



Spotlight: CORA Services Community Intervention - Crisis Prevention

A young teen reacted to his fears of being threatened by loading his backpack full of fireworks. Let's pause and think of how many ways this could go wrong.

But in Philadelphia, CORA Services is active in many schools and participates in a diversion program with the police. Thankfully the teen was referred to CORA, and it was CORA's Intensive Prevention Services that facilitated a safer school environment for him and more proactive ways for him to communicate. He was able to develop self-reflection and behavior modulation skills and become more positive in his relationships through a program of counseling and resiliency-building that will serve him beyond this episode and into his future.

The Intensive Prevention Services (IPS) is a program sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services' Juvenile Justice Services Division in collaboration with the Philadelphia Family Court, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Police Department.

Philadelphia's IPS and Police Diversion program have seen significant success across the city, with a 55% decrease in youth arrests. The IPS program at CORA gives youth a chance to avoid

formal justice system involvement. It is designed to work with youth and families to prevent truancy, steer youth away from delinquency, improve school performance, enhance life and social skills, and strengthen family relationships.



CORA takes a comprehensive approach, offering individual, group and family counseling complemented by group activities and case management. CORA's staffs make school and home visits to determine what supports each

participant requires to be successful and to work with parents/guardians to address issues that might be contributing to truant or delinquent behavior.

Sister Charity Kohl, RGS established CORA Services in 1971 as a small family counseling agency with the support of the Good Shepherd Sisters and a small state grant. Rooted in a tradition of care and compassion, the mission of CORA Services is to assist children, youth and families experiencing emotional, academic and social challenges.

After 50 years, CORA now serves 20,000 children a year through pre-school programs, services offered on school campuses and after school programs, addictions and mental health counseling and intervention services.



Working in a caring non-threatening environment, students focus on the achievement of established goals through various student-centered activities. CORA believes that active, early engagement is the best approach for preparing children for lifelong success. For children demonstrating a developmental delay, CORA intervenes early—when children have the greatest chance of correcting delays and minimizing the need for more intensive services later in life.

<https://www.coraservices.org/>

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) is the voice and lobbying arm of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd religious community, staff members, and clients in their ministries and agencies across the country. NAC empowers and is the voice for those on the margin of society and works to lessen their burdens through policy.