

## **Resources/Attachments, September 2020 (3)**

- (1) Ballot Initiative to Deregulate Alcohol Sales Summary
- (2) Parenting Now: Building Resilient Youth in Challenging Times Flyer
- (3) Search Institute Registration Flyer/ H-W Partners for Prevention- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Forum: Developmental Assets and Developmental Relationships-

### **(1) Ballot Initiative to Deregulate Alcohol Sales Will Move Forward**

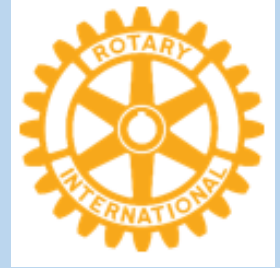
As you are likely aware, MAPA recently filed an amicus brief to stop an effort funded by Cumberland Farms to put an initiative deregulating alcohol sale on November's ballot. We were disappointed to learn that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled against us, meaning the initiative will move forward and voters will be asked to decide whether to deregulate alcohol by eliminating all caps on retail alcohol licenses for food stores on November 3rd, 2020.

Our next phase of work on this matter is to educate the public about the initiative and its associated public health implications. This is, largely, an uphill battle: a small, public health-focused organization versus a mega-chain corporation betting on the public not fully understanding the domino effect of "eviscerating current regulations that determine the number of retail alcohol licenses a single company can hold in Massachusetts". The Massachusetts Package Store Association states in its December 2019 press release, "Cumberland Farms introduced its ballot question to circumvent the legislative process by confusing voters into giving this single company unprecedented control of the retail alcohol marketplace with a potential 200-store network." Attorney John Scheft of Bellotti Law Group, who represented our case, accurately explains: *"We know that the odds were slim that the SJC would rule in our favor on this matter. The constitutional framework behind these voter petitions results in minimal substantive review of the real costs of these 'popular campaigns,' which, increasingly in the modern age, are corporate-driven exercises that benefit from a deliberately uninformed electorate. The term 'uninformed' isn't a criticism. Many of these proposed laws—including this one—take trained lawyers multiple readings to understand. Voters can hardly be expected to comprehend their potential impact."*

As featured on page 6 of the Statement of Concern signed by over 50 top doctors and scientists in Massachusetts, research has well-established that "low income and minority communities have a perilous history of being targeted by predatory industries that profit from those who become addicted." In fact, overconcentration of alcohol outlets has been identified as an indicator of systemic racism where liquor stores are disproportionately located in predominantly black neighborhoods and an origin of further health inequity. Further, it is well established that convenience stores like Cumberland Farms are heavily concentrated in underserved, low income, and brown/black neighborhoods and as a food desert issue this already contributes to inequitable access to high quality food and increased racist targeting by the tobacco industry. If Massachusetts votes to allow food stores unlimited access to liquor licenses, the research indicates it will have direct adverse health and safety consequences for our most vulnerable communities. You can read more about the decision by the SJC and our next steps [here](#).



**Please join Steve Opalenik, LMHC, for...**



# **Parenting Now: Building Resilient Youth in Challenging Times**

**WEBINAR**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 7:00-8:00PM**

So much has changed in such a short time... for kids, AND for parents! In this webinar, local family therapist Steve Opalenik will share insights and tips for guiding our young people to not just survive, but thrive through the many uncertainties that have impacted just about every aspect of daily life.

### **Topics will include:**

- How might the pandemic, trauma and isolation be affecting kids' mental health?
- How can we best support our children, and "parent for resilience?"
- What symptoms or behaviors might indicate that my child is struggling?
- Where can I find additional help/ resources if needed?
- As time permits, Q/A and ideas for further discussion



### **About our presenter:**

Steve Opalenik is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a certified Mental Health Integrative Medicine provider, and a former clinician at Family Care and Associates in Wilbraham. As founder and president of the non-profit Promethean Project, he specializes in working with youth and adults who are seeking to make positive changes in their health and well-being. With an additional background in personal training and mindfulness, Steve utilizes a holistic approach to help people maximize their health and discover their inner potential. He has a special interest in youth leadership development that emphasizes young people's abilities to think about local concerns and challenge themselves to make a change for the better in their communities.

The webinar will be presented via ZOOM. Please use this link to register before Friday, October 16: <https://forms.gle/ozPJrWGxv1cP49vz7>

The ZOOM link will be sent via email to all registered participants.

Questions? Email: [koconnor@hwrdsd.org](mailto:koconnor@hwrdsd.org), or Phone: (413) 566-5060 (Ext. 17)

**This program is hosted by the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth Coalition, [www.HWP4Y.ORG](http://www.HWP4Y.ORG) with generous support from the Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden.**

**PS-- SAVE THE DATE! "Catch My Breath: What Parents Should Know About Teens and Vaping" Thursday, November 19, 7-8:30 pm – check out [www.hwp4y.org](http://www.hwp4y.org) for updates and information**



WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY:  
H-W PARTNERS FOR YOUTH  
OCTOBER 15 & 16<sup>TH</sup> (11 AM-1 PM)

# Developmental Assets & Developmental Relationships Connections that Help Youth Thrive

OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup>

## 2-SESSION VIRTUAL WORKSHOP (11 A.M. – 1.P.M.)

This interactive workshop explores both of Search Institute's research-based frameworks and how they can be used as catalysts for growing and thriving. Developmental Assets describe what youth need; Developmental Relationships focus on how you nurture them.

The Developmental Assets® Framework articulates a broad ecology of youth development, giving communities, schools, and programs a common language to support positive development. The framework focuses on a set of internal factors (social-emotional strengths, values, and commitments) and external factors that protect from risks and promote thriving.

Developmental Relationships are the roots of youth success. The framework identifies 5 critical elements and actions that make a relationship developmental, helping youth be and become their best selves.

### At our 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual HWP4Y Community Partners in Prevention Forum, participants will:

- Discover the practical power of these two positive frameworks to guide your work with youth
- Understand how Developmental Assets and Developmental Relationships can strengthen your practices and programs, and enhance our Coalition Strategic Prevention Framework
- Understand the protective factors of both frameworks, and identify qualities of individuals who play powerful roles in young people's lives
- Learn how essential DA/DR messages support positive youth development
- Take home practical tools and strategies for building relationships with young people

**2-session, highly interactive, virtual workshop**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (11AM-1PM)**

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Youth
- Parents/Guardians
- School Personnel
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Professionals
- Local Business Leaders
- Civic/Volunteer Leaders
- Faith/Fraternal Leaders
- State/Local Government
- Media
- Youth-serving Organizations
- Mental Health/Substance Misuse Prevention Specialists

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Workshop link & workbook will  
be provided after registration

[WWW.HWP4Y.ORG](http://WWW.HWP4Y.ORG)  
FB@HWP4Y

Cost covered by DFC  
Communities Grant

Pre-register TODAY or BEFORE OCT. 9<sup>th</sup> at: <https://forms.gle/e7shAEcdqJkAhmzCA>  
Questions? Please contact Janet Farrell at: [jfarrell@hwsd.org](mailto:jfarrell@hwsd.org) or by phone at: (413) 566-5060 (ext. 10)