

Hampden-Wilbraham Coalition Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 18th -- Wilbraham Public Library -- 1PM – 3 PM

Attendees: Teri Brand, Molly Caltabiano, Ruth DiCristoforo, Kathy Fuss, Lee Giglietti, Gail Gramarossa, Rachel Hapgood, Marcy Julian, Gina Kahn, Cindy Milner, Edward Saint-Vil, Tony Simmons, Kristen Stauffer

I. Welcome and thanks to Wilbraham Public Library

Rachel was thanked by Gina for her coordination of this month's meeting location at the Wilbraham Public Library. Rachel shared she is coordinating a wide variety of teen programming, creating a comfortable, fun, and safe place for teens to hang out.

II. Prevention Matters:

"After the Vote-- What Coalitions Will Focus on Regarding Youth Marijuana Use Prevention"

Handouts: The Local Vote

Marijuana Legalization Roll out Dates

Gail outlined and discussed advocacy that would be endorsed by the Coalition vs. what is permitted as a private citizen. Post-election, the legalization of recreational marijuana in Massachusetts has shifted to a "local condition". Keeping the new law in mind, as far as youth are concerned, marijuana remains illegal. However, access to marijuana will be a new focus in our prevention education to students, families, and the community. The proposed marijuana roll out dates were discussed, as well as the local community vote. The majority of voters in Hampden (No = 52.1%, Yes = 47.9%) and Wilbraham (No = 56.6%, Yes = 43.4%) voted NO, on Question 4 against the legalization of marijuana. Given marijuana can be smoked, similar to tobacco, or ingested, similar to alcohol, the policies developed in communities and schools for marijuana will likely reflect a combination of current alcohol and tobacco use laws.

II. Coalition Matters:

1. And the Winner Is...Coalition Name Announcement (summary of process and additional comments)

Members participated in an unveiling of the new name: ***Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth***
United for Safe, Healthy & Drug-free Communities



2. Website/communication status

We are now able to move ahead with the website contract with our new name in place. Members were asked to think about what they would like to see on our website. Suggestions can be emailed to Gina at gkahn@hwrdsd.org or Ruth at rdicristoforo@hwrdsd.org

3. Calendar of Upcoming Events - Hand-out

Members were given an overview of Coalition activities and events. Some Key dates were as follows:

January 25th – Opioid Awareness program
March 29th – Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking
June – Community-wide 2nd annual *Partners in Prevention* Program

2017 Coalition Meeting dates were determined as follows:

January 20th Hampden Police Department (Chief Farnsworth)
February 17th
March 24th
April 28th
May 19th
June 16th

Locations still need to be determined for meetings held after January. Members discussed how they felt there was a benefit to attending meetings in various community locations. Please forward information on available meeting locations within Hampden or Wilbraham to rdicristoforo@hwrdsd.org for upcoming meetings.

III. Operational Matters:

1. "Growing Pains"

DFC model (Gail)
Roles and functions-- Core Team/ Work Groups/ Sub-Committees/ Community Partners
Next steps

Due to lack of available time, this discussion was moved for next meeting's agenda.

2. Sub-Committees for upcoming events and activities

Volunteers are needed in any capacity to have a voice and a hand in three immediate Coalition focus areas:

- Survey Review Team – December
The Coalition needs to review the 2016 Youth Risk Benefit Survey.
- OPIOID Program – January 25th (Snow Date January 26th) MRHS— (Hand-out)
The planning stages have begun for an early winter Opioid program. The timeline for the program was given out outlining various ways members can be involved! As we firm up our programming format, more information will become available. In the meantime, please consider being part of this very important program. You may contact gkahn@hwrdsd.org or rdicristoforo@hwrdsd.org at any time for more information or to discuss how you can get involved.

2. Sub-Committees for upcoming events and activities - Continued

- Marijuana Legalization Work Group

Are there any members who are interested in meeting in a small work group, outside of the monthly Coalition meeting, to focus on prevention and education strategies to prevent marijuana use in our youth, especially around access, now that marijuana is legalized? Please contact gkahn@hwrdsd.org or rdicristoforo@hwrdsd.org with your interest. More information will become available soon regarding meeting time and dates.

3. STOP-Act Update: Communications Posting

The Coalition is looking for a Communications Coordinator, 8 hours a week, funded by the newly awarded STOP Grant. This position will focus on further developing a social media presence for the Coalition, as well as other key communication tasks.

4. Interns—AIC connection

The Coalition will be working with two AIC Public Health students to help us revamp our Youth Mental Health First Aide Resources Guide, and other Coalition projects this year. These students are seniors and will be participating in Coalition events and meetings, as much as possible.

5. District Substance Abuse Prevention/Education Policy update and review

Members were given a draft of the HWRSD Substance Use Prevention Plan to review and comment. Members were asked to forward their comments to gkahn@hwrdsd.org

IV. Housekeeping-- Support Cards

Members filled out support cards to capture any contributions, formally or informally, in their work that contributes to substance use prevention and healthy youth development.

V. Member Reports

Lee Giglietti, Wilbraham Public Health Nurse shared a recent report on state opioid overdose fatalities.

Tony Simmons, Director of the Hampden District Attorney's Community Safety and Outreach Unit, told members their office is working on a new documentary about Opioids, and is moving ahead with their "In Plain Sight" display at Holyoke mall for the holidays.

VI. *No December Coalition Meeting – Survey review team; January education event team*

Next Meeting: Friday, January 20th 1 PM Hampden Police Station, 100 Allen Street, Hampden