

Project Faith in Youth



Fiscal Year 10/11 Evaluation Report July 2011

Prepared for Community Service Programs, Inc.
by EVALCORP Research & Consulting

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I. Introduction

Funded by the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Education Prevention Team (ADEPT) through Community Service Programs, Inc. (CSP), Project Faith in Youth (FIY) is a faith-based alcohol and drug prevention program working with diverse faith communities in Orange County to empower youth to become leaders who make positive lifestyle choices and to actively participate in their faith communities. The program's mission is to build the capacities of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) to deliver alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention services to their youth.

With the overarching goal of reducing underage drinking and other drug use, FIY conducts AOD prevention services with clergy, youth ministers, health ministers, lay volunteers, parents and families, and adult and youth members of FBOs within Orange County and other interested persons and groups associated with FBOs and the surrounding communities. The project incorporates principles of positive youth development in order to assist youth in making positive contributions to their communities, neighborhoods, and/or schools. Recognizing youth as an essential resource to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of prevention services, the project actively recruits and involves youth in all aspects of its services.

During the 10-11 fiscal year, Project Faith in Youth provided trainings to youth ministry workers and educational workshops to faith community members on AOD prevention strategies and best practices. The project also conducted key informant interviews with youth ministry workers to assess the needs of implementing AOD prevention within their youth ministry programs, and prepared a detailed report summarizing findings from the key informant interviews. Project staff also provided technical assistance sessions to FBOs implementing AOD prevention services within their youth programs, developed newsletters focused on AOD prevention that were distributed to FBOs and other stakeholders, and sustained the membership of the Faith and Institutions Together for Health (FAITH) Coalition.

In addition, Project Faith in Youth recruited, selected, and awarded three FBOs mini-grants through a competitive Mini-Grant Program for the purpose of developing their capacity to design and implement AOD prevention activities within their faith communities. The mini-grant applications were developed and released by FIY in August 2010. All applications received were scored by an independent evaluation review panel. The three mini-grantees selected were St. Anthony Claret Church, St. Columban Church, and Congregation B'nai Israel. Project staff provided technical assistance sessions to the three mini-grantees and assisted them in implementing youth-led community activities designed to strengthen protective factors among youth.

II. Evaluation Methods

Project Faith in Youth contracted with an independent consulting firm, EVALCORP Research & Consulting, to create an evaluation framework for and conduct an overall evaluation of the two performance objectives and eight performance measures established by ADEPT for FIY to accomplish during the 10-11 fiscal year.

The project's two performance objectives included:

1. By June 30, 2011, provide training to 30 youth ministry workers on AOD prevention strategies/practices; 70% of those trained shall demonstrate intent to apply skills developed in their youth work.
2. By June 30, 2011, conduct educational workshops for 80 members of the faith community; 70% of the participants shall demonstrate increased knowledge of AOD prevention best practices.

Additionally, the eight performance measures were as follows:

1. By October 1, 2010, conduct twelve (12) key informant interviews with youth ministry workers to assess the needs of implementing AOD prevention within youth ministry programs.
2. By November 12, 2010, prepare a report summarizing the key findings from the youth ministry worker interviews and include recommendations for increasing their capacity.
3. By June 30, 2011, provide ten (10) technical assistance (TA) sessions to FBOs on implementing AOD prevention services within their youth programs.
4. By June 30, 2011, produce and distribute four (4) newsletters to FBOs and other stakeholders focusing on AOD prevention.
5. By October 1, 2010, award three mini-grants to FBOs in Orange County.
6. By June 30, 2011, assist each mini-grantee in implementing four (4) youth-led community projects/activities designed to strengthen the following youth protective factors:
 - Meaningful participation in the community environment
 - Connectedness to the faith community
 - Positive adult/peer relationships
7. By June 30, 2011, provide eighteen (18) TA sessions to the three mini-grantees on planning, implementing and sustaining their AOD prevention activities.
8. By June 30, 2011, sustain the current membership of the Faith and Institutions Together for Health (FAITH) Coalition by having twelve (12) organizations participate in at least three (3) meetings during the fiscal year.

As a means of determining whether Project Faith in Youth attained its goals, the following primary research questions guided the evaluation:

- To what extent did Project Faith in Youth achieve its proposed performance objectives?
- What, if any, challenges or barriers were encountered during the project's implementation? If so, how were they overcome?
- What were the primary lessons learned and what are recommendations for similar initiatives in the future?

The evaluation framework was participatory and included input from project staff and other key stakeholders throughout the data collection and evaluation process. For instance, EVALCORP worked with FIY staff to develop the Key Informant Interview Protocol, Youth Ministry Worker Training Survey, and Educational Workshop Survey, and analyzed data and summarized findings for all of these data collection efforts. Project staff was primarily responsible for the data collection procedures, conducting the key informant interviews and administering the training and educational workshop surveys. The evaluators also provided ongoing evaluation-related technical assistance and conducted staff assessments to gain a greater understanding of the many accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned throughout the project's implementation. In addition, EVALCORP reviewed and analyzed all FIY materials, Mini-Grant Applications, training and workshop materials and sign-in sheets, newsletters, and tracking tools provided by FIY staff to determine whether the performance objectives and performance measures were met.

