

**Carae's Lowcountry Modeling "Images Anew"**  
**Beaufort County Youth Conference**  
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Emma Hall, Esq.  
Research Budget Analyst  
Ways & Means Committee  
SC House of Representatives

RE: Rep. Rivers Request-Carae's Lowcountry Modeling (Beaufort County Youth Conference)

This comes as support and information to the House Member Appropriate Request Form submitted by Representative Michael Rivers, on behalf of the above-mentioned organization.

The Beaufort County Youth Conference (BCYC) is a collaborative effort under the umbrella of a 501 3c organization, Carae's Lowcountry Modeling "Images Anew". This organization has consistently provided education for youth and young adults through conferences, workshops and other forms of presentations since 1985.

The primary goal of the Beaufort County Youth Conference is to encourage and empower youth to make healthy choices and decisions when confronted with social problems. This conference is an event held annually in Beaufort County, SC. And is open to youth, grades 6 through 12. It serves as a means to decrease youth involvement with social problems that aim to destroy promising futures, devastate families, defeat communities and end lives. Our efforts have benefited thousands of middle and high school students who have attended the conferences since its inception in September 1992.

The number of cases of youth engaging in risky and life-threatening behaviors in Beaufort and surrounding counties have increased significantly. Poor decision-making skills, lack of knowledge and awareness, aid in the increase of teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug use and abuse, incidents of overdose, gun violence, gang involvement, bullying, suicide/suicidal ideation and discipline problems in homes, schools and communities. Interventions to bring awareness of these issues to the adult population are also implemented during the youth conferences. The BCYC continues to support communities through its efforts of providing an interactive face-to-face platform, a plethora of evidence-based information and materials, designed to strengthen social skills, enhance knowledge and teach strategies that strengthens self-management, one conference at a time.

Respectfully,

*Carrie B. Major*

Carrie B. Major, Founder / BCYC

