

DUI Council *of Lancaster County*

Annual Report



July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

*Prepared and Submitted by:
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Message from the President

The past year has been one of change, growth and development for the Council. President and Coordinator Barbarba Zortman took advantage of an opportunity for professional growth by accepting a position with the Pennsylvania DUI Association in Harrisburg. This move allowed Barbara to further pursue her interest in the field of DUI prevention and the many other realms of the DUI problem that plagues Pennsylvania.

Her many years with the Council provided knowledge and leadership that is unsurpassed. The Association obviously recognized Barbara's diligent work and important contributions to the DUI cause and rightfully recruited her to help with its own mission. As a result of her efforts, the groundwork has been laid in Lancaster County and the Council will be able to press on in its own quest to make the public more aware of the dangers associated with the irresponsible use of alcohol, and in doing so, hopefully decrease the instances of driving under the influence.

As President and Coordinator respectively, myself and Courtney Barry have large shoes to fill. Barbara continues to remain active in Council dealings and is regularly called upon for consultation. I speak for the rest of the Executive Board and Council membership when I say that we will continue on our mission and develop new and more effective strategies to combat the problem of Drinking and Driving in Lancaster County. We eagerly look forward to establishing new partnerships within our county-wide community and will work hard to strengthen the bonds with agencies with whom we already work.

YOUR DUI Council of Lancaster County is hard-working and cognizant of its responsibilities to the community. We always welcome new membership as it provides additional insight to the problem. I encourage you to review our website, www.duicouncil.org. Here you will find valuable information about an extraordinary group of people with a constant dedication to making the community a safer place.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana M. Pyne

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Overview

History

The Driving Under the Influence Council of Lancaster County came to life in 1987 by way of a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Center for Traffic Safety. The establishment of this "Model County Program" also has financial roots with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The mission and goals of the Council in 1987 are not too much different than those of today. We exist to educate and advocate for the citizenry of Lancaster County in an effort to reduce the incidences of crashes, injuries and deaths associated with driving under the influence.

Today, we rely heavily upon the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission for grant funding. Additional funding sources are continually renewed and efforts are underway to development additional means to obtain monies for operation.

Our funds are administered by AAA Central Penn's Lancaster County Office.

Mission

"We will provide resources throughout Lancaster County that enhance awareness and promote the responsible use of alcohol through education, advocacy and partnerships."

Membership

Council membership is comprised of individuals from the community that bring a host of experiences to the table. Community leaders, private citizens and business persons, and professionals from state, county and local government convene on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30am. Meetings are always held at AAA Central Penn, 804 Estelle Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601 unless otherwise noted on the website calendar.

Understanding the Problem

Drinking and Driving – Lancaster County

The following 2008 data was provided by the Lancaster County Impaired Driver Program. Additional information can be found on its website:

<http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/courts/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=389301>

The Impaired Driver Program completed 1517 Court Reporting Network evaluations in 2008.

Males made up a majority of DUI offenders (76.4%). Nearly 22% of all DUI offenders in Lancaster County are between ages 21 and 24. And roughly 13% are under age 21.

In 2008 the average BAC fell from .17% in 2007 to .16% in Lancaster County.

Saturdays proved to be the busiest days for DUI arrests. 27.4% of offenders were arrested this day.

For all offenders investigated and prosecuted for DUI, 31.9% resulted from vehicle crashes. In 2007, 35% of investigations/prosecutions resulted from crashes.

Incidences of DUI have increased in Lancaster County, but efforts are being made to provide more strict enforcement of the DUI law by both Pennsylvania State Police and municipal police authorities. Grant money has provided additional funds for manning increased roving patrols and staffing for DUI checkpoints. Law enforcement is also addressing the problem by exposing personnel to higher levels of training that focuses on detection of impaired drivers and field testing for those suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

Drinking and Driving – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The following 2007 data was provided by the PA DUI Association. Additional information can be found on its website: www.padui.org.