III. Progress Made Towards Objectives and Measures

As described above, Project Faith in Youth had two performance objectives and eight performance measures for the 10-11 fiscal year. This section evaluates the extent to which FIY achieved each of its performance objectives and measures.

A. Performance Objective 1: Youth Ministry Worker Trainings

- By June 30, 2011, provide training to 30 youth ministry workers on AOD prevention strategies/practices; 70% of those trained shall demonstrate intent to apply skills developed in their youth work.

To meet this objective, Project Faith in Youth staff members partnered with the Orange County Department of Education to develop and facilitate a training titled “Youth Development” to 19 youth ministry workers on October 28, 2010. In addition, project staff collaborated with several FBOs to design and facilitate a Training of the Trainers titled “Building Assets in Congregation” to 26 youth ministry workers on January 13, 2011. Because eight of the 19 ministry workers who completed surveys at the Building Assets in Congregation training indicated that they also attended the Youth Development training, a total of 30 unique youth ministry workers were trained and surveyed by FIY during the 10-11 fiscal year.

Data Collection and Analysis

To determine whether participants of the youth ministry worker trainings demonstrated intent to apply skills developed in the training to their youth work, the Youth Ministry Worker Training Survey was developed by Project PATH in collaboration with the evaluation team. This survey was administered by project staff to participants in attendance at the conclusion of the Building Assets in Congregation training. The survey contained three items to collect participant information and another closed-ended item with 6 sub-items that asked respondents the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements about the training and its impacts, using a 4-point Likert scale with the following definitions: 1 = strongly agree; 2 = agree; 3 = disagree; and, 4 = strongly disagree. In addition, the survey contained four open-ended items asking participants what was most valuable about the training, how they intended to use the information, what else they needed to implement AOD prevention activities with their youth group, and for any additional comments.

Nineteen youth ministers participating in the Building Assets in Congregation training completed the Youth Ministry Worker Training Survey. Evaluators calculated response frequencies for each closed-ended survey item and analyzed, themed, and coded the open-ended responses.

Because the Orange County Department of Education co-facilitated the Youth Development training with FIY as part of their Friday Night Live Youth Development Workshops, they chose to use their own evaluative survey for this training instead of the Youth Ministry Worker Survey. This survey consisted of 10 closed-ended items addressing various aspects of the training, asking participants the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements about the training and its impacts on a 4-point Likert-scale with the following definitions: 1 = strongly agree; 2 = agree; 3 = disagree; and, 4 = strongly disagree. In addition, this survey included two open-ended items asking participants what was most useful about the workshop and for any additional comments about the training.

All 19 participants in this training completed the survey. The Orange County Department of Education’s Evaluation, Assessment and Data Center calculated response frequencies for the closed-ended items and listed responses on the open-ended items. EVALCORP analyzed, themed and coded the open-ended responses.

Because two different surveys were used to measure this performance objective, findings from both surveys will be presented below. In addition, items from each survey on participants’ intent to apply the skills developed in their work with youth will be aggregated to address the performance objective.

Survey Findings from Youth Ministry Worker Trainings

Training on Youth Development

Based on findings of the survey administered at the Youth Development training, all 19 training participants agreed (responding either “strongly agreed or “agreed”) that they learned new information/ideas on engaging youth in events and activities, how to use youth development strategies when working with young people, and how to implement youth development strategies (see **Table 1**). Furthermore, all participants agreed that they plan on using at least some of what they learned in the training at their site. In addition to increasing their knowledge and intending to apply skills as a result of the training, all respondents agreed that the training content was clear, the handouts/visual aids were appropriate, and the training was a valuable experience.

Table 1. Frequency of Responses on the Youth Development Training Survey by Survey Item

| Survey Item (N=19) | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| 1. I learned new information/ideas on engaging youth in events and activities. | 32% | 68% | 0% | 0% |
| 2. I have a better understanding of the youth development model. | 74% | 21% | 5% | 0% |
| 3. I understand the importance of youth development. | 53% | 47% | 0% | 0% |
| 4. I have a better understanding of how to use youth development strategies when working with young people. | 53% | 47% | 0% | 0% |
| 5. I know how to implement youth development strategies. | 63% | 37% | 0% | 0% |
| 6. I plan on using at least some of what I learned today at my site. | 74% | 26% | 0% | 0% |
| 7. Overall, this training has increased my knowledge of youth development. | 84% | 16% | 0% | 0% |
| 8. The workshop content was clear. | 68% | 32% | 0% | 0% |
| 9. Handouts/visual aids were appropriate. | 68% | 32% | 0% | 0% |
| 10. Overall, this was a valuable learning experience. | 53% | 47% | 0% | 0% |

When asked what they found most useful about this training in an open-ended item, 16 participants provided comments. Participants most frequently indicated that the training gave them ideas on how to raise awareness, engage youth and/or “work out issues” (n=9). Others liked the handouts and presentation materials (n=4), group exercise and interaction (n=3), ice breaker (n=2), and meeting people from other organizations (n=1). A total of four participants responded when asked to provide any additional comments or recommendations. Two provided positive feedback on the presentation, with one saying it was “thorough and very well planned out.” The other two offered recommendations for improvement, including providing “more direct information on youth and AOD” and finding “a less traffic-congested time of day” for the training.

