



Council on Chemical Abuse

YOUR BRIDGE TO ADDICTION RESOURCES

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT









TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 Executive Director Message & Opioid Settlement Funds

3 SOS Berks Coalition

4 Fiscal Report

5 Prevention

7 Intervention & Treatment

9 Recovery

10 Commissioners, Board & Staff

Top: COCA Prevention Specialist Teresa Detweiler and Community Programs Specialist Yvonne Stroman met with PA State Sen Judy Schwank to discuss Prevention Advocacy.
Bottom: COCA Prevention Specialist Zoe Stankiewiscz provides activities and resources at a Centro Hispano Movie Night.

WHAT IS COCA?

Since 1971, the Council on Chemical Abuse (COCA) has served in a lead role, offering the resources necessary to respond to the complex problems of substance abuse and addiction. Designated by the County Commissioners as the Single County Authority (SCA) for Berks County, COCA is a non-profit organization responsible for the administration and management of publicly-funded alcohol, tobacco, and drug-related services.

MISSION

To provide leadership in the development and implementation of policies and programs related to a system of prevention and intervention services that prevent the onset of addiction, and treatment services that promote recovery.



For over 20 years, COCA has recognized Recovery Month in September with the Berks Recovery Walk. In 2025 the one-mile walk through Reading ended at the RISE Center for a recovey celebration and butterfly release.

Learn more about us at **COCABerks.org**

COVER PHOTOS - Top (l to r) COCA's Assistant Administrator Jacklyn Steed helps with an activity at the Oley Valley Community Fair; COCA's prevention team was recognized during National Prevention Week.
Bottom (l to r): Children plant a memorial tree in honor of loved ones lost to overdose during the SOS Berks Rooted in Memory event; Participants in the Berks Recovery Walk pose before the walk.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kathleen F. Noll

EXPANDING OUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

As you read through this Annual Report you will likely notice a common thread: so much of what we do relies on our partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

In Fiscal Year 2025/26 we maintained many of our long-term partnerships, while adding new ones to expand our services and reach as many Berks County residents as possible. No where is this more apparent than through our work with the SOS Berks Opioid Coalition. For example, by teaming up with Penn State College of Medicine and the Reading YMCA, we have successfully maintained the Health to Go Vending Machine for two years, providing free wellness supplies to the community. And, for 8 years SOS Berks and COCA have partnered with Freidens Lutheran Church's Hope in Action Committee to staff a booth at the Oley Valley Community Fair, where we hand out medication safety resources and other information to hundreds of people over a three day period.

In addition to our work with SOS Berks, COCA has fostered numerous other partnerships. For 11 years, we've joined forces with the Berks County Intermediate Unit and Caron Treatment Centers to offer a Student Assistance Professionals (SAP) Professional Development Day, bringing valuable information to nearly 100 Berks County K-12 SAP professionals each year.

New this year is a collaboration with Reading Hospital that has enabled us to teach critical overdose response skills to more community members. The *LifeSavers* Trainings are free and open to the public, and teach a combination of Narcan administration, Stop the Bleed & Hands Only CPR.

These are just a few of the many partnerships we have forged over the years. I encourage you to spend some time reading through this Annual Report to see the many ways we have made an impact in Berks County in FY 25/26.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

The Berks Opioid Settlement funds are in place to address detrimental effects of the opioid/overdose crisis in Berks County and to help protect the community from such negative effects in the future. These funds are used to provide prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services related to Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) for all residents in Berks County with respect, dignity and equity while supporting culturally appropriate services and programs. Below is a sampling of some the numerous services and programs supported by Berks Opioid Settlement Funds in FY 2025/26.

