

# The Hamilton Youth Drug Diversion Steering Committee:

## Educational Day

All youth and their parents are required to attend this session which includes drug and alcohol education and self-assessment, legal/police presentations, asset building, conflict resolution, recreation/leisure resources and the development of a collaborative contract between the youth and parents/caregivers for healthy change. Staff from the John Howard Society will follow up on the contract with families three months after the session to offer any additional support. Staff from the partnered services utilize videotapes, games and informative presentations to create an interesting and interactive day.

## Getting Ready Group

This 5-session group is offered by AY for youth who, because their substance use may be significantly affecting their lives, would benefit from more extensive drug and alcohol education and support for change.

## One on One Counselling

For youth who may be experiencing some level of dependency or addiction, or who may be facing other concerns or issues related to their substance use, individual or family counselling may be the recommended option. The counselling staff at AY provides this program component.



Hamilton Police



The John Howard Society



Good Shepherd Centres



Hamilton  
The City of  
Hamilton



Alternatives for Youth

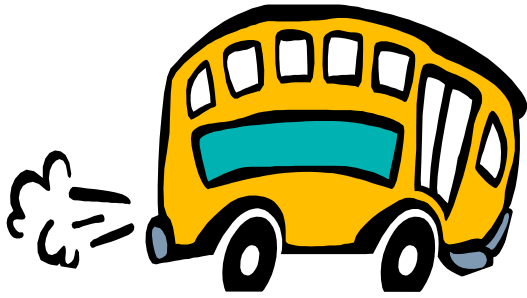
# Hamilton Youth Drug Diversion Program

*"To educate and support youth and their families as they strive for change." — HYDDP Steering Committee, 2005*

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Program Funded by:





## What is the Hamilton Youth Drug Diversion Program?

- ◆ Reflecting the principles of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, this program is specifically designed for youth, who are arrested by the police for drug offences.
- ◆ It is a multi-faceted, strength based diversion program that engages youth and their parents/caregivers in assessing and understanding the impacts of substance use and results in a collaborative contract for change.

◆ The following community services work in partnership to deliver a program that encourages youth to be accountable for their actions while providing them, along with their parents/caregivers, with education and support as they strive for change.

- Alternatives for Youth (AY)
- City of Hamilton—Culture and Recreation and the Public Health Department
- Community Dispute Resolution Services
- Good Shepherd Centres
- Hamilton Police Services
- The John Howard Society of Hamilton, Burlington & Area



## How does the Program Work?

When referred into the program by the police, a young person and their parents will initially speak with staff from the John Howard Society to determine their specific needs and to receive an orientation to the program. The John Howard Society follows the youth through the diversion program, ensuring the requirements have been met.

In order to further determine which of the program components would best meet the young person's needs, a substance misuse counsellor from AY meets with the youth to complete several screening questionnaires. Given that the readiness for change, the level and impact of substance use and other mental health issues may vary significantly among youth, this is an important step.

Youth then will be directed to participate in one or more of the following three program components.