Training on Building Assets in Congregation

Because it was anticipated that youth ministers would attend multiple trainings provided by FIY, the Youth Ministry Worker Training Survey first asked participants for their initials and birth date as an identifier for project staff and the evaluation team to know which participants had attended multiple trainings in order to calculate the total number of unique youth ministers trained during the 10-11 fiscal year. Of the 19 survey respondents from the Building Assets in Congregation training, eight attended the Youth Development training (42%) and four attended an AOD Prevention 101 training (21%).

As shown in **Table 2**, all of the respondents either “strongly agree” or “agree” that they will be able to apply the skills developed in the training (100%) and most of the respondents agreed that the training gave them a better understanding of using the 40 Developmental Assets as a practical guide for helping youth grow up healthy (95%), the training gave them tools they can use to provide AOD prevention activities to their youth group (89%), and the training gave them confidence that they can provide AOD prevention activities to their youth group (83%). In addition, all indicated that the presenter communicated in a way that was easy to understand (100%) and almost all thought that the training was a valuable experience overall (95%).

Table 2. Frequency of Responses on the Youth Ministry Worker Training Survey by Survey Item

| Survey Item | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| a. The presenters communicated in a way that was easy to understand. (N=19) | 84% | 16% | 0% | 0% |
| b. The training gave me a better understanding of using the 40 Developmental Assets as a practical guide for helping youth grow up healthy. (N=19) | 63% | 32% | 0% | 5% |
| c. The training gave me tools that I can use to provide AOD prevention activities to my youth group. (N=18) | 56% | 33% | 11% | 0% |
| d. The training gave me confidence that I can provide AOD prevention activities to my youth group. (N=18) | 50% | 33% | 17% | 0% |
| e. I will be able to apply the skills developed in the training to my work with youth. (N=18) | 61% | 39% | 0% | 0% |
| f. Overall, the training was a valuable experience. (N=19) | 58% | 37% | 5% | 0% |

A total of 17 participants responded to open-ended items that asked what was most valuable/useful about the training and how they intended to use the knowledge and skills developed in the training in their work with youth. The majority of participants said that learning about the 40 Developmental Assets was the most valuable aspect of the training, with comments such as “learning about the assets and how I can implement them in my community” and “the detailed overview of the power of assets was very useful.” Other participants liked the speakers and PowerPoint presentation (n=4), useful resources and tips (n=3), and group discussion (n=1).

When asked how they would apply the information to their work with youth, seven participants said they would use it to build relationships and assets in teens they worked with, six said they would use it in planning and implementing trainings and activities with youth and parents in their congregation, four said that they would use the resources and share the information with parents, and three said that they would serve as role models for building assets with youth. One participant summed up the responses by commenting, “I will be able to implement the assets in my work with children through actions, examples and education.”

About half of the participants provided comments when asked what else they needed to provide AOD prevention activities to their youth group and for any additional comments or input. Two participants said they needed more training on how implement the 40 Developmental Assets, and other participants provided miscellaneous needs such as practice, planning, more volunteers, and involving teens in the planning process (n=1 for each). When asked for additional comments or input, all of the responses included positive feedback on the presentation, speakers, program, and facilities, with respondents saying “It was a wonderful and helpful training,” “this is a great program,” and “wonderful facilities and hospitality - great food!” In addition, one respondent suggested that the training should be longer as “the material might need more to cover in more depth.”

Summary of Key Survey Findings

On both of the surveys administered during youth ministry worker trainings, 100% of the participants indicated that they intended to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the training to their work with youth. Thus, the performance objective was met as 100% of the 30 youth ministry workers trained on AOD prevention strategies demonstrated intent to apply skills developed in the training to their work with youth.

B. Performance Objective 2: Educational Workshops

- By June 30, 2011, conduct educational workshops for 80 members of the faith community; 70% of the participants shall demonstrate increased knowledge of AOD prevention best practices.

Project Faith in Youth staff members collaborated with leaders from several FBOs, Santa Ana Unified School District, Buena Park Police Department, Chapman Medical Center, Prevention Coalitions of Orange County, and Orange County Substance Abuse Prevention Network in order to develop and facilitate numerous educational workshops to increase knowledge of AOD prevention best practices among members of the faith community. Because project staff found that attendance was lighter than expected at a few of their educational workshops, they conducted additional workshops at individual FBO sites to overcome this challenge. The topics and locations of the six educational workshops that were evaluated included: two Media Literacy workshops to youth at Congregation B’nai Israel and Adolescentes de Esperanza, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; a Building Assets in Congregation workshop to the Women’s Ministry at Saint Cecilia Church; two AOD Prevention 101 workshops to the faith community at Saint Columban Church and St. Anthony Claret Church; and, a Best Practices in AOD Prevention workshop to faith community leaders at the FAITH Coalition meeting at Community Service Programs.