- **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) at the Berks County Jail** – *Amount spent: $754,639.* For the provision of MAT to Berks County Jail System inmates with OUD.
- **Recovery Coaching Services** - *Amount spent: $147,624.* For peer-to-peer services for families whose loved one is involved with OUD treatment.
- **Reading Hospital & New Directions Center for Excellence** - *Amount spent: $81,254.* For counseling and support services for those suffering from an OUD.
- **Peace and Harmony House** – *Amount spent: $65,502.* For bilingual/bi-cultural services to those suffering from an opioid use disorder.
- **Danny's Ride** - *Amount spent: $6,156.* For transportation for Berks County residents receiving services for OUD and related disorders, especially those without access to reliable transportation.
- **Bethany Christian Services of PA** - *Amount spent: $8,695.* For an evidence-based equine therapy program for pregnant and postpartum women in recovery from an OUD.

See cocaberks.org/opioidfunds for complete list

SOS BERKS OPIOID COALITION





Since 2016, COCA has helped lead the SOS Berks Opioid Coalition, which works to reduce opioid overdose deaths in Berks County. Among the projects undertaken in the 2025/26 fiscal year are:

Community Healing Event - In May 2026, SOS Berks hosted "Rooted in Love, Growing in Memory," an event that supported those who have lost a loved one to a substance-related cause. This family-friendly event featured activities to promote healing including a sound bath *(photo top left)*, a memorial tree planting, aromatherapy, and decorating memorial stones. About 60 people attended.

4th Annual Recovery Awareness Night - In August 2025, SOS Berks co-sponsored Recovery Awareness Night at the Reading Fightin' Phils along with Berks Counseling Center. The event involved 16 recovery organizations, all of whom donated to the cost of over 600 free t-shirts, helped distribute 5,000 free tickets, and set up tables during the game. (*photo top right*).

The Response Magazine - The SOS Berks Editoral Board published two issues of The Response in FY 25/26. Articles appeared in English and Spanish, and focused on "Synergy in Action," and "Making a Difference."

Health to Go 2-year Celebration - In May 2026, SOS Berks and Penn State College of Medicine hosted a 2-year celebration for the Health to Go Vending Machine at the Reading YMCA. During the event, community members were invited to test out the machine and read posters with data about items dispensed over the past two years.

Community Partnerships - SOS Berks relies on numerous community partnerships to achieve its goals. Over the past year, we partnered with, among many others, Freidens Lutheran Church to staff a booth at the Oley Valley Community Fair, Berks Counseling Center to co-sponsor Recovery Awareness Night at the R-Phils, Helping Harvest to provide resources at food pantries and Penn State College of Medicine to support the Health to Go Vending Machine.

Visit sosberks.org to learn more.

City of Reading employees hold the flag during the 2nd annual Overdose Awareness Day Flag Raising Ceremony in City Park. SOS Berks worked in partnership with the city on this event



Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, John George, Alice Zhang & Berks Co. Commissioner Michael Rivera pose during the Health to Go vending machine 2-year celebration.

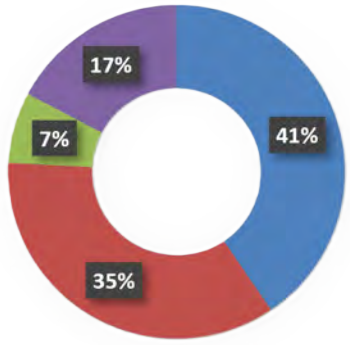




For the past 8 years, SOS Berks has partnered with Freidens Lutheran Church to provide resources and information at the Oley Community Fair

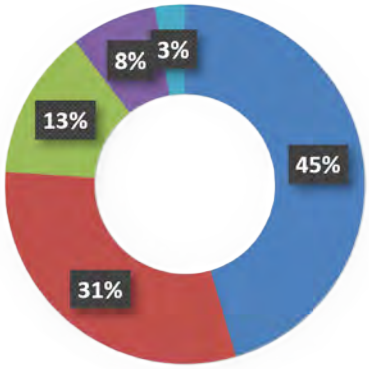
FISCAL REPORT

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



Revenues

State Funds	$4,754,646
Federal Funds	$4,144,901
County Funds	$812,895
Other COCA Fees & Income	$2,025,418
Total COCA Revenue	**$11,737,860**



