



**2009 West Virginia's Promise Grant Report**  
*High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Regional Summit*  
Pamela Dugan, WV's Statewide Director  
HC 66 Box 1 F  
Frankford, WV 25438  
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**2009 WV's Promise Summit Grant Report**  
*(Due: Saturday May 9, 2009, please email and mail to Pam Dugan)*

**Name:** Reverend Matthew J. Watts **Title:** President & CEO

**Region 5 & 6:** Cabell, Jackson Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Pleasants, Putnam, Wayne, Wood, Boone, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Summers, Wyoming

**Organization:** HOPE Community Development Corporation

**County:** Kanawha County **Phone:** 304-343-4673

**Email:** [hopewdc@aol.com](mailto:hopewdc@aol.com)

**Expense Report/Budget:** \$1,715.00 (Receipts Attached)  
*(Please attach an itemized budget report of actual expenses)*

**Grant Amount Awarded from WV's Promise:** \$1,000.00

**Community Match Received:** None  
*(Please attach documentation of community match actual funds/in-kind donations)*

**Date of Event:** April 27, 2009

**Number Attendees:** Children/Youth 1 Adults 126

**Location of Event:** Charleston Civic Center

**Summit Details:** The Kanawha County Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit was held on April 27, 2009. The Summit was attended by 126 people including local government, judicial representative, mental health experts, school officials and the business community.

The event was held at the Charleston Civic Center from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Presentations were made by Prestera Center for Mental Health Services, WV Division of Juvenile Services, Kanawha County Probation, WV Division of Health and Human Resources, and the Kanawha County Board of Education.

Following each presentation, a break-out session was held for attendees to discuss the presentation idea and give feedback. This feedback was collected and transcribe to be used in the next planning team meeting.

Attendees listed a lack of parental support as a major problem, high truancy and absenteeism, chronic disciplinary problems resulting in suspension and expulsions and a high rate of teen pregnancy can result in youth dropping out of school.

Recommendations included attempting to get parents engaged in their child's education during the early years of school and encouraging them to continue to engage through the middle school years. Groups also recommended that a location be determined where those students who have been suspended can receive daily structured educational assistance

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instead of the four hours per week offered by the Kanawha County Board of Education. Groups suggested that a community agency could provide space and tutors for this purpose. Groups voiced that this is a policy that should be amended or totally redefined.

This information was gathered from flip charts used in group sessions.

**CATCH PHRASE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Please attach a contact list of all participants involved/participated in Regional Summit using this format.

ORGANIZATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TITLE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL	FACILITATE AT STATE SUMMIT
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Please identify key leaders, speakers involved with local Regional/County Summit that would be interested in participating as a facilitator in the State Summit in July 2009.

Please include in report, **Three Points of Interest:**

1. Why students dropout of school/identity the problems/reasons
2. What are the solutions
3. Identify effective policy change
  - a. How did you gather the above information from the participants (*small groups, flip charts, open microphone, etc.*)

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*Co-hosted by  
 HOPE Community Development Corporation*

1. One-paragraph description of the summit, its intended outcomes, theme, key attendees.

The Kanawha County Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit was held on April 27, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This summit was intended to get ideas and feedback from service providers, school officials and community leaders on ways to combat this issue.

The Summit's intent was to allow education, social services, mental health and the judicial system to outline gaps and recommendations that would enhance their efforts when dealing with kids that at risk of dropping out of school. Key attendees included representative from local government, education, mental health, the judicial system and key community leaders.

2. Highlights of presentations, speakers, partners engaged, youth engagement, results, etc.  
*Copies of PowerPoint Presentations Attached*

3. Media highlights, awareness generated, quotes, photos, etc.  
*Newspaper Articles Attached*

4. Next steps to create and strengthen a dropout prevention action plan.

*1- The working group will meet next Friday to review the notes gathered from the meeting and continue discussion as to how we can mobilize our community to develop a plan to promote graduation and reduce dropouts*

*2- May 15, 2009 --Email the summit finding to all who attended the summit*

*3- June 12 will convene a meeting of all attendees at the summit to share with them the findings from the summit and get feedback from them. Continue playing as to how we can prevent dropout prevention*

*4-Preparing our presentation for the July 14<sup>th</sup> State Summit*

*5- Encouraging people to attend the state summit.*

5. Other significant announcements

*a. May 22, 2009 HOPE CDC will be training on the HOPE Youth Development Movement*

*b. Model for the training Group June 18, 2009 –HOPE CDC will host a one day conference on the HOPE Youth Development Model*

6. Lessons learned

*Most people point to parents as being the major problem*

7. Attach relevant summit materials, program, final agenda.

See Attachment

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