching grant
 - a. In cash
 - i. Raise from the local business community
 - ii. Raise from local interested benefactors (not parish funds)
 - iii. Seek out other non-government grant money
 - b. In-kind services
 - i. Providing meeting space
 - ii. Office space
 - iii. Printing
 - iv. Etc.
 - c. Provide office space if possible or help secure other space.
 - d. Open your community to the work of the coalition.
 - e. Reach out with the work of the coalition to all Orthodox in the area to equip pre-teens, teens, young adults and parents to make good choices.
 - f. Provide resources to the schools and community in your area in the form of teaching and speaking on these issues and to act as a resource to the community.

We are looking to establish Orthodox Christian Coalitions that address the issues of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and sexual activity amongst our Orthodox Teens and to reach out to the local communities. We will work with you on this and will be the liaison for funding with the Federal Government. We will also establish a national office through the youth department to help facilitate and coordinate the work of each coalition and to act as a support to your local and diocesan efforts.

12 member Coalition Requirements

A representative of each group must sit on the coalition as a full member:

1. **Youth**
 - A person 18 years of age or younger
2. **Parent**
 - Mother/father/guardian/grandparent; PTA –School involved adult
3. **Business**
 - An individual actively involved in and connected to the local business community; Chamber of Commerce/business owner
4. **Media**
 - A representative from a media outlet or other source where the community gets information



5. School

- Principal/Superintendent/School Board Member

6. Youth Serving Organization

- SOYO – youth director

7. Law Enforcement

- Chief of Police/Sheriff

8. Religious Organization

- Bishop/Pastor

9. Civic/Volunteer Groups

- Pan Orthodox Laity/clergy group/Order of St. Ignatius/Fellowship/etc.

10. Health care Professionals

- Doctor/Nurse/Dentist/Mental Health Professional

11. State/Local Government

- SSA/State Prevention or Treatment Director/etc.

12. Other Substance Abuse Organizations

- Prevention/treatment provider or recovery organization

- It is preferred that each of the twelve people listed above come from the host parish(es) and that they be Orthodox Christians in good standing in their parish and they must have the blessing of their pastor.
- Each Coalition, while responsible for their work, will also fall under the direction of the Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry Healthy Youth Director.
- The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese Department of Youth will work with each coalition to submit all paper work including the grant request to the U.S. Government and will act as the coalition agent and receiver of funds where necessary.
- The Department of Youth Ministry, as a registered entity with the Federal Government, will be the manager of all Federal money and will distribute it in accordance with the law to each of the coalitions as they meet their matching grant amounts each month.
- The Department of Youth will work under the final direction of the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese and the local diocesan Bishop.
- More than one coalition may exist in a diocese, though the Department of Youth and diocesan Bishop may direct the coalitions in the same diocese to address different issues affecting the health of youth, so as to provide as many resources to the entire diocese as possible.

What has been done to date:

Have had personal meetings, phone conferences and other correspondences with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. and their various agencies dealing with Substance abuse since December 2009. Additional meetings have occurred with the White House Director of Drug Free Communities, as well as CADCA and other Federal agencies. The White House Director of Drug Free Communities, Mr. Jack Claypoole, as well as other Federal directors have lent their support and assistance to this effort.

In May the Archdiocese Board of Trustees endorsed this effort, as has the Order of St. Ignatius. With the Blessing of his Eminence Metropolitan Philip we have moved to the next step of contacting parishes for their consideration in hosting a coalition. To date four parishes in the Dioceses of the Midwest, Charleston/Oakland, and Wichita have come forward to host coalitions.

We are hoping to have at least one coalition in each diocese.



What are community coalitions?

Community coalitions are comprised of parents, teachers, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health providers and other community activists who are mobilizing at the local level -- and nationally under the CADCA umbrella -- to make their communities safer, healthier and drug-free.

How do coalitions make a difference in communities?

Coalition building is a smart strategy that promotes coordination and collaboration and makes efficient use of limited community resources. By connecting multiple sectors of the community in a comprehensive approach, community coalitions are achieving real outcomes.

Matching Grants

The Federal Government will provide up to \$125,000 per year specifically for the work of the coalition. The coalition must match that amount as follows:

The Matching grant may be funded by:

1. **Cash**
 - a. From individuals
 - b. From local businesses
 - c. From other charities
 - d. From other non-government foundations
 - e. From state and local government
 - f. We are not asking the parishes to take this money from their budgets.
2. **In-kind Matches**

Any kind of work or resource of the coalition that is donated or provided from sources other than the Federal Government counts as part of the match.

For example:

 - Your Parish provides office space - the fair rental value counts towards the match
 - Your parish provides phone service
 - You work so many hours a week on the coalition and your parish pays you - that portion of your salary counts towards the match
 - Professionals in your parish volunteer - their fair rate counts towards the match
 - A computer is donated - it counts towards the match
 - Your parish provides the parish hall for a presentation by the coalition - the fair rental value of the hall counts towards the match
 - etc.