Expenditures

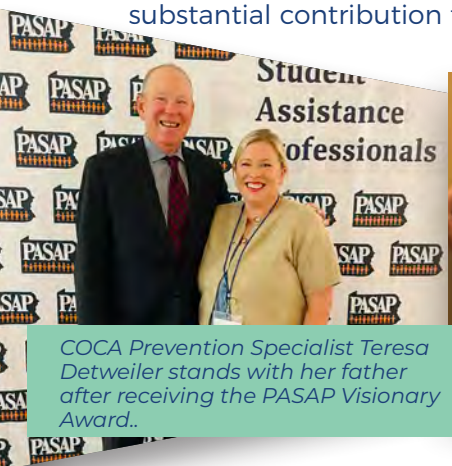
Treatment Related Services	$5,326,723
Treatment	$3,597,923
Prevention	$1,591,212
Administration	$911,097
Intervention	$310,905
Total COCA Expenditures	**$11,737,860**

Chart excludes provider revenue, rent, client fees totaling $1,778,017 For more information regarding our 25/26 fiscal report, please visit **cocaberks.org/annualreport**

*Treatment Related Services include the following: screening assessment, referral, case management, recovery support services and transitional/recovery housing.

2025/26 COCA HIGHLIGHT

Two COCA staff members were honored with statewide awards over the past year. In February, Prevention Specialist Teresa Detweiler was presented with the Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals (PASAP) Visionary Award at the annual PASAP Conference. That award is given to a PASAP member who has "demonstrated a key vision for Student Assistance in PA." In June, COCA's Director of Planning & Resource Development Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz was awarded the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance's (CPA) statewide Marcopul Award for Legacy, celebrating Marcia's substantial contribution to substance use prevention.



COCA Prevention Specialist Teresa Detweiler stands with her father after receiving the PASAP Visionary Award..



Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz poses with her award along with COCA staff members (l to r) Sonia Santiago, Courtney Kieth, Jaclyn Steed, Zoe Stankiewicz, Leslie Houck, Teresa Detweiler and Yvonne Stroman



Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz accepts the Marcopul Award for Legacy from CPA Board President Kathy Collier.

PREVENTION

Prevention Week Celebration

The Council on Chemical Abuse celebrated National Prevention Week in May 2026 by hosting a breakfast at the Berks RISE Center that honored COCA Prevention Specialists and the recipient of the Pat Ganter Scholarship Award. And, for the second year in a row, our Prevention Team recognized several local educators with Excellence in Prevention Awards by surprising award recipients at three Berks County schools with certificates and thanking them for the work they do to help their students gain the skills needed to avoid substance use and lead healthy lives.



Pat Ganter Scholarship Award recipient Wilson High School senior Bella DiGiacomo stands with COCA Board President Josie Torres-Boykins.



2nd Grade teachers at Shiloh Hills Elementary stand with COCA's Teresa Detweiler (center) after being recognized with a surprise Excellence in Prevention Award.



A June 2026 Gambling Awareness Campaign encouraged youth to know the signs of problem gaming and gambling and to take a break from technology.

Media & Communications

Social Media Posts	2,051
Social Media Post Impressions	113,765
The Response magazine - copies distributed to community	3,899

Prevention Services

People engaged at Health Fairs	9,433
Marijuana Awareness Mini-Campaign Reach/Impressions	282,933
Too Good Evidence-Based Curriculum Participants	2,044
Kids/Teens & Technology School Education Participants	2,609
Escape the Vape Participants, Elementary through College	1,832
Youth Gambling Awareness Campaign Social Media Reach	188,333
Summer Program Participants	1,885
Medication Disposal Bags Distributed	1,211

Youth Gambling Awareness

Social media reach: 188,333

In June 2026 COCA introduced a multimedia gambling awareness campaign targeting youth. The campaign featured social media posts, a webpage, posters and handouts in English and Spanish, all encouraging youth to "Play it Smart," know the signs of problem gambling and participate in offline activities.

