



# Safe Homes Program Brief FY 2018-2019

## **Logistics:**

The Livingston COMMUNITY PREVENTION Project (LCPP) was formed in 2008 to provide substance abuse prevention services throughout Livingston County. Karen Bergbower &

Associates, Key Development Center, Inc., and Livingston County Catholic Charities are the collaborative partners of LCPP. These agencies work together to implement several prevention programs that have been proven to impact substance use and related problems. LCPP provides an array of prevention services that target all sectors of Livingston County, including parents, schools, and the community. LCPP is focusing on the following CMHPSM priority areas: reducing childhood and underage drinking, reducing prescription and over the counter drug abuse/misuse, and reducing illicit drug use.

LCPP has targeted Livingston County as a whole with special emphasis in the community of Pinckney. The Livingston County Community Alliance (LCCA) and It Stops with Students (ISWS) work closely with all five school districts as well as local government, law enforcement, and community members.

## **Priority Area, Primary Problems, and Associated Intervening Variables:**

### CMHPSM Priority Area 1: Reducing Childhood and Underage Drinking

- a) Primary Problem: Early Addiction, Delinquent/Problem Behavior
- b) Intervening Variables: Lack of Perceived Risk, Peer Pressure, Prosocial Attitudes toward School, Norms that Support Use, Easy Access to Alcohol, Parental Norms, Attitudes, and Knowledge of Underage Drinking

### CMHPSM Priority Area 2: Reduce Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse/Misuse

- a) Primary Problem: Early Addiction, Delinquent/Problem Behavior
- b) Intervening Variables: Easy Access to Prescription Drugs, Parental Norms and Attitudes, Community Norms and Attitudes

### CMHPSM Priority Area 4: Reduce Illicit Drug Use

- a) Primary Problem: Early Addiction, Delinquent/Problem Behavior
- b) Intervening Variables: Parental Norms and Attitudes, Community Norms and Attitudes

## EBI and CSAP Prevention Strategies:

Originally developed by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Commission, Safe Homes is an online based parent networking campaign in which adults make a pledge to keep their home drug and alcohol free. By becoming a Safe Home, parents and other adults take a pledge that they will actively supervise all gatherings or parties of youth, prohibit the possession or use of alcohol, prescription drugs taken for recreational purposes and illicit drugs by youth in their home, set expectations for their children regarding drugs, provide a secure storage place for alcohol and prescription drugs, and talk to a parent of a child they personally observe using drugs and alcohol. Safe Homes also raises awareness of the fact that 72% of Livingston County teens who drink alcohol, consume it their home or a friend's home. The campaign encourages parents and other adults to send a unified message that drug and teen alcohol consumption will not be tolerated while emphasizing the importance of speaking with kids about drug and alcohol use. This pledge can be found online as well as a hard copy.

Safe Homes is implemented

locally by Project SUCCESS Counselors, CBSG Counselors, and the Livingston County Community Alliance – using the following Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) intervention strategies: information dissemination, education, community based process, and environmental. This campaign is in its second year in Livingston County.

Because the campaign tool-kit only came with the pledge, the LCPP and LCCA had to design the look of the campaign, including the logo, publicity materials, and website design. The LCPP utilized LCCA's underage drinking committee and marketing committee to create the logo

and materials. County statistics were also included in the material to educate parents about the prevalence of youth substance use taking place in their home. Yard signs, window clings, and posters were then printed and distributed to people who took the pledge. Parents who receive the yard signs and window clings frequently comment that it feels like "a badge of honor" to be able to post their yard sign.

**72% OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY TEENS WHO DRINK ALCOHOL CONSUME IT AT A FRIEND'S HOME**

**PLEDGE TO STOP THIS NOW!  
BECOME AN LCCA SAFE HOME!**

A "Safe Home" is where a family or an adult has committed to providing a safe and substance-free environment for their children and any other youth who spend time there. Kids and adults can be confident that minors will not be offered or allowed to use drugs or alcohol while they are in these homes. It was created in response to a growing concern among residents about the prevalence and perceived acceptance of teen drinking parties hosted by parents.

**SAFE HOMES:**

- Actively supervises all gatherings of youth on their property, or ask another responsible adult for help.
- Don't allow the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, including recreational prescription drug use, by youth on their property.
- Set expectations for their children by knowing where they are going, who they are with, what their plans are, and when they are to return home.
- Provide a secure storage place for all forms of alcohol and prescription drugs in their home.
- Talk with one parent of a child they personally observe using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

**TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY AT:**  
[www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org](http://www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org)

The campaign continues to utilize the community based process. Through the use of the Strategic Prevention Framework, community members were asked what was important to them when organizing a parent-targeted campaign. They mentioned an online based campaign where parents could speak with other parents. Because Safe Homes has been effective in other areas, the LCPP decided to implement it in Livingston County.

Safe Homes is a valuable tool for communities to address environmental factors which contribute to underage drinking and drug use. These environmental factors directly relate to the CMHPSM's priority areas and LCPP's primary problems and intervening variables.

- Safe Homes strives to create consistent parental and community norms that underage drinking and drug use is not only illegal, but is unsafe, unhealthy and unacceptable.
- By increasing parental awareness and understanding of the health, safety and legal consequences of allowing drug use and underage drinking, Safe Homes reduces the number of parents who allow underage drinking and drug use on their premises and property, which decreases underage access to alcohol and drugs.
- Safe Homes provides clear, consistent messages that are easily communicated by every sector of the community, including parents.
- Safe Homes improves enforcement consistency by offering suggestions to help communities improve local enforcement of this and other underage drinking laws. The program also provides many opportunities for law enforcement to partner with other community leaders to communicate clear community standards related to underage drinking.

### **Outcomes/Results:**

Throughout the course of FY 18/19, Safe Homes has shown impact on reducing childhood and underage drinking (CMHPSM Priority Area 1) in Livingston County as shown by the year-end survey:

- 68% of participants said that the Safe Homes information was helpful to them and their family
- 75% of participants responded that if parents knew this information, it would keep them from hosting teen gatherings or parties where teens are allowed to use alcohol and drugs, a 10% increase from the first year.
- 62% of participants reported that the information led to a discussion between them and their teen(s) about the importance of adult supervision at teen gatherings or parties.
- 57% of participants reported that the information led to a discussion with other parents about the importance of actively supervising all teen gatherings or parties hosted at their home or on their property.
- 70% of participants reported that they are comfortable contacting other parents to verify there will be supervision at teen gatherings or parties hosted at their home or on their property.

In addition, this year the campaign created at Public Service Announcement with parents and why they choose to take the Safe Homes Pledge and create a safe home for their families. LCCA members



and parents Breanne Green from Great Start Collaborative, Chief John Tyler from the Fowlerville Police Department, Mona Shand-LCCA Marketing and Communications Committee Chair and Joe Riker-member of the Youth Marijuana Use Committee generously donated their time and passion for keeping youth safe to the video.