

# Addressing Youth Substance Use

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**Reading  
Coalition  
Against  
Substance  
Abuse**



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## LOCAL DIVERSION

2012 Chief's Zero Tolerance Policy  
"address and document all juvenile involvement with underage drinking"

### THEN WHAT?



Issue summons



Family appears before  
Clerk Magistrate



RCASA Case Manager  
works with family.



## DIVERSION CONTRACT

The family & Police Prosecutor appear before the Clerk Magistrate. Following a review and meeting with all parties, each diversion contract is individualized based on their needs. All parties sign the contract which lasts from 3 mo-1yr with agreed upon conditions.

## CONDITIONS



Group Education  
Class & Debriefing  
(1 week after)



Essay



No alcohol/drugs



Case  
Management  
(Licensed Alcohol  
& Drug Counselor)



Community  
Service  
in Reading



Coordination  
with Family,  
School &  
Counseling

## Chemical Health Group Class



- 1** Pre-test
- 2** Assess S.W.O.T
- 3** Behavioral influences
- 4** Define substance misuse and the disease of addiction
- 5** Behavioral reflection & Post-test

## Self-acknowledgement of substance use

Positive changes identified from Pre-Test to Post-Test

I was using alcohol or drugs at incident  
PR 46%  
PO 54%



I feel better when I use alcohol or drugs  
PR 52%  
PO 61%



I use alcohol and drugs in social situations  
PR 46%  
PO 53%



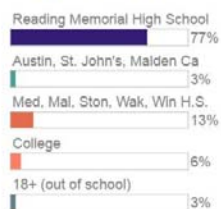
Addiction is a disease that can affect anyone.  
PR 86%  
PO 91%



## 2012-2016 Referrals 170 youth, ages 14-20



### By School



## 2012-2016 Results 167 YOUTH DIVERTED (LOCAL LEVEL)



■ Completed program (98.24%) ■ Referred for arraignment (1.76%)

**S**ERVICE Youth completed 1300 hours of local community service.

## COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Liquor License policies & Retailer Ed. improved. School Chemical Health Policy expanded & Police Zero Tolerance Policy enacted with/local diversion. Enhanced community dialogue & education.

**2009**



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**2012**



## PROGRESS

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2015</b>
Alcohol free (lifetime)	<b>33%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Alcohol free (past 30 days)	<b>55%</b>	<b>62%</b>
Alcohol free (binge drinking behavior)	<b>71%</b>	<b>78%</b>

Source: 2015 Reading YRBS, H.S.