Elementary School Programs

Youth reached: 1,630

Building strong prevention skills begins long before students face decisions about alcohol, nicotine, or other substances. COCA's elementary prevention programs, *Friendships Matter*, *Brain Games*, *Speak Up Stand Tall*, *Emotion Commotion*, and *MedSmart Kids*, help students develop key social-emotional learning skills that support healthy growth and decision-making. By building strong protective factors early, students are better equipped to navigate challenges, resist negative influences, and make healthy choices as they mature.



COCA Prevention Specialist Sonia Santiago plays a game with youth at the TriValley YMCA summer program that teaches them to "Press Pause" on technology.

Summer Programs

Students Reached: 1,336

Prevention does not stop when school lets out. Each summer, COCA's Prevention Team reaches youth through playground and summer camp programs, providing activities that help build lifelong prevention skills. This year's theme, *Leveling Up, IRL*, featured Press Pause, a gaming and gambling awareness program; Mission Possible, focused on heart and lung health; and Recharge Your Energy Lives, which explored mental health and the importance of balancing technology use with real-life connections.



No Nicotine New Year

Kits Distributed: 1,800

In February 2026, COCA put a new spin on the annual Traveling Quit Kit Tour, changing No Nicotine November to No Nicotine New Year, and adding new youth kits to the mix. The youth kits are smaller (see bottom photo), designed to fit easily into a backpack and are intended for students middle school through college age who wish to quit smoking or vaping. They contain hard candy, gum and fidget toys as well as an info card and key tag with text to quit numbers. This marked the fourth year COCA hosted the tour. Both the youth and adult kits have proven popular. A total of 1,800 kits were delivered to more than 30 Berks County schools, organizations and businesses.

Learn more at cocaberks.org/quitkittour

Top Photo: Penn State Berks students hold up an adult quit kit and a youth kit.
Bottom: The youth quit kits contain candy, gum, flavored toothpicks, stress balls, lip balm and a text-to-quit key tag.

INTERVENTION, TREATMENT & TREATMENT RELATED SERVICES

Intervention Services & Programs

Health to Go Vending Machine Items Dispensed	2,472
NARCAN® Distributed	5,487
Berks County Hotline Calls	306
SAP Assessments	756
Medication Assistance Jail Program Treatment Admissions	342
Warm Handoff Interventions	742
Marijuana Diversion Program Completions	229
Fentanyl & Xylazine Test Strips Distributed	5,521

Student Assistance Program Professional Development Day

Attendees: 90

For 11 years, beginning in 2015, COCA has partnered with Caron Treatment Centers and the Berks County Intermediate Unit to provide a free, full-day training for Berks County Student Assistance Program (SAP) professionals. In August 2025, 90 educators attended SAP Professional Development Day, participating in workshops on navigating trauma, cultivating student engagement, creating healthy relationships and SAP best practices. SAP is a mandated team process designed to help identify students who are struggling with issues such as substance use and mental health concerns. All Professional Development Day workshops are aimed at giving educators the knowledge and skills needed to help students succeed.



(L to R) Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Mike Reese & COCA Intern Henry Rivera-Flores provide NARCAN® and overdose prevention outreach at an NAACP event through the Berks HOPE project.

Berks HOPE (Healing Through Opioid Prevention Education)

Berks HOPE, a two-year project funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, is designed to reduce opioid overdose deaths in Berks County's Hispanic and African American communities through the provision of opioid education and naloxone distribution (OEND) services. This project incorporates best practices for OEND services identified in the National Institute of Health research studies, through the provision of outreach services in neighborhood sites including barbershops, bodegas, bars, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, tattoo parlors, and recovery settings. By training people with lived experience to provide OEND services, the project seeks to connect with individuals at higher risk for overdoses and to facilitate referrals to drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services. In FY 25/26, three organizations provided OEND services: Recovery Coaching Services, NAACP of Reading and Berks County, and The Forge.