Data Collection and Analysis

The Educational Workshop Survey was developed by Project PATH staff in collaboration with the evaluation team to assess whether or not participants increased their knowledge of AOD prevention best practices as a result of the workshops. Developing this tool proved to be challenging as it needed to apply to the several topics that were covered by the educational workshops and to fit the demographics of the workshop audiences, which ranged from youth to older adults in the various faith communities. Another challenge was that the criteria for “AOD prevention best practices” in the performance objective was initially unclear to project staff and needed to be clarified by ADEPT. Due to these challenges, an initial version of the Educational Workshop Survey was revised throughout the fiscal year in order to address the appropriate topics/audiences and to adequately measure knowledge of “AOD prevention best practices” presentation content that was approved by ADEPT.

Although minor revisions were made to the tool according to the topic/audience and additional items were added once the best practices were more clearly defined, there was a consistent series of questions that was asked on almost all versions of the Educational Workshop Survey. These questions consisted of six closed-ended items that asked respondents the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements about the workshop and its impacts, using a 4-point Likert scale with the following definitions: 1 = strongly agree; 2 = agree; 3 = disagree; and, 4 = strongly disagree. In addition, there were up to three open-ended items asking participants what was most valuable about the workshop, how they intended to use the information/skills learned from the workshop, and for any additional comments.

Survey Findings from Educational Workshops

In total, there were a total of 119 workshop participants who responded to the Educational Workshop Survey. Of these respondents, about a third attended workshops on AOD Prevention 101 (38%) and workshops on media literacy (29%). In addition, 20% attended the workshop on Building Assets in Congregations and 13% attended the workshop on best practices in AOD prevention (see **Table 3**).

Table 3. Breakdown of Educational Workshop Survey Respondents by Workshop Topic (N=119)

| Training Topic | # Who Participated | % Who Participated |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| AOD Prevention 101 | 45 | 38% |
| Media Literacy | 35 | 29% |
| Building Assets in Congregations | 24 | 20% |
| Best Practices in AOD Prevention | 15 | 13% |

As shown in **Table 4**, almost all of the respondents on the Educational Workshop Survey agreed (indicating either “strongly agreed” or “agreed”) that the workshop gave them tools/skills they could use to nurture youth and help prevent AOD use by youth (98%), a better understanding of the specific workshop topic (96%), and a better understanding of the best practices to prevent AOD use by youth (96%). Furthermore, 92% agreed that they will be able to apply the best practices they learned in the workshop to help prevent AOD use by youth. In addition to increasing their knowledge and ability to apply best practices as a result of the training, all respondents agreed that the presenter communicated in a way that was easy to understand (100%) and almost all thought the training was a valuable experience overall (96%).

Table 4. Frequency of Responses on the Educational Workshop Survey by Survey Item

| Survey Question | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| a. The presenters communicated in a way that was easy to understand. (N=117) | 75% | 25% | 0% | 0% |
| b. The workshop gave me a better understanding of <i>[insert the workshop topic]</i> .* (N=104) | 65% | 29% | 5% | 1% |
| c. The workshop gave me tools/skills that I can use to nurture youth and help prevent alcohol or drug use by youth. (N=43) | 70% | 28% | 2% | 0% |
| d. The workshop gave me a better understanding of best practices to prevent alcohol and other drug use by youth. (N=110) | 54% | 42% | 3% | 1% |
| e. I will be able to apply the best practices I learned in the workshop to help prevent alcohol and other drug use by youth. (N=79) | 52% | 40% | 8% | 0% |
| f. Overall, the training was a valuable experience. (N=118) | 70% | 26% | 4% | 0% |

*Note: Topics specific to each workshop were inserted into this item.

When asked in an open-ended question what was most valuable/useful about the workshop, 109 respondents provided a variety of comments. Over a third of the respondents said that learning about the workshop topic was most useful to them (n=38), offering comments such as “learning the techniques the alcohol industry uses to manipulate youth,” “learning the consequences of the drugs teen use,” and “understanding the best practices for parents to prevent alcohol and other drug use.” About a quarter of the respondents thought the roleplaying, examples, and group interaction were most valuable (n=23) and about a tenth thought the strategies that were given to use with teens to prevent AOD use were the most useful part of the workshop (n=13). Other respondents indicated that the most valuable/useful part of the workshop was the fun/positive approach of the workshop (n=12), the speakers (n=8), the resources and handouts (n=8), learning about the program and activities for youth (n=6), and everything (n=4).

