

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth - Minutes

Thornton Burgess School 85 Wilbraham Road Hampden

August 23, 2018

Annual Business Meeting

Attendees: Teri Brand (Health), Deb Kelder (Youth-Serving Agency), Kristen Stauffer (Community-based Org working to reduce substance use), Ralph Clark (Faith Org.), Alex Karpinski, (Youth), Sherrill Caruana (School Committee), Gina Kahn, (Director of HWP4Y/HWRSD Safe and Healthy Students), Ruth DiCristoforo (HWP4Y Coordinator) and Tracy Bauduccio (HWP4Y Youth Liaison/Communications Coordinator)

1. Welcome

The group was welcomed to the Annual Business meeting by Ruth. Members introduced themselves and provided an update on their work/sector since the last meeting.

2. News

Ruth discussed the findings from the June 22nd site- visit letter, provided by Greg Grass, SAMHSA DFC Project Officer, about his visit to our area. The Coalition meets all administrative requirements in the following categories: DFC funds support a coalition, addresses DFC Goals, targets multiples drugs, representatives from 12 sectors, progress report submissions, developed sustainability plan in year 3 and collects required four core data measures (every 2 years). The Coalition meets all project management requirements in the following categories: program operations, assessment, capacity building, strategic planning, implementation, evaluation, cultural competence, sustainability and administration and management. Further comments were offered under Program Operations, implementation, sustainability, and administration and management.

Mr. Grass felt the coalition steering committee would benefit from developing a more formalized leadership structure, such as by laws, for accountability and decision making. The coalition staff would also then shift some responsibilities to the many engaged and capable volunteer members, which would support future sustainability for HWP4Y.

The group discussed how this findings means staff should be supporting the community, who would be taking on a larger decision-making role in the Coalition. Members likened this relationship to the Steering Committee being advised by the staff, but have final say (voting rights) on issues requiring a vote, such as policy, budgets, and personnel.

The group felt the way decisions were being way was working for the local conditions. However, the group also recognized the site visit finding for a more formalized decision-making body.

Brad Sperry spoke about the idea of a Rotary Grant to support the Coalition. Rotary is very interested is supporting the reduction of opioids in all communities. Further discussions will be held on this topic.

Gina stated the Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni was gifted the Coalition an unrestricted \$3,000 award to support safe, healthy, drug-free youth programs in Hampden and Wilbraham.

Gina discussed contracts for year 5. There are current contracts for staff, a technical assistant, and CES data specialists. The members supported renewal of all contracts.

Gina reported the Mid-Year DFC Report Extension that was submitted in August. This report paves the way to continue funding for year 5 programming.

3. Discussion

Ruth shared a Bylaws draft she wrote titled, *HWP4Y Principles of Organization* that includes key existing components of Coalition vision, mission, operations, and organization. Members discussed the Organizational Chart, Organizational Flow Chart, and content of the bylaws. The group advocated to continue the monthly advisory meetings, adopt an annual business meeting in August, form a Steering Committee with an ad hoc meeting schedule, and designate work groups to meet ad hoc and report back to the advisory/steering committee, as needed. The group decided to continue the bylaws review, and develop steps to forming a Steering Committee, many feeling the Sector Reps would be the likely candidate for this role.

Nicotine, in particular vaping with JUUL, is a growing concern in HWRSD, as well as across the nation. Tobacco, as a 4th designated substance was discussed. Members agreed for now to continue with the 3 core substances (alcohol, marijuana, and opioids) designation and look at tobacco/nicotine again as part of the year 6 – 10 DFC grant application.

4. Program/Activity Updates

Ruth discussed the fall Tobacco/E-cigarette (JUUL) Awareness Campaign. In line with increasing use rates for e-cigarettes, including JUUL, the Coalition will focus efforts on educating families about the risks. A postcard campaign will go out first, educating families with students in grades 7 – 12, about vaping facts, resources, and a save the date for a Get the Facts Workshop being offered three times, on October 11th. The YMCA will sponsor a noon-time program, Wilbraham Middle School will sponsor a staff after school program, and there will be a community wide night program at Minnechaug. The Teen Vaping: Get the Facts flyer was distributed to members, as well as sent electronically for sharing, posting, printing to help spread the word about the workshop.

Ruth discussed, on September 20th, the 3rd Annual Community Partners in Prevention Leadership Training, *Using Science of the Positive to Grow and Sustain Our Work in the Community*, will be held at Bethlehem Church Hampden, MA (8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). The training will offer leaders an opportunity to learn about an evidence-based framework that reduces fear and increases hope in our work, and integrate strategic prevention and positive community norms frameworks into meaningful messages and action in our communities.

Ruth reported the Coalition and youth will be at a resource table at HWRSD open houses throughout the fall.

Ruth reported once again the Coalition will be promoting positive youth development, and Coalition visibility, at the Minnechaug Homecoming game! Go Chaug! Members discussed how these are important activities for outreach to families about the Coalition.

Tracy reported the Youth Initiative was challenging to meet over the summer months. However, the Coalition was represented at the Wilbraham Concert series, offering face painting and cookies. Fall plans include bimonthly meetings at the high school, community service projects, and developing partnerships with other youth groups.

5. Meeting Close

Members were asked to fill out their Meeting Feedback Surveys before leaving.

Members agreed the September 20th 3rd Annual Community Partners in Prevention Leadership Training, would serve as the monthly meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 19th at 1 p.m.

