



## 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 choice could go wrong and what the consequences might be.

Thankfully, after his arrest, the teen was diverted from potential court to CORA Services in Philadelphia and it was CORA's Intensive Prevention Services that facilitated a safer school environment for him and more proactive ways for him to communicate. CORA is active in many schools and service systems in the city and participates in a diversion program with the police department. The young man 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 's is a comprehensive approach, offering individual, group and family counseling complemented by group activities and case

management. CORA staff complete 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 federal 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.

In its 50th year of service, CORA now serves 20,000 children annually through pre-school programs, services offered on school campuses and after school programs, addictions and mental health counseling and intervention services and a full range of school services.



CORA's emphasis on delivering trauma-informed behavioral health wellness services incorporating the overall Social Determinants of Health are truly essential services during this time. CORA's full array of services uniquely support individual, family, school and community healing and growth toward full and productive lives.

<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.*