About 60% of the participants responded when asked how they intended to apply the information/skills they learned in the workshop with youth. Many respondents indicated that they would share the information with family, friends and teens (n=34), replying “tell parents how important they are in their children’s lives,” “educate younger teens about the negative effects of drug abuse,” and “inform my friends who do drugs and alcohol.” Similarly, other respondents said that they would use the information in their work with teens and families (n=16), with comments such as “in small groups in AOD Life Nights,” “bring presenters to my work,” and “I intend to present these ideas to my leaders.” In addition, 10 respondents said they would use the information to change their own behaviors and/or be role models, stating “Just tell my friends who do use drugs and be able to back up my decision not to do them” and “I will stand up for myself and not follow steps that would take me to something bad and serious.” Several other respondents said that they would use the resources, materials, and/or speakers (n=7), be a role model (n=6), and help teens or others who need the information (n=5). Finally, three participants indicated that they would apply the information, but were not sure how they would use it.

When asked for additional comments or input, almost all of the 64 responses to this item included positive feedback on the presentation, materials, speakers, and program (n=59), with respondents saying “Excellent presentation. Great to have an outline of slides to take notes and take this important information home to use with other people,” “The workshop was great. It made the kids get involved,” “Having lots of games and being dynamic is so important when working with teens. The speaker did a great job,” and “thank you for all your work!” In addition, five respondents offered suggestions such as cutting down the amount of information presented, spending more time on tools, and presenting on prescription drug abuse in the future. There were also a few miscellaneous comments such as “We need Mary and Jesus and God to instill love in their lives” and “I stay drug free!”

Summary of Key Survey Findings

Based on Educational Workshop Survey findings from a total of 119 participants, almost all of the respondents (96%) indicated that the workshop gave them a better understanding of the best practices to prevent AOD use by youth. Therefore, this performance objective was met and exceeded as of the 119 workshop participants, 96% demonstrated increased knowledge of AOD best practices.

C. Performance Measures 1 and 2: Key Informant Interviews

- By October 1, 2010, conduct twelve (12) key informant interviews with youth ministry workers to assess the needs of implementing AOD prevention within youth ministry programs.
- By November 12, 2010, prepare a report summarizing the key findings from the youth ministry worker interviews and include recommendations for increasing their capacity.

According to project staff, no challenges were experienced in the implementation of these performance measures. In collaboration with EVALCORP, Project Faith in Youth staff developed a protocol for key informant interviews with youth ministry workers in order to assess the needs of implementing AOD prevention within faith-based programs for youth. The comprehensive interview protocol consisted of 14 items, many with detailed sub-items, in order to gain a better understanding of what training and workshop topics would be most useful given their needs and challenges. The interview questions asked youth ministry workers what AOD-related problems their youth members were experiencing, if there were any AOD-related problems specific to their faith community, what barriers might exist to integrating AOD prevention in their youth groups, and how FIY could better serve their faith community with trainings, educational workshops, technical assistance, and resources. From August to October 2010, project staff conducted interviews with 12 youth ministry workers from different FBOs, representing five different faith groups; thus meeting the first performance measure.

Once the 12 key informant interviews were conducted, project staff provided the data from each interview to the evaluation team. After developing a database and entering the interview data, the evaluators themed and coded the qualitative data in order to analyze and summarize findings. By the end of October 2010, the evaluators prepared a Summary of Key Informant Interview Findings Report that highlighted key findings on the participants’ background information, AOD-related problems and perceptions, challenges or barriers to AOD prevention, needed trainings and resources for AOD prevention, and summary and recommendations. Then project staff built upon this report, adding prioritized recommendations and plans to integrate findings into future trainings, workshops, and technical assistance sessions. The final Key Informant Interview Summary Report was submitted to ADEPT on November 12, 2010; thereby meeting the second performance measure.

D. Performance Measure 3: Technical Assistance to Faith Based Organizations

- By June 30, 2011, provide ten (10) technical assistance (TA) sessions to FBOs on implementing AOD prevention services within their youth programs.

As indicated by tracking materials, progress reports, and educational workshop materials and agendas, Project Faith in Youth staff provided a total of 20 technical assistance sessions to FBOs throughout the year, meeting and exceeding this performance measure.

From September 2010 through April 2011, project staff provided technical assistance to various youth ministry workers at the following FBOs: St. Callistus Catholic Church, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, St. Marina Coptic Orthodox Church, Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Crystal Cathedral, St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, and International Nondenominational Assemblies. Many of the technical assistance sessions focused on planning, developing and implementing educational workshops designed for their congregational needs. No challenges or barriers were experienced while trying to achieve this goal.

E. Performance Measure 4: Newsletters

- By June 30, 2011, produce and distribute four (4) newsletters to FBOs and other stakeholders focusing on AOD prevention.

In order to maintain ongoing communication with FBOs and collaborative partners, Project FIY developed and distributed four quarterly newsletters that highlighted project accomplishments, educational workshops and trainings, mini-grantee activities, and AOD-related information. No challenges or barriers were experienced by project staff while producing the quarterly newsletters. The following four newsletters were developed during the 10-11 fiscal year: the Fall 2010 issue in August 2010, the Winter 2010 issue in January 2011, the Spring 2011 issue in May 2011, and the Summer 2011 issue in June 2011. Therefore, this performance measure has been met as project staff produced and distributed four newsletters focused on AOD prevention to FBOs and other stakeholders.

