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# HEMPFIELD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

*Changing Lives Through Research-Based Practices*

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## **COMMUNITIES THAT CARE GRANT STARTING AT SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SUNBURY—Hempfield Behavioral Health has been awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency which will focus on healthy youth development for students attending the Shikellamy School District. This funding allows for replication of the “Communities that Care Model” (CTC), including a facilitator position and access to training on coalition building, analyzing input, prioritizing goals and selecting evidence-based solutions.

“One of the first tasks will be to facilitate the Shikellamy community around a shared vision for healthy youth development. I am excited to lead the CTC process in this community.” said Susan Weller, HBH’s newly hired Mobilizer. Susan will rely on Deborah Shaffer, HBH’s Development Officer, who has a solid background in CTC and previously led a highly successful coalition.

Communities That Care (CTC) is an "operating system" that takes communities through a well-defined and structured process to prevent adolescent problem behaviors and promote positive youth development. CTC communities form a broad-based coalition and then collect local data on risk and protective factors shown by research to be associated with delinquency, violence, substance use, and school failure and dropout. After collecting this data the communities identifies 3-5 specific risk and protective factors to focus on, and then seeks evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priorities. After 2-3 years of

implementing these strategies, the community re-assesses their risk and protective factors to measure impact and identify new emerging priorities.

The PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) has supported CTC for over a decade, have trained over 100 communities in the model. There are currently more than 60 active CTC coalitions across the Commonwealth. Research studies both in Pennsylvania and nationally have demonstrated CTC is effectively creating population-level public health improvement, reducing delinquency and youth drug use, and improving academic achievement for youth in these communities.

Hempfield Behavioral Health is the leading provider of evidence-based behavioral health prevention and treatment services in central Pennsylvania with a mission to take proven effective programs for the prevention or treatment of child abuse, delinquency, youth violence, school failure, and mental illness and implement them under actual community-based conditions. For more information about their programs, please visit [www.hempfieldpa.com](http://www.hempfieldpa.com) or find them on Facebook.

Please contact Susan Weller, CTC Mobilizer, at [swellerhbh@gmail.com](mailto:swellerhbh@gmail.com) for more information on the new CTC coalition.