Alcohol-related crashes = 12,867 (down from 13,616 in 2006)

Alcohol-related deaths = 535 (down from 545 in 2006)

Alcohol-related deaths accounted for 36% of total traffic deaths. (same as 2005 and 2006)

Pennsylvania Percentage of Driver Deaths that were Drinking Drivers

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
16-20	24%	21%
21-25	49%	48%
26-30	43%	48%
41-45	57%	51%

**** 77% of the drinking drivers in traffic crashes were male.**

Programming – Education, Advocacy and Partnerships

10th Annual Resident Assistants' Alcohol Symposium

On August 15, 2008 this educational forum brought together Residence Life staff from both Elizabethtown College and Millersville University in an effort to provide student leaders with information that enhances the safety and well-being of students on the campuses of these institutions of higher education.

Workshops and presentations aim to provide educational tools to Residence Assistants (RAs) that enable them to recognize warning signs of drug and alcohol use and abuse and make the appropriate interventions when necessary.

This training empowers RAs to approach and be approachable as they serve their institutions and aspire to create a spirit of positive peer influence in collegiate living.

20th Annual DUI Awareness Conference at Willow Valley

December 12, 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of a professional gathering that is always well-received by an assortment of professionals in the Lancaster area. The DUI Awareness Conference serves to unite educators, healthcare providers, Court employees, law enforcement personnel, drug and alcohol treatment program providers and other members of the community. Workshops and speakers deliver information to attendees concerning current legal issues, legislation, treatment programs, law enforcement initiatives and strategies that are relevant to the fight against DUI.

A highlight of this event is the recognition of local law enforcement officers who have put forth great efforts to enforce the DUI laws of the Commonwealth and in doing so have netted extraordinarily high numbers of DUI arrests. The DUI Council and co-sponsors Lancaster General Hospital and the PA DUI Association take great pride in honoring those who make the roadways safer for everyone traveling in Lancaster County.

13th Annual Lancaster County Forum Against Underage Drinking

One of the Council's proudest accomplishments is the yearly Lancaster County Forum Against Underage Drinking. The Council is especially passionate about this event because of the extent of the underage drinking problem in Lancaster County. On March 18, 2008 the 13th annual Forum brought together 100+ middle- and high school – aged students and faculty from Lancaster and York County schools. The Forum's purpose is to increase awareness of risks and consequences of engaging in underage drinking and other destructive behaviors. The Forum also empowers participants to take an active role in underage drinking education and prevention. Featured speaker Stephen Bargatze presented to the audience his "Magic of Stephen" performance. Stephen's personal story of struggles and eventual triumph motivates adolescents to take a look at their own lives and consider making better choices.

13th Annual Safe Driving Competition for Youth

The Council proudly contributes to this annual Lancaster County competition. This event strives to encourage youth to practice safe driving behaviors and also emphasizes the zero tolerance underage drinking law of the Commonwealth.

Elizabethtown Communities that Care (CTC) & Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA)

One of Barbara Zortman's greatest legacies will be her initiation of the Council's participation in a cooperative effort with Elizabethtown's CTC program and the joint implementation of a CMCA program in that community.

With direction from Renee Watts of the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission, the Council began working with Gail Viscome and her CTC group to identify risk factors and develop strategies that combat underage drinking and other irresponsible uses of alcohol in the Elizabethtown Community. Elizabethtown College and School District, Elizabethtown Police Department and Lancaster County Juvenile Probation are just a few agencies that have pledged support and come forward to join this grass-roots coalition in its quest to change the perception of alcohol use in Elizabethtown.

The Council's hope is that the CMCA program can be replicated in other communities throughout Lancaster County to bring about more awareness with regards to drinking and driving and underage access and use of alcohol.

Students Against Destructive Decisions

On November 19 several Council members attended the 18th annual PA State SADD Regional Conference at the Lancaster Host. By attending this event, the Council was able to see what other organizations in Eastern PA are doing to promote abstinence among youth. The information was well-received and the Council is eager to apply some of this new knowledge toward our community-based activities such as the newly organized CMCA Program.

Academic Settings

Council Vice-President and Impaired Driver Program Prevention Specialist Jeff Breckenmaker attended several community events on behalf of the Council. Jeff totes display material and promotes the Council's message by make our presence known at these community events. Activities this year included a student health fair at Millersville University and discussions with nursing classes at Lancaster County Career and Technology's Willow Street Campus.

