

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth - Minutes

Wilbraham Police Department
August 22, 2019 (12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Name	Agency and Sector
Officer Dan Menard, School Resource Officer	Wilbraham PD – Law Enforcement
Debbie Kelder, Executive Director	YMCA – Youth-Serving Organization
Sherill Caruana	HRWSD School Committee
Brad Sperry	Rotary – Fraternal Organization
Teri Brand, R.N., Nurse Leader	Hampden-Wilbraham Regional Schools/Wilbraham Health Department Advisory
Gina Kahn	HWP4Y Director
Tracy Bauduccio	HWP4Y Youth Liaison
Gail Gramarosa	Public Health Consultant
Kathy Fuss	Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club
Tim Persons	Youth
Alex Karpinski	Youth
Joe Kielczewski	Rotary – Fraternal Organization
Lisa Persons	Parent

I. Introductions

1. Coalition News from Members

The YMCA is sponsoring an event with speaker Kirk Jonah. He will be speaking to parents and teens in the community about the opioid addiction epidemic. He will be sharing his personal story of survival after the loss of his son. This will be held 9/17 and the coalition will promote and support this event. Any members of the coalition are encouraged to spread the word, attend, and participate in the coalition table. Coalition staff will contact public access to confirm if they can be available to record the speaker and share it with those in the community that are not able to attend.

II. General Business

- 1. Rotary Grant** – HW Rotary requested a grant of 3K, which was utilized to support 2 students to attend the CADCA conference in February 2019. The rotary was granted 1500. There may be an opportunity to raise funds to help provide the same support to the coalition to send students to the CADCA conference in February 2020. The rotary is going to research possible speakers to bring to the community in early 2020.
- 2. CLOSE Guest Speaker Idea** – Longmeadow CLOSE coalition would like to partnership and share a speaker, Alex Berenson. There is an opportunity to have the speaker in our community. Coalition members that reviewed the video of Dr. Berenson expressed that this speaker may be seen as an “alarmist”. There is not much data to support this speaker’s focus and the coalition does not want to discount the intent of the program. This decision will be discussed at the next meeting, with more supporting research.
- 3. By-law revision preview** – The revisions were accepted by ALL committee members with the exception of the ‘Quorum’. This will be reviewed by a member of the steering committee and final voting for the bylaws will be completed at the September 2019 Retreat.

4. **Coalition speaker** - The coalition discussed the options for a speaker to the community. What is the best approach? Amy Kasper is a coalition member and great local resource who could offer local condition perspective on how she is talking with the kiddos in the community and what trends she might be seeing. There is also an opportunity to have a physician from Baystate Medical Center to discuss what they are seeing in the medical world as it pertains to vaping. The Rotary will be researching speakers for the January/February timeframe. The Rotary will connect with Gail for additional resources and suggestions. The rotary will bring their findings to the retreat scheduled in September.

III. Quick Review of YRBS and Community Data (From July meeting)

- a. Student representatives believe that the problem is as big as the data suggests. There may even be a larger vaping issue, suggesting that more than 50% of students are doing it. There has to be strategies built around education, awareness, along with some focus on the consequences for vaping in school or on school grounds. Students want to make changes to the process. There is not an effective process currently that provides students the support needed for the addiction to nicotine from vaping. From the youth perspective it is more common to hear "Oh you don't vape" versus "Oh, you vape?". The coalition will be building strategies for awareness and support working in collaboration with the community and the school.
- b. The youth in the community will be invited to attend a focus group that will meet with students from BayPath University. This focus group will bring perspective of those studying the medical and mental health field directly to the youth of the community to help create messages and communication. This will be utilized in campaigns throughout the schools and community to provide awareness and education.
- c. The youth provided perspective on the validity of the survey based on what they are hearing from students taking the YRBS. The anonymity of the survey is still an issue. Students are apprehensive to answer honestly because they believe there may be a way to tie the information back to them. The students are currently going to a computer that has paper at the computer that they sign. The youth suggested have this process changed to allow for students to feel that they are sitting randomly at a computer without their identity attached to that computer in any way. If the kiddos could go in and pick a random spot and not have to log in with any of their personal information or sign anything at the computer, they may have more belief that it is anonymous. (Alex/Tim - Youth)

IV. Year 6 Action Plan Overview (HW Strategies for Community Change Exercise - Handout)

1. **Use the YRBS and community data to update the strategic planning for each substance using DCF 7 strategies for Community change:**
 - a. **Tobacco (including Nicotine) Vaping**
 - b. **Alcohol**
 - c. **Marijuana**
2. **worksheet** - The coalition reviewed the 7 strategies for effective community change. Provide Information; Build Skill, Provide Support, Change Access/Barriers, Change Consequences, Change Physical Design, Change Policy. The coalition discussed the importance of the balanced approach to all strategies from all sectors.

Vaping – Focus Work Group with ATI/YI students to find favorable language and message that resonates with students. Bring the campaign to the middle school. A Community Approach to the Youth Vaping Issue - what can we do together (*Hand-out*)

V. HWP4Y Action Plan - Next Steps

1. September 19th/20th, 2019 Leadership Retreat 12:30PM Lunch - 1PM - 4PM Meeting.
 - a. Coalition Organization structure: Review and if needed, update the bylaws, affirm steering committee and CIA's if applicable and nominate Steering Committee Chair, mission and vision statement review/revision if needed. Focus groups to create action plans for campaigns:
 - i. Vaping,
 - ii. Marijuana,
 - iii. Alcohol
2. October 2019 - 4th Annual Community Partners in Prevention Forum
 - a. Training topic to be determined and date confirmed by the September retreat meeting.



United for Safe, Healthy, and Drug-free Communities