Berks HOPE FY 25/26 Achievements:

- ***661 naloxone kits distributed***
- ***158 people reached at 15 community events***
- ***64 people reached during outreach visits***
- ***497 individuals received OEND group trainings***



Nicole Charlanza demonstrates how to respond to an overdose using Narcan nasal spray during a community training presentation.

Community Narcan Trainings

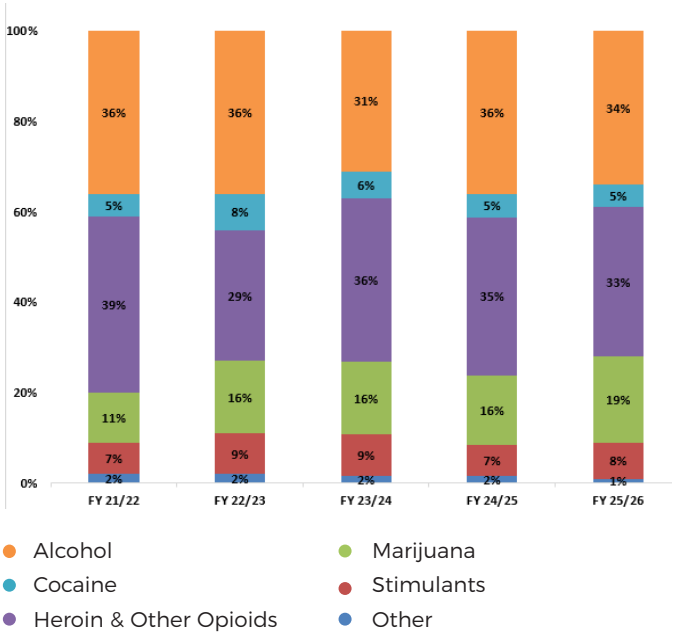
As part of COCA's overdose prevention initiatives, free Narcan trainings and presentations are offered to organizations, community groups and businesses in Berks County. Participants receive opioid education, naloxone information, and learn how to respond to a possible overdose using Narcan nasal spray. The trainings are appropriate for individuals who work around people and in public spaces, and anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency.

In early 2025, COCA began partnering with the Reading Hospital to offer *LifeSavers: First Response Skills* trainings to the community. These free, comprehensive sessions are open to the public and include information and demonstrations by several presenters on how to respond to different types of emergencies. In addition to learning about overdose response and Narcan administration from COCA's Overdose Prevention & Training Coordinator Nicole Charlanza, participants also learn Stop the Bleed and Hands-only CPR techniques during the *LifeSavers* trainings, which are hosted by the Reading Hospital.



Berks HOPE providers earned certificates after completing a series of trainings on opioid education and naloxone distribution.

Primary Drug for People Admitted for Treatment Through COCA Funding



1,928 Individuals

Received Pre-Treatment Services at Berks County Jail

These services use an evidence-based curriculum to engage people in treatment.

Treatment Services

Individuals Funded for Treatment: 1,180

In the course of treatment, an individual may require admission to several levels of care (i.e. detoxification followed by residential treatment). A total of 1,180 individuals were funded for 1,336 treatment episodes in fiscal year 2025/26. There were 207 episodes involving residential levels of care (i.e. withdrawal management, residential treatment and halfway house) and 1,003 episodes involving outpatient levels of care (i.e. intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization and medication-assisted treatment). Note that a single treatment episode can span multiple levels of care.

Treatment Access

Requests to COCA: 1,500

When an individual requests access to treatment, screening/assessment is completed to determine the person's need for substance use disorder treatment and their eligibility for COCA treatment funding. Berks County residents with a substance use disorder and no public or private insurance benefits are eligible for COCA treatment funding.

Berks RISE Center and Treatment Court: Recovery through Engagement

The Berks RISE Center works to promote recovery, personal growth and stronger connections to the community. One way this is accomplished is through outreach and engagement with the Berks County Treatment Court participants.

