

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth (HWP4Y) Coalition
Meeting Minutes and Attachments (3)—Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

Present-- Sector/ Agency:

Gina Anselmo (Hampden County DA's Office); Sherrill Caruana (H-W School Committee); Kathy Fuss (Wilbraham Jr. Women's Club), Dr. Amy Kasper (Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine), Debbie Kelder (Director, Scantic YMCA Family Center), Dan Menard (Wilbraham School Resource Officer), Cindy Milner (K-B Realty); Tracey Plantier (parent/ community development); Jared Proulx (West Central Family Counseling, West Springfield); Terrence Smith (United Way of Hampden County); Brad Sperry (Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary),
STAFF: Gina Kahn (H-WP4Y Director); Kerri O'Connor (Interim Support/ H-W Family Resource Specialist),

I. Welcome: Attendees signed in via the Chat and some shared messages of thanks to Ruth DiCristoforo, Coordinator, whose last day was Tuesday 9/22. Gina Kahn noted that a fall plant and Rice's coffee mug had been presented to Ruth as a small token of the Coalition's appreciation, and that anyone who wished to send a personal note could mail it to the office and it would be forwarded. **Meeting convened at 2:05PM.**

II. Coalition Updates:

A. Coordinator Resignation, searches in progress; status of postings/applications

The posting links were shared. We are currently recruiting for a new Coordinator:

<http://www.schoolspring.com/job?3361347> and a youth Liaison: <http://www.schoolspring.com/job?3367077>

- Members engaged in a chat activity: "desired attributes/qualities/skills for a Coalition Coordinator" and then discussed their responses, which included: organized, a good communicator—verbally and in writing, familiar with community, experience/knowledge from a parent perspective, accessible, well-versed in public health/ Coalition methodology, strong follow up/ follow through, flexibility (both as a personal style, to meet the dynamic changes of the work, and willingness to "go the extra mile" beyond set hours worked, personable, positive attitude, able to motivate team-work, tech/ social-media savvy, relates to youth.
- Gina reported that there were currently about 25 responses to the postings, and interested applicants were asked to visit the website and then follow through with a specific letter of interest/ resume via Schoolspring. Volunteers are needed for the Screening/Selection process, with the hope that a hiring recommendation will be made by mid-October. In the meantime, Kerri O'Connor providing interim assistance!

B. 4th Annual Community Partners in Prevention Leadership Forum

- Details were reviewed for the upcoming Virtual Search Institute – Developmental Assets and Developmental Relationships; Thursday, October 16th and Friday, October 17th – 11-1:00PM, and Coalition partners are asked to please register as soon as possible using the following link: <https://forms.gle/e7shAEcdqJkAhmzcA>
- The virtual format does not allow for the same level of camaraderie that we have been accustomed to in our events, but the Search agenda is very full and interactive. Mailing addresses are requested on the registration as there will be advance delivery of Search Institute booklets/ and all participants will be receiving T-shirts. It was decided that participants would also get a Rice's gift card (likely \$5 to stay within the limits of allowable "light refreshments") and if the agenda allows, a periodic drawing during the breaks where attendees can randomly receive a gift card or some type of additional thanks for their engagement.

C. The Rotary club is supporting: Parenting Now: Building Resilient Youth in Challenging Times-- A Webinar for Parents and Caregivers, Wednesday, 10 21, 2020-- 7-8pm with family therapist Steve Opalenik.

Their support includes ½ page ad in the H-W Times, and Brad Sperry and Peter Salerno will be responsible for working the Times for ad placement. Sherrill recognized that the deadline for registration did not allow enough overlap with the Times ad promotion, and it was decided to back up the placement of the ad to one week earlier: 10/8 and Kerri and Gina will complete the flyer which will serve as the basis for the ad (DRAFT is attached). Additional outreach will be done through schools, Amy suggested that Superintendent Ganem could send a message, and all team members are asked to promote this event through their networks.

