

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth
Friday, April 28th, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Minnechaug Regional High School
Superintendent's Conference Room
621 Main Street, Wilbraham

Minutes

Attendees: Gina Kahn, Teri Brand, Kristen Stauffer, Chelsey Hahn, Albert G. Ganem, Jr., Edward Saint-Vil

I. Welcome

- Introductions
- Support Cards were filled out by members, listing recent coalition-related activities since last meeting

II. Coalition News and Updates

- Chelsey and Gina walked the group through an overview of the coalition website – was liked overall, questions around who/ how it will be updated came up
- DFC site visit, June 14th for a county-wide picture, Gina reminded everyone of a call with DFC on Friday May 5th – she will report back to the coalition with details as they confirm
- DFC visit organized into the following segments: Staff, Multi-Sector Coalition Members, Regional/Community, Parents and Students. Gina will work with HS on potential students, likely students involved in the DA's Youth Advisory Board.
- YRBS. The survey was administered in April and is now being analyzed by Catherine Brooks from CES, updates to our core measures data chart and other data points will be forthcoming. The administration of the survey has greatly improved over the years through the use of a standardized protocol, and Superintendent Ganem noted that we should be able to streamline administration procedures even more next year when Middle School students will be able to take the survey on the new computers or chrome books. The opt-out rate was low this year.
- Parent Perspective survey: So far we have only received 20 responses despite the fact that all letters/ communication from the coalition has included reminders. Chelsey is working on designing a postcard that will be sent by mail to all middle and high school parents. The group previewed examples and preferred the word doodle/wordle with the green borders. Revised language needs to include "we need your participation" and the word guardian should also be included. Superintendent Ganem is willing to send out a Connect-Ed reminder from his office when we are ready.
- Training Update: Ruth attended Engaging Your Legislator office hours and received very good information.
- Marijuana discussion: Many cities and towns are taking proactive measures to reduce or eliminate sales in their communities. In Wilbraham there will be a ballot question in the town election May 20th to prohibit sales in the community, and there will also be two articles for vote at the town meeting including a temporary moratorium and a permanent prohibition. Gina, Teri and Molly attended the Wilbraham Planning Board's meeting last week when it was agreed that the planning board would recommend these measures at town meeting. We are aware that the Hampden Board of Selectmen reached out to the Wilbraham BoS to learn about the language being used for these ballot/ town meeting questions in Wilbraham but we do not know what further action has been taken in Hampden. A majority of voters in both towns were against the legalization question even though the majority of voters in the state were pro-legalization of recreational marijuana, resulting in the passage of the new law. Edward noted that at the regional level, the Hampden County DA has made public statements about his opposition due to many flaws in the law and new Hampden County Sheriff Cocchi wants to increase taxes on marijuana to address addiction. Gina took the opportunity to remind the group that we are unable to take a public position as a Coalition due to restrictions on activities considered to be

“lobbying” by federally funded programs, but the Coalition can provide information... and individuals can take any position that they choose as private citizens as long as they make it clear that they are not representing the Coalition but sharing their own views. Edward will send booklet on lobbying versus advocacy from CADCA

- Underage Drinking Town Meeting recap: There were about 100 people in attendance. This was lower than our target, but the feedback from those who attended was very positive. The group took some time to discuss the turnout, and variables that have factored into the excellent response on the fall, and the less than hoped for response for our opioids and alcohol events. We wondered if the community’s perception of the scope of the problem is a factor, or are there other barriers to getting people to the event – time, date, other? We would like to look at the sign-in information to see if some people attend all of the programs. We wondered what other incentives could be offered, including great involvement by students and greater assistance from health teachers, etc., in pairing these events with important components of their curriculum. Would additional incentives be helpful? (Ludlow example given) It was suggested that the Parent Perspectives survey be revised to ask parents who have not attended programs to share what the barriers are.
- The recommendation has been made for Chelsey Hahn to be hired for the ½ day youth liaison position, an expansion of her current duties as Communications Coordinator. Chelsey to be in touch with Steve, Heidi, and Nicki Smith

III. SAVE THE DATES:

- A. **District Attorney’s Youth Advisory Board Conference 5/11/17** at Mass Mutual (handout distributed and attached)
- B. **DFC Site Visit—June 14**—more information will follow after the conference call with the Evaluation Team on Friday.
- C. **Mid-Year Conference – *Engineering Healthy Communities***
 - July 23rd to July 27th, Marriott Marquis Atlanta, Georgia
 - Coalition members attendance roster, feasibility of including youth is being explored
- D. **September 2017 – Second Annual Partners in Prevention Forum**
 - September 15th – maybe back at Friendly’s
- E. **October 2017 – Wilbraham Park and Recreation Department Motivational Speaker**
 - Date being proposed by the Rec Department is October 2nd for students and evening for parents-coalition may work to get In plain sight display here or at open house (resource expo)
 - Edward to share Holyoke Mall contact with us, we might create our own display “Right In Front of Your Eyes” if we have storage of the items, thinks one night of the display may be easily possible to set up

IV. Coalition Partner News (please add your updates!)

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses offered – Gina needs to send training information to Kristen at BHN
- ATI Under the Influence PSA – recently awarded honorable mention in Hampden District Attorney Gulluni’s “Stop the Swerve” campaign – plan to watch this at next meeting
- Attached below is the letter about the DA’s Youth Advisory Board Conference, Thursday May 11th

V. Next Meeting: Friday, May 19th

Location to be determined

Notes Submitted by Chelsey Hahn, Communications Coordinator



ANTHONY D. GULLUNI
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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April 25, 2017

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Ms. Gina Kahn
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District
85 Wilbrham Road
Hampden, MA 01036

Dear Ms. Kahn:

You are cordially invited to Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni's Youth Advisory Board Conference on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at the MassMutual Center from 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. This annual meeting brings together members of the law enforcement, education, and political communities with the Youth Advisory Board, made up of high school students from across Hampden County. The event focuses on the accomplishments and hard work of the Board. It will include short videos created by the Board which address the issues of unhealthy relationships, the inappropriate use of social media, and teen stress.

Young people are faced with a number of challenges in today's society and it is important that adults listen and learn about the ways young people attempt to meet those challenges. In the past, the students have provided valuable information which was useful in identifying their needs within the county and what efforts could be undertaken by the community through law enforcement, educators and elected officials to address those needs. Once again, we expect to gain insight into today's youth and use that knowledge to provide a safer environment in schools and in the community.

Please respond to this invitation by contacting Diana Lozada (413) 505-5603 or email at dlozada@MassMail.State.MA.US. The conference is free of charge. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and breakfast will be served. Parking fees at the MassMutual Convention Center garage will be validated.

Sincerely,

Anthony D. Gulluni
Hampden District Attorney