Berks County Treatment Court is a specialized court program within the Berks County Court of Common Pleas that works with individuals whose involvement with the criminal justice system is connected to substance use and/or mental health needs. Its mission is to promote community safety, personal responsibility, recovery, and reduced recidivism through treatment, support, and close supervision.

Berks RISE Center engages Treatment Court participants through events such as **Recovery Kickball, Recovery Bingo, Friendsgiving, and Lunch and Learns**, in order to build relationships, encourage accountability, and celebrate progress. These activities provide participants with opportunities to build life skills, learn about substance use prevention and recovery resources, and develop stronger connections with individuals and organizations committed to their success.

The RISE Center believes that recovery is strengthened when individuals feel supported and valued. By working alongside Treatment Court, the RISE Center continues to help build pathways toward healthier individuals, stronger families, and more resilient communities.



Participants in a Recovery Bingo Night enjoyed food, fellowship, and great prizes as they played a recovery-themed Bingo game.

RECOVERY

Individuals who received Recovery Housing Services (monthly avg)	72
Individuals who received Case Management Services	744
Individuals who received Treatment Follow-Up Contacts	991
Individuals who attended Recovery Support Services	505
Bed days provided to individuals in Recovery Housing	37,513



Members of a Spanish-speaking Tobacco Cessation Class get tips and support for quitting addictive nicotine from Walk it Out Recovery Services CEO/ President Robert Diaz, Jr. (pictured center)

Recovery Support for the Spanish-Speaking Community

Walk It Out Recovery Services continues to provide prevention and recovery support to the Spanish-speaking community. In FY 2025/26, Walk It Out expanded services by implementing Tobacco Cessation classes for Spanish-speaking individuals. 62 participants gained knowledge and practical skills to support becoming nicotine-free. Through Opioid Settlement Funds, Walk It Out also launched Creating Lasting Family Connections (CLFC), an evidence-based family program. Caregivers and children learn skills to strengthen communication, establish healthy boundaries, and improve family relationships. A total of 139 people participated. Together, these initiatives expand culturally responsive services and provide individuals and families with practical tools to support recovery, wellness, and stronger family connections.

In FY 25/26 over 600 attendees came to the Berks RISE Center for recovery-related activities including events, support groups, community meetings, and volunteer work



Top: PA Sen. Judy Schwank greets the audience. Center: Dr. Kristen Gilliland speaks during the keynote address. Bottom: Winners of the 2025 COCA Conference Awards (L to R) Kathy Strain, Conference Organizer Yvonne Stroman, Jeffrey Reichart, Richard Washington, Robert Patrizio, Boyertown SADD students, and Jami Geist.

2025 Annual Conference

On November 17, 2025, the COCA Annual Conference hosted nearly 200 professionals at the DoubleTree Hotel in Reading. The conference focused on the theme *Beyond Diagnosis: A Holistic Approach to Co-Occurring Disorders*, with workshops on mental wellness, marijuana and adolescents, social media, and drug trends. A keynote presentation by Dr. Kristen Gilliland of Vanderbuilt University explored brain plasticity, and a lunch time awards ceremony recognized those doing outstanding work in substance use prevention, treatment and recovery.

Berks County Commissioners

Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Vice Chair
Dante Santoni, Jr.

Board of Directors

Josephine Torres-Boykins, President
Courtenay Dillard, Vice President
Richelle Smith, Treasurer
Daniel C. Heydt, Secretary
Jobany Bedoya
Wynton S. Butler
Susan K. Gernert
Dr. Jill M. Hackman
Dr. Elizabeth Matteo
Andrea Mertz
William P. Murray
Jillayne M. Rech
Kevin Rudy
Dr. Kristen Sandel