D. DFC Grant Updates/Core Management Team

- Gina Kahn reported that our Progress Report had been approved, and that the DFC National Evaluators had recently shared our "five-year report card" where all core measures showed significant progress, with the expected exception of e cigarettes; and prescription medication use at the middle school (although these numbers were so small that the increase, although significant, still reflected a small percentage. We will

need to address any challenges to data collection in the spring of 2022 that may result from continued pandemic restrictions on school schedules.

- We have 12 sectors that are required to be represented in Coalition Involvement Agreements (CIAs) and these were submitted in the spring of 2019 with our Years 6-10 application, but should now be updated. Gina will contact each sector rep individually, but will also welcome additional official “CIAs” from those who—according to our bylaws—would be willing to assume a leadership role. This also pertains to the nominations of Chairperson(s)—a discussion that will continue.
- Communication preferences: the “Google Calendar Invite” got mixed reviews in terms of benefit, but was not seen as intrusive so will continue. It was noted that for those who used other types of calendars, they would get the email invitation but this would not go directly into their calendars. It was also agreed that for the core “CIA” team we would use “cc” instead of “bcc” on emails, to promote better collaboration among the key sectors. The larger mailing list that receives meeting notices will continue as bcc.
- Two Work-groups were recruited:
 - A group that will look at our mission statement and incorporate language that reflects commitment to diversity/ anti-racism (explore other Coalitions, etc) and develop strategies that bridge this commitment to coalition work.
 - A Data team/ YRBS 2021 team that will look at the work that CES has completed on data analysis, and consider modifications in the 2021 survey.

III. Policy, Outreach and Community Education Updates

A. Sharps Disposal news—Town of Wilbraham has approved the location of a permanent Sharps disposal box, to be located at the Wilbraham Police Department with the full support of Chief Robert Zollo. Kathy suggested that an article about this should be placed in the Times.

B. HWP4Y.ORG and Facebook.com/HWP4Y -- Gina asked that folks continue to check out the Coalition’s presence on social media, and offer any suggestions as to how momentum can continue.

C. MA Regulation Change on Retail Alcohol Sales on the November 3rd Ballot (attached)

D. Catch My Breath Webinar -- November 19th (7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) – Catch My Breath E-Cigarettes & JUUL: What Parents and the Community Should Know This upcoming program for up to 50 Participants will cost \$500 for 1.5 webinar (content, plus Q&A) b. Local panelist will be used for Q&A. CMB will customize the flyer with logo and local contacts after we supply details on registration process, feedback survey, hand-outs This will be tied to Great American Smoke Out (November 19th) coordinating with marketing for the program, resources, follow-up

E. Sticker-Shock Campaign this is a popular DFC/STOPAct Activity that reminds about social hosting and sale/provision to minors legislation. This would be a good project for the new Youth Liaison once hired, but that the Coordinator was the first priority.

IV. Evaluation and Resource Development

A. Data Project/ CES – basis for updated H-W Environmental Strategies for Effective Community Change across core substances: Nicotine, Alcohol, and Marijuana—we will explore this at our next meeting

B. New grant opportunity: BSAS, \$125,000/year for 2 years with 3 renewal cycles—there needs to be a “cluster of communities” as our two towns are too small to be considered. Gina will reach out to Gail Gramarossa to see if inclusion in the Quaboag proposal is possible, and if not, reach out to Longmeadow and West Springfield. Jared able to assist with navigating BSAS priorities.

V. Closing—Next meeting (no October meeting – please attend Partners in Prevention!!)

Core Management Team business meeting 10/21/20 to approve new coordinator

If we stay with 3rd Wednesdays: 11/18; 12/16; 1/20; 2/17; 3/17; 4/21; 5/19; 6/16; 7/21; 8/18. Attendees were asked to communicate meeting day/time preferences as this continues to be a question.

Meeting Adjourned, 2:40PM



United for Safe, Healthy, and Drug-free Communities *We believe preventing and reducing youth substance use is a collective responsibility. We strive to implement a coordinated, comprehensive, and sustainable plan of evidenced based programs, activities and resources that positively impact a healthy childhood development of our youth.*