






# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH


Commissioned in 1982. Serving the people of Colorado in the interest of healthy youth.


## Accomplishments for 2006-2008


 The Advisory Council on Adolescent Health (The Council) was commissioned on August 27, 1982 by Frank Traylor, the Executive Director of The Colorado Department of Health, to “serve the interest of the people of Colorado in the interest of healthy youth.” To this day, the Council continues to provide advice and guidance to the Department, while also advocating for the health and well-being of adolescents. It is important to periodically take a look back and examine the progress of the group. The many accomplishments below demonstrate the incredible commitment and dedication of ACAH members.


 Council members had in-depth conversations to discuss what its purpose and role has been, is now and should be. With the assistance of the Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Branch, ACAH Co-chairs drafted a logic model and presented it to membership. It was approved and serves as the Council’s framework, or map.


 The Council recommended the development of a website to act as a clearinghouse for adolescent health in Colorado. In the past, members developed periodic reports to serve this purpose. Due to increased technology, members agreed to put data and best practice information on-line instead. Therefore, Colorado’s website for “all things adolescent health” is now [www.healthyouthcolorado.org](http://www.healthyouthcolorado.org)

 With the newly developed Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Action Guides, ACAH members took it upon themselves to develop two additional adolescent health action guides: Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Positive Youth Development. These user-friendly, concise guides provide local communities data, evidence-based practice and resources on specific topics.

 The Council hosted two meetings with local public health to engage them in address adolescent health issues. Many communities served as champions in this area, showcasing their adolescent health programs and initiatives to participants.

 The Council provided guidance to the Department in developing adolescent health priorities and goals. In addition, members developed a framework, including priorities and necessary steps (e.g. including young people in decision making, involving parents and family members in programs), for local health departments and communities to address adolescent health.

 The Council was the impetus for the development of the Colorado Youth Development Team, a public-private partnership of state, local and community youth and professionals who work together to infuse positive youth development strategies into state and local policies and infrastructure. This team has now hired a Youth Development Specialist who is conducting an environmental scan regarding youth development practice and programming across Colorado.

 Each meeting, Council members take advantage of various networking opportunities. For example, due to connections at a Council meeting, a grant was written and submitted by staff from the University of Northern Colorado, Colorado School of Public Health and The Colorado Family Education, Resources and Training Program. In addition, various programs and resources have been showcased during meetings such as:

- ✓ Project PAVE
- ✓ Aurora Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Project

- ✓ Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division
- ✓ National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health
- ✓ Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition Program
- ✓ Colorado Youth Leadership Network
- ✓ Parent University
- ✓ Kaiser's Educational Theatre Program
- ✓ Colorado Family Education, Resources and Training Program
- ✓ Coordinated School Health Program
- ✓ Families First
- ✓ HPV/Immunizations Program
- ✓ Colorado Prevention Leadership Council



Council meetings have provided professional development opportunities, including:

- ✓ Public Health Evidence-Based Practice
- ✓ Latest Data on Adolescent Health Behaviors
- ✓ How to “Frame” Adolescent Health