South Central DUI Task Force

Council member Ross Deck serves on this Task Force on behalf of the Council. We thank him for his efforts in collaborating with local authorities in Central PA to help reduce the incidences of DUI and to remove DUI offenders from our traffic-ways.

Website

The DUI Council of Lancaster County's website made great strides in 2008-2009. Membership input allowed Council President Dana Pyne and webmaster Melissa Wein to bring the website up to par as a resource for providing the public with information regarding Council happenings. Monthly meeting minutes are now available online. Visitors can also find an events calendar, information regarding legal options when arrested for DUI and treatment options for those identifying alcohol problems among themselves or those close to them. The website continues to be a work-in-progress, but keeping website development within the group rather than outsourcing has allowed the Council to save much money.

Paid Media

As part of our efforts to make the public more aware of social host laws and the potential consequences for providing alcohol to minors, the DUI Council sponsored a media campaign in late June and into the July 4th holiday. This print ad was circulated in free community newspapers throughout Lancaster County reaching nearly 166,000 subscribers.

Alcohol Industry

The Council continues to support and encourage training for servers and bartenders in the Lancaster County Community. Two such trainings offered by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board include Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP) and

Training Intervention Procedures for Servers (TIPS). Council member Crystal Hartz of Wilsbach Distributors, Inc. is a certified TIPS trainer for Lancaster County.

During the upcoming year plans are in the making for the Council to “step-up” this program and sponsor trainings more frequently throughout the year. These Council-subsidized trainings will hopefully provide an opportunity to increase the number of trained food-service industry workers.

Alert Cab Program

This program is designed to offer a free taxi ride to patrons of participating establishments who are intoxicated and in need of a ride home. At one time, the Council was more involved in administering this program, but has since relinquished such duties to Crystal Hartz and Wilsbach Distributors, Inc. We offer support at the request of the program administrator.

The Year Ahead

Social Host Law Awareness Campaign

This program commenced in early June by way of the Social Host Law media campaign launched by the Council in various community newspapers. The Council is committed to expanding on that initial media campaign by saturating the public with additional media throughout the year during certain holidays and also during homecoming and prom season. Different methods of disseminating information include pizza box stickers (a common food item consumed with alcohol and at celebratory events) and poster distribution at establishments selling and serving alcoholic beverages.

RAMP/TIPS Training

The Council is looking to coordinate with Crystal Hartz, TIPS trainer for Lancaster County to increase the frequency of these informational PLCB trainings and perhaps provide sponsorship in an effort to get more service industry employees trained and certified.

Keg Tagging

The Council has long-discussed implementing a voluntary keg-tagging program in Lancaster County. Initial thoughts are to evaluate interest in such with establishments in the Elizabethtown Community as part of the newly organized CMCA program there. Discussions are currently underway to establish procedures for compiling customer information and using it to prosecute those who supply alcohol to minors.

High School & College Art Campaign

As part of our Etown CMCA project, Council members have voiced an interest in sponsoring an art contest in the Elizabethtown Community that gives high school and college students the opportunity to create images and messages for water bottles that encourage abstinence and responsible alcohol use respectively. Our hope is to enlist the sponsorship of a spring water company to provide product and the Lancaster Barnstormers as a means of distributing the winning labels on water bottles sold at Clipper Stadium during the 2010 season. The final results of this project could also be revealed in conjunction with a Council/CTC/CMCA game night that serves as a fundraiser for the organizations.

Conclusion

Without the diligence of our Coordinator, Courtney Barry, the support of my Executive Board, and the commitment from our membership and community partners, the activities and work of the DUI Council of Lancaster County would never come to fruition.

The task at hand can be sometimes daunting and the benefits of our efforts, difficult to measure. However, we must strive to continue our work and push to accomplish new goals. If we reach one person and prevent that individual from operating a motor vehicle under the influence, we are doing some good. If we reach one person and prevent that individual from riding in a motor vehicle with an impaired driver, we are doing some good.

As budgetary concerns and a dismal economic situation continue to threaten the very existence of organizations like the DUI Council, I challenge our members and community at-large to bring to the table new ideas and suggestions to help take the Council to places it has never yet traveled. A plethora of information awaits us. We must simply step outside the box. Again, thank you for your continued support!

"Anything unattempted remains impossible"