

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth

Coalition Meeting Minutes

February 16th, 2018 (1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Wilbraham Public Library 25 Crane Park Wilbraham, MA

Present: Teri Brand, RN (HWRSD Nurse Leader; Wilbraham Health Advisory, MRC); Pastor Ralph Clark (Evangel Assembly of God) Marcy Julian (Learn to Cope); Zbigniew (Joe) Kielczewski and Brad Sperry (Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary), Ruth Karlson and Monica Gubula, (Wilbraham United Church), Debbie Kelder (YMCA-Scantic); Jen Moulton and Diane Craig, (United Way of Pioneer Valley); Kristen Stauffer (BHN); Catherine Brooks, Evaluation Specialist, (Collaborative for Educational Services), Gina Kahn (Coalition Director)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Coalition Director Gina Kahn, with thanks to Rachel Hapgood and the Wilbraham Public Library for hosting the February meeting.

I. Welcome -

- A. *Introductions were made and Support Cards* were distributed, and new partners were asked to create cards that not only served as name identifiers during the meeting but provide a means to describe the wide range of Coalition members' related activities that either directly or indirectly support the work of prevention or the development of youth protective factors. These are also utilized when calculating the "matching" resources for DFC grant reporting.
Action Item: All meeting participants encouraged to think about ways in which they are involved in any aspect of prevention/ youth development work.
- B. *Reflection:* Following the tragic school shooting in Parkland Florida during which 14 students and 3 teachers had lost their lives earlier in the week, Gina asked that the group pause from the formal agenda to share thoughts and reflections about the event.
Action Item: No specific action taken, but the relevance to the work of the Coalition was drawn in terms of the strong connection between mental health and other risk factors of concern, and the overall well-being of the youth in our community.
- C. A Special Recognition: noting that her year of service was coming to an end and that this would be her last meeting with us, a round of applause was given to Jen Moulton. Jen has worked with the Coalition through her Vista Volunteer assignment to the Pioneer Valley United Way. Her many contributions to our team have included community support identification, resource development, and assisting with the refinement of the Coalition's web design.
Action Item: Jen was presented with a certificate of appreciation and our most sincere wishes for future success. Diane Craig was welcomed as the new representative from the United Way.

II. Vaping Trends. Teri Brand shared information that continues to come to light relative to risk factors associated with underage use of electronic nicotine delivery systems. Catherine Brooks referenced YRBS data that confirms that popularity of this trend, noting that as many as 25% of our students acknowledge use of these devices. The issues are complex, as the "vaping" term itself tends to minimize perception of harm (vapor) yet these devices are commonly used as delivery systems for nicotine which is addictive, and for various forms of other inhaled substances ie marijuana. A handout was provided on a particular device that has seen an increase among local teens.

Action Item: it was noted that we are modifying YRBS questions to reflect changes in delivery techniques (using marijuana vs. the previous "smoking" marijuana) and to also gain an even better understanding of the more frequent methods of delivery.

III. Drug-Free Community/Stop Act Grant Updates -- Gina Kahn updated the group on the two major reports that have been completed during this reporting cycle. We encountered numerous technological barriers that prevented us from submitting the Year Five continuation and carry-over

requests (Action Plan and carry-over budget plan reviewed at our previous meeting) but the federal project officers remained informed and were very understanding about the delay which was finally resolved on Tuesday, February 6. An additional “Mid-Year Update” has also been completed, and the group was asked to review the list of formal Coalition Involvement Agreements (attached).

Action Item: It was noted that while DFC grantees are required to have formal partnerships in the 12 identified sectors, we are continuing to work on formalizing working relationships with additional sector representatives as a means of ongoing Coalition capacity building. This will be important if the Coalition decides to seek an additional five-year interval of funding in the 2019 application process

IV. Preview of upcoming events

A. *April Underage Drinking Prevention Program Planning.* Our third major event of the year will focus on underage drinking, and the group discussed possible areas of focus that would be effective and responsive to some of the feedback we have received from program participants asking for more specific language around communicating with children. It was noted that some of the “centerpiece” components that we have looked at (videos, driving goggles) tend to include dramatization of DUI situations, and that this might not be the best approach when we reflect on data that has shown a slight decrease in high school self-reported alcohol use, but a definite **increase** in experimentation at the middle school level where driving is not the primary concern. It was also pointed out that these are opportunities to draw attention to the wider impacts on decision-making and lowered inhibitions that are impacted by teen alcohol use.

Action Item: We discussed the possibility of engaging a presenter that focuses on motivational interviewing, and an email will follow to put together a planning team. Any Coalition member/partner should forward ideas/suggestions to Ruth or Gina.

B. *Community Youth Mental Health First Aid Training--* included in the meeting packet was a flyer promoting upcoming YMHFA training on 03/24/18. Gina explained that not only is this training valuable in the context of our earlier discussion about mental health, but we also need to schedule as many groups as possible in order to maintain the credentials and protect our investment in trained facilitators.

Action Item: All partners are asked to consider possible groups of five or more individuals who would be able to take the training, and we will schedule to fit the needs of the group.

C. Hampden Police Department [QPR Training](#) (March 27, 6:30-8:30pm, HPD Headquarters). Related, the Hampden Police Department is offering a QPR suicide prevention training.

Action Item: Please share with interested members of respective networks. This could be considered a complement to YMHFA, as those who get the basic QPR might appreciate exploring signs, symptoms and response techniques in greater detail as accomplished through YMHFA.

V. Additional Updates/ General Action Items

A. Quick updates were given on:

1. highly positive response to the recent Rx Drugs Opioids/Just Once session and a summary of feedback was provided.
2. The logo development project continues, and a work group is evaluating the most recent sketches. Some examples were shared and it was noted that the less “busy” designs might be better suited to our printing needs. An update will be provided at next meeting

3. Our recruitment for a Communication Coordinator/Youth Liaison is drawing to a conclusion, and the Coalition members who have participated in the interviews were thanked. Recommendation will be made prior to the next meeting.
4. The 2018 Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be administered in April, and the parent information/ non-participation letter was shared. There are typically a very low number of students who opt out, and we continue to have confidence that the data generated are a good reflection of our students needs.
5. There are several upcoming programs being hosted by our partners-- please see our website for more details, and plan to support and promote these events widely:
 - a. Wilbraham Public Library. For teens, Paint, Sip, Fun on Tuesday, February 20 from 1:30-3 pm; a skype opportunity with the author of Braced on Monday March 5 from 5:15-6pm, and a screening of the movie *Wonder* on Friday, April 20 from 1:30-3:30 PM
 - b. April 4, District Attorney's Office hosting "Stop the Swerve" at the Basketball Hall of Fame
 - c. YMCA Healthy Kids Day April 21, see Debbie Kelder for possible involvement if you have something to share
 - d. Rick's Place First Annual "Run For Rick's" May 5, 2018, Post Office Park

B. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

1. Friday, March 23rd 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.-- Wilbraham Senior Center
Debbie Kelder offered to check availability at the Scantic YMCA Family Center, and in a follow up has confirmed that although the Y facility is booked on that date, she has reserved the Community Room in the adjacent Wilbraham Senior Center.
2. Friday, April 27th 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
3. Friday, May 18th 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
4. Friday, June 15th 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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