Program Preventing Dating Violence ‘Boys Into Men’ targets middle school students

PITTSBURGH — Coaching Boys into Men, a program that seeks to prevent dating violence and sexual assault, reduces abusive behaviors among middle school male athletes toward their female peers, according to a clinical trial results published in JAMA Pediatrics.

The trial, led by Dr. Elizabeth Miller, director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, examined the short- and long-term effectiveness of the program.

“Given the prevalence of sexual violence and relationship abuse, as well as precursors like sexual harassment and homophobic teasing, we wanted to test whether the program could help middle school youth and have a similar impact as it has among high school students,” said Miller, who also is professor of pediatrics, public health, and clinical and translational science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Coaching Boys into Men trains coaches to speak frankly with their male athletes about preventing violence against women and girls.

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Youth Services System Adopts Online Resuscitation Training

By LINDA COMINS

WHEELING — Employees of Youth Services System Inc. are learning resuscitation skills through a combination of online learning and hands-on training.

Youth Services System is the first agency in West Virginia to utilize this form of training offered through the American Red Cross and HealthStream, said Betty Bethel-McFarland, YSS communications manager and grant writer.

Bethel-McFarland is one of the initial staff members to use this method of instruction to complete the requirements for certification in Basic Life Support.

Julie Cunningham, human resources director for YSS, said the online component developed by the American Red Cross gives multiple scenarios to help employees develop skills for critical thinking and problem solving. The adaptive learning module consists of several sections.

Each section contains a pre-test "to see how much you know," Bethel-McFarland said. "Then you take the course depending how much you know. It saves time and aggravation."

Through the online testing, "I learned a lot more than the last time I took CPR training," Bethel-McFarland said.

The course teaches trainees how to respond to a respiratory or cardiac emergency and explains when to administer naloxone for an opioid overdose, she added.

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