F. Performance Measure 5: Mini-Grant Awards

- By October 1, 2010, award three mini-grants to FBOs in Orange County.

To meet this goal, Project Faith in Youth developed and sent out 200 Mini-Grant Application forms to FBOs in Orange County with an application deadline of August 27, 2010. Received applications and score sheets were submitted to an independent evaluation panel for review. The independent evaluation panel, which included a member of the evaluation team, met on September 13, 2010 to review, score and select the new mini-grantees. The three mini-grant recipients included: St. Anthony Claret Church, St. Columban Church, and Congregation B'nai Israel. Therefore, this performance measure has been met as three FBOs were awarded mini-grants before October 1, 2010.

No challenges were experienced in meeting this goal. Project staff did not encounter any barriers to developing or distributing the mini-grant application and were satisfied with the decisions and collaboration with the independent evaluation panel. To determine if this measure was met, mini-grant materials, application packets, tracking tools, and progress reports were reviewed and analyzed by the evaluation team.

G. Performance Measure 6: Mini-Grantee Activities

- By June 30, 2011, assist each mini-grantee in implementing four (4) youth-led community projects/activities designed to strengthen the following youth protective factors:
 - Meaningful participation in the community environment
 - Connectedness to the faith community
 - Positive adult/peer relationships

As indicated in project tracking tools, progress reports and the staff assessment, this performance measure was met with each mini-grantee implementing four youth-led/involved projects or activities that were designed to strengthen protective factors in youth of meaningful participation in the community environment, connectedness to the faith community, and positive relationships with adults and peers.

Project PATH staff encountered some challenges when assisting the three mini-grantees in developing their Action Plans and designing their prevention activities. The grantees had some difficulty creating action plans that met the satisfaction of the County administrators and needed additional assistance. Therefore, FIY staff provided templates and additional guidance to the grantees until the action plans were successfully completed. Another challenge was that some of the grantees' activities were initially created and led by adults. To ensure that the activities would be youth-led, project staff provided guidance to the youth ministry coordinators and team leaders to increase youth involvement in the planning and implementation of prevention activities. The four projects and activities implemented by each mini-grantee are described below.

Saint Columban Church planned and implemented the following prevention activities: (1) Trick-or Treating on Halloween day to seek donations of canned goods for the homeless; (2) Thanksgiving Dinner to promote Family Day, a campaign to inform parents that youths who eat dinner with their families are less likely to get involved with alcohol and drugs; (3) a Variety Show which highlighted youths' talents preceded by a sit-down family dinner; and, (4) a youth and parent information night.

At Saint Anthony Claret Church, the following youth-led projects and activities were designed and implemented: (1) a Sticker Shock project receiving media coverage in which 80 youth participated; (2) a Family Dinner promoting Family Day; (3) a basketball tournament which raised funds for MADD; and, (4) a Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking.

In addition, United Synagogue Youth at Congregation B'nai Israel planned, led, and participated in the following activities: (1) a visit to a Jewish drug and alcohol treatment center in Los Angeles featuring an evening service and dialogue with Rabbi Mark Borovitz whose life story is a powerful lesson on how one person can change his own life and then change the lives of others through sobriety and spirituality; (2) a Parents Night featuring a psychologist who talked about teen drug use and what parents can do; (3) a Freedom Song musical depicting the struggles of persons in recovery with addiction which concluded with a Q & A session engaging cast members and youths/parents in the audience; and, (4) weekly youth-led services, such as the recent graduation of the 7th graders.

H. Performance Measure 7: Technical Assistance to Mini-Grantees

- By June 30, 2011, provide eighteen (18) TA sessions to the three mini-grantees on planning, implementing and sustaining their AOD prevention activities.

Project staff members provided a total of 25 technical assistance sessions to the three mini-grantees throughout the fiscal year in the areas of planning, implementing and sustaining AOD prevention activities, as documented by tracking materials and quarterly progress reports. Thus, meeting and exceeding the performance measure.

Project staff did not encounter any challenges or barriers in providing technical assistance to the mini-grantees. The first technical assistance sessions provided the grantees with resources, information on CSAP strategies, and assistance with writing action plans. Subsequent sessions focused on revisions to the action plans and upcoming trainings. Additional technical assistance sessions focused on finalizing action plans, reviewing grantees' past and upcoming prevention activities and on developing and/or providing resources and trainings to assist grantees in their activities. Other assistance provided focused on plans for 2011-2012 fiscal year and youth development.

I. Performance Measure 8: FAITH Coalition Membership

- By June 30, 2011, sustain the current membership of the Faith and Institutions Together for Health (FAITH) Coalition by having twelve (12) organizations participate in at least three (3) meetings during the fiscal year.