For more information contact the Archdiocese Department of Youth - FrJoseph@OrthodoxYouth.com



FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE PROPOSAL TO DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

Jack W. Claypoole
Administrator, Drug Free Communities
The White House

Title: Prevention of Adverse Health Behaviors in Orthodox Christian Youth
Short Title: Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth (OCCHY)

Sponsoring Organization:

The Department of Youth Ministry
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
18 Crystal Hill Terrace
Westwood, MA 02090 781-255-1757 FrJoseph@orthodoxyouth.com

Archdiocese headquarters:

358 Mountain Road
PO Box 5238
Englewood NJ 07631 201-871-1355

Project Director: V. Rev. Fr. Joseph F. Purpura Jr., BA, MDiv, STM, DMin
Chairman of the Department of Youth Ministry

Length of Project: September 2010 – August 2015

Specific Aims:

1. To create and test a model of: alcohol and drug abuse prevention and intervention; prevention of bullying in schools and in the community; and creating healthy sexual choices among teens and young adults throughout the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of America, reaching a population of approximately 10,000+ youth.
2. To develop a substance abuse prevention program, bullying prevention program, and delaying the onset of sexual activity in youth, directed at having a pre-teen and parent connection.
3. To effectively intervene in the rehabilitation of adolescents and young adults who are chronic alcohol and drug abusers, victims or perpetrators of bullying, as well as equipping youth to make healthy choices surrounding their sexuality, much of which we believe to be interconnected.



4. To determine the impact of the model program on improving healthy choices and practicing healthy behaviors.
5. To establish a surveillance system, identifying and tracking alcohol and drug abuse; bullying in schools and in the community; and sexual activity in youth throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese of America, its treatment and outcomes.
6. To use the evidence-based model in an outreach program to other Orthodox Christian Churches in America to assist their youth from engaging in adverse health behaviors reaching over 40,000 young people.

Reasons for this Request:

This would be the first program in North America within the Orthodox Christian Church of its kind to formally address issues of alcohol and drug use, bullying, and issues of sexuality among youth. This program would stand as a model for other Orthodox Churches, potentially reaching tens of thousands of young people across the United States in the various Orthodox Christian Jurisdictions directly and many more youth and families indirectly. Based on surveys conducted by the Archdiocese and the implementation of a modest program for substance abuse prevention and intervention, the Archdiocese is ready and prepared to launch an effort that will reach children and youth throughout the United States on a continuous basis.

Creation of the Project Advisory Committee:

The Program Director will appoint a Project Advisory Committee of representatives from the following categories: parents, teen, young adult, health education, nursing, school counseling and psychology, substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation, public health, social work, youth workers, medicine, educational administration, marriage and family therapy, theology, and pastoral counseling.

Method:

First six months: September 2010 to March 2011, preparatory activities for implementation of the demonstration project, to include (1) establishing working relationships with the teens, their schools, families, and community, (2) meeting with Advisory Committee to review plans of action, (3) making all necessary arrangements for implementing the Model, and (4) creating an Evaluation System that monitors progress, identifies problems in process and program implementation, and provides the Federal funding agency with evidence-based data about outcomes. One of the outcome measures is to determine the impact of the program on the adolescent's health and academic achievement. The model will be revised as necessary resulting from evidence from the evaluation about ways to improve its process and programs.



April 2011 – March 2014: Full implementation of the model, providing the service to an increasing number of children and youth in the Archdiocese and the development of a database about the application of the model and its outcomes.

April 2014 – August 2015: Analysis of the evaluative research findings and dissemination of the model to all Orthodox Christian Churches in America, providing technical assistance as requested. After completion of the demonstration project, the Archdiocese will continue and sustain the Program through various methods and sources.

Specific strategy:

In each of the 9 Dioceses, a Project Service Coordinator (plus 3 additional coordinators for large dioceses totaling 12) will be appointed who answers directly to the Archdiocese Project Director. The Project Service Coordinator's responsibility is to function as a facilitator of services, including identification of adolescents at risk, working closely with the families of adolescents at risk, working with the schools, working with volunteer deanery advisors, conducting the training program, intervening in chronic adverse health behaviors by arranging the referral of the adolescent to the appropriate community service, and providing follow-up to assure that the service is effective.

Confidentiality and adherence to HIPPA regulations will be guaranteed.

Expected Outcomes:

1. In five years, we will strive to reduce chronic substance abuse by adolescents in the Archdiocese by 50 – 80%, we will reduce bullying evidenced by our youth by 90 – 95%, and equip at least 95% of youth and their parents to address issues of sexual health and behaviors and to enable young people to make healthier life choices.
2. Adolescents at risk for substance abuse who were effectively treated will realize success in various areas of their life and improved health and educational outcomes. Adolescents who overcome bullying in its many forms will be healthier and safer; youth who are the victims of bullying will be healthier and safer as a result of the Program. Young people who delay sexual activity will be less likely to become pregnant out of wedlock; will be less likely to contract sexually transmitted diseases, and will be better prepared for healthy marriages and family life.
3. A fully effective program of prevention will be operational through all parishes across the United States.
4. An effective model of intervention to prevent and intervene in substance abuse, bullying, and irresponsible sexual activity by adolescents will be developed and demonstrated for adoption by other Orthodox Christian Churches in America.