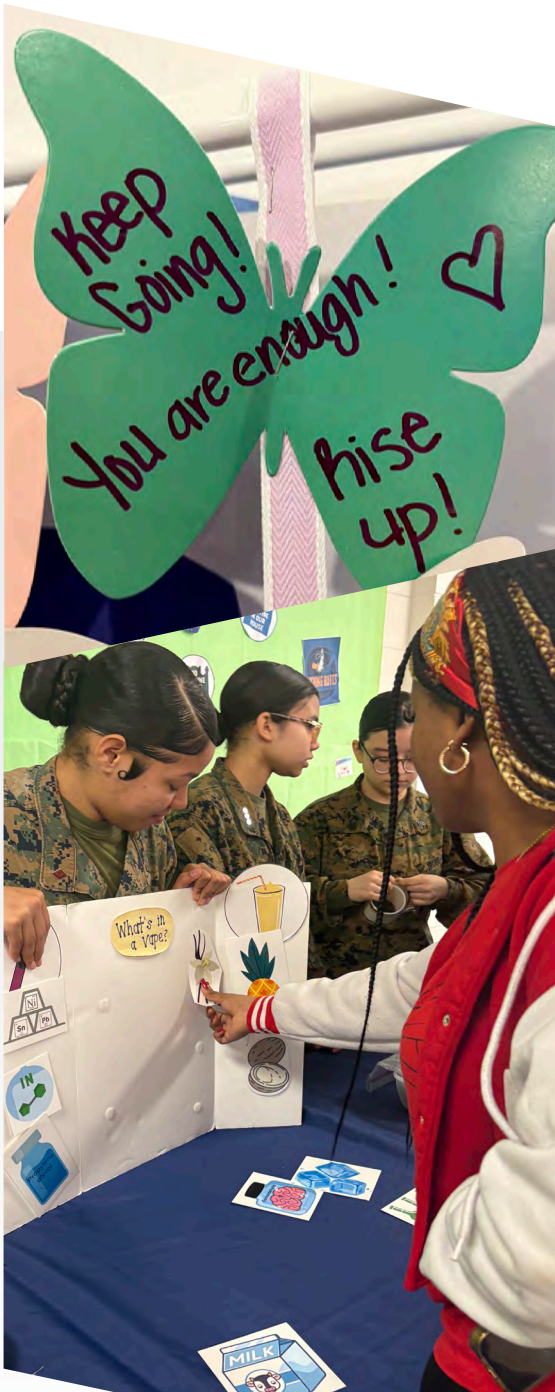
Staff Members

Kathleen F. Noll, Executive Director
Yomary Castro, Chief Fiscal Officer
Laura Catalano, Communications Coordinator
Nicole Charlanza, Harm Reduction Coordinator
Teresa Tieman Detweiler, Prevention Specialist
Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Director of Planning & Resource Development
Bernice K. Hines Corbit, Case Management Supervisor
Leslie Houck, Prevention Specialist
Courtney Keith, Prevention Specialist
Alicia Kline, Prevention Program Supervisor
Francheska Lantigua, Case Management Specialist
Sara Liu, Fiscal Technician
Minna Lopez, Administrative Support Specialist
Cynthia Martorana, Fiscal Technician
Lori Mannings, Fiscal Technician
Amyra Martinez, Fiscal Technician
Amber Moyer, Prevention Specialist
Paul Russell, IT Administrator
Sonia Santiago, Prevention Specialist
Nickie Seshan, Office Manager
Zoe Stankiewicz, Prevention Specialist
Jaclyn Steed, Assistant Administrator
Yvonne Stroman, Community Programs Specialist
Anastasia Tomko, Digital Media Specialist

All positions through FY 25/26

Council on Chemical Abuse
YOUR BRIDGE TO ADDICTION RESOURCES

50 N. 5th Street | 5th Floor | Suite 8
Reading, PA 19601



Connect with #COCABerks!

Get up-to-date news, statistics, videos, information on upcoming events, addiction resources and more.

/COCABerks
/COCABerksvideo
/COCABerks
/council-on-chemical-abuse
/COCABerks

Tune into our monthly WEEU & BCTV shows for updates on prevention, treatment & recovery in Berks County.

COCABerks.org

(610) 376-8669

COCA extends a heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this Annual Report.