This performance measure has been met with 12 organizations participating in at least 3 FAITH Coalition Meetings in the 10-11 fiscal year, as evidenced by meeting sign-in sheets, tracking tools and progress reports. Project PATH has successfully sustained the membership of the FAITH Coalition, despite a drop in attendance at some of the meetings that were scheduled to coincide with evening trainings and educational workshops. To overcome this challenge, project staff moved the Coalition meetings back to their original schedule during business hours and meeting attendance improved.

Of the 11 FAITH Coalition meetings facilitated by Project PATH in the 10-11 fiscal year, the listed organizations have attended the following number of meetings:

- 1) Santiago de Compostela attended 7 meetings
- 2) Diocese of Orange attended 6 meetings
- 3) Orange County MADD attended 6 meetings
- 4) St. Anthony Claret attended 6 meetings
- 5) Orange County Friday Night Live Partnership (OCFNLP) attended 5 meetings
- 6) Council on Aging attended 4 meetings
- 7) Orange County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) attended 4 meetings
- 8) National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Orange County/Community Alliance Network (NCADD-OC/CAN) attended 4 meetings
- 9) Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) attended 4 meetings
- 10) Santa Verena Charity attended 4 meetings
- 11) Garden Grove Unified School District attended 3 meetings
- 12) Hoag Health Ministries attended 3 meetings

IV. Staff Interviews

EVALCORP conducted a year-end staff assessment with FIY staff in order to further inform the evaluation. Staff members were asked to describe the most significant accomplishments achieved by the project during the 10-11 fiscal year, surprising or unexpected outcomes, challenges/barriers encountered and how they were overcome, lessons learned, and recommendations for improving the project in the future.

A. Major Accomplishments

Project staff described numerous accomplishments they achieved during the 10-11 FY that included: successfully awarding, assisting and training three mini-grantees to implement AOD prevention activities in their faith communities that also impacted the general community at large; providing educational workshops to past grantees and other FBOs not currently receiving funding; the 10th anniversary of the FAITH Coalition; and presentations at conferences that helped gain exposure for Project FIY.

It was a major accomplishment that mini-grantees were able to positively impact families within the FBOs as well as the communities in which they are embedded. Some of the various events implemented by the mini-grantees included: promoting a Family Day campaign to encourage families to eat dinner together (as eating dinner as a family has been linked to a decreased likelihood of youth becoming involved in alcohol and drugs); a Trick-or-Treating outing where youth collected canned good for the homeless; a Sticker Shock Project that had media coverage; a basketball tournament to help raise funds for M.A.D.D.; a town hall meeting about underage drinking; and a meeting with a Rabbi to learn how leading a life of sobriety and spirituality can have a positive effect one-self and others.

According to project staff, another achievement was the various types of trainings, educational workshops, and technical assistance provided by FIY that “motivated and energized youth ministers to view their youth activities with a prevention and asset-building lens and equipped them with the skills to empower and involve youth in prevention activities.” In addition, FIY staff provided past grantees with training and educational workshops to strengthen the prevention programs they have sustained. St. Callistus Catholic Church was provided with a presentation on over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse, St. John Neumann Catholic Church was provided with a comprehensive AOD awareness presentation for parents, and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church was provided with a media literacy workshop. FIY staff also arranged to have renowned trainer Clay Roberts conduct an Asset Building workshop for parents at Trinity United Presbyterian Church free of charge.

In addition, FIY staff reached out to other FBOs throughout Orange County not currently receiving funding, assessing their training needs and conducting workshops that met these needs such as the "Navigating the Teen Years" workshop for over 200 parents at Saint Michael the Archangel Coptic Orthodox Church in Santa Ana and the "Building Asset in Congregation" workshop for members of the Women's Ministry at Saint Cecilia Church in Tustin.

Another major accomplishment was that the FAITH Coalition celebrated its 10th anniversary with an awards ceremony to recognize Michael Cunningham, Director of California’s Alcohol and Drug Programs who conducted the workshop that inspired the projects’ formation. During the 10th anniversary celebration, the Coalition developed revised mission and vision statements based on a Visioning Workshop led by the project evaluation team. Also of note is that the Coalition continues to grow in membership and is currently “surveying its members to prioritize which performance objectives it will pursue in the coming fiscal year.”

Finally, several project staff members were presenters at various AOD-related conferences throughout California that helped provide exposure to the work being done by Project FIY. For example, Project FIY staff and FAITH

Coalition Co-Chair Joanne Lambert co-presented at the California Alcohol and Drug Programs' leadership conference in Sacramento, sharing the project's work with alcohol and drug prevention professionals from all across California. In addition, project staff and the evaluation team presented at the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center's leadership conference in Anaheim, which included law enforcement and prevention professionals from across the United States.

The many achievements mentioned above have strengthened both Project FIY and the FAITH Coalition. According to project staff, "CSP is now the go-to agency for drug prevention for Orange County FBOs."

Project staff did not report any surprising or unexpected outcomes.

B. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Based on some challenges project staff encountered with lower participation and attendance at some trainings, educational workshops, and FAITH Coalition meetings, Project FIY staff identified two key lessons they learned during the 10-11 fiscal year. First, staff learned that training and educational workshops should be scheduled with individual FBO sites as opposed to trying to accommodate several FBOs in a training or workshop at one site. Second, staff learned that FAITH Coalition meetings should "be scheduled during normal business hours and not conducted concurrent with trainings and educational workshops" in the evenings because attendance at Coalition meetings dramatically dropped when that strategy was employed. Therefore, project staff recommended staying with the regular time for FAITH Coalition meetings during business hours and providing trainings and workshops at individual FBO sites.

VI. Summary

During the 10-11 fiscal year, Project Faith in Youth PATH conducted a variety of activities to reduce underage drinking and other drug increase by working with FBOs to deliver AOD prevention activities to empower their youth to make positive lifestyle choices and actively participate in their faith communities. For example, FIY provided trainings to youth ministry workers and educational workshops to faith community members on AOD prevention strategies and best practices; conducted key informant interviews with youth ministry workers to assess AOD prevention needs, and reported the interview findings; provided technical assistance sessions to FBOs implementing AOD prevention services; and developed AOD prevention newsletters. In addition, the project awarded three FBOs mini-grants to their capacity to implement AOD prevention activities within their faith communities. Project staff provided technical assistance sessions to the three mini-grantees and assisted them in implementing youth-led community activities designed to strengthen protective factors among youth. A thorough evaluation of all FIY progress reports, tracking documents, presentations, sign-in sheets, meeting materials, and newsletters indicated that all performance objectives and performance measures were met and/or exceeded.

A. Achievement of Performance Objectives and Measures

Project Faith in Youth was able to meet and/or exceed both of its performance objectives. An outcome indicator for each performance objective is provided below.

- **Performance Objective 1:** Project FIY trained 30 youth ministry workers on AOD prevention strategies/practices, with 100% of the participants demonstrating intent to apply skills developed in the training to their work with youth. This meets the 30 youth ministry workers that were to be trained, and it exceeds the 70% of those trained who were to demonstrate intent to apply skills developed to their youth work as specified in the performance objective.

- **Performance Objective 2:** Project FIY conducted educational workshops for 119 members of the faith community, with 96% of the participants demonstrating increased knowledge of AOD prevention best practices. This exceeds the 80 members of the faith community who were to participate in educational workshops, and 70% of those who were to demonstrate increased knowledge of AOD prevention best practices as specified in the performance objective.

Additionally, Project FIY was able to meet and/or exceed each of the eight performance measures. An outcome indicator or statement is provided below for each performance measure.

- **Performance Measure 1:** From August to October 2010, Project FIY conducted key informant interviews with 12 youth ministry workers representing five different faith groups in order to assess the needs of implementing AOD prevention within youth ministry programs. This meets the performance measure of conducting interviews with 12 youth ministry workers.
- **Performance Measure 2:** By November 12, 2010, Project FIY prepared and submitted the Key Informant Interview Summary Report that summarized key findings from the interviews and provided recommendations for increasing the FBO's capacity. This meets the criteria established for the report in the performance measure.
- **Performance Measure 3:** Project FIY provided a total of 20 technical assistance sessions to FBOs throughout the fiscal year. This exceeds the 10 technical assistance sessions to FBOs that were specified in the performance measure.
- **Performance Measure 4:** Project FIY produced and distributed four newsletters focused on AOD prevention to FBOs and other stakeholders. This meets the four newsletters that were to be developed and distributed as specified in the performance measure.
- **Performance Measure 5:** Project FIY awarded mini-grants to three FBOs in Orange County before October 1, 2010. This meets the three FBOs who were to be awarded mini-grants as specified in the performance measure.
- **Performance Measure 6:** Project FIY assisted each of the three mini-grantees in implementing four youth-led community projects/activities designed to strengthen youth protective factors of meaningful participation in the community environment, connectedness to the faith community, and positive relationships with adults and peers. This meets the four community projects/activities that were to be implemented by each mini-grantee as specified in the performance measure.
- **Performance Measure 7:** Project FIY provided 25 technical assistance sessions to the three mini-grantees in the areas of planning, implementing and sustaining AOD prevention activities. This exceeds the 18 technical assistance sessions that were to be provided to the mini-grantees as specified in the performance measure.
- **Performance Measure 8:** Project FIY sustained the current membership of the FAITH Coalition, with 12 organizations participating in at least 3 FAITH Coalition Meetings in the 10-11 fiscal year. This meets the 12 organizations that were to participate in at least 3 FAITH Coalition meetings as specified in the performance measure.

B. Staff Interviews

Project staff was interviewed to gain a greater understanding of the implementation and key accomplishments of Project Faith in Youth during the 10-11 fiscal year. Staff identified various achievements such as the mini-grantees prevention activities and the wide variety of trainings and educational workshops FIY staff provided to mini-grantees, past grantees, and other FBOs not receiving funding. In addition, project staff members were very proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the FAITH Coalition and present on the project at statewide and national conferences. Overall, project staff believes that the many accomplishments and experiences of Project FIY and the FAITH Coalition have made them the go-to agency for drug prevention for Orange County FBOs.