

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth –Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

12 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Zoom Video/Phone Meeting <https://hwrzd-org.zoom.us/j/83680063238>

- I. Welcome/Attendees:

Staff: Mary Cieplik (volunteer staff); Jenna Swotchak, Coordinator; Gina Kahn, Director
Gina Anselmo -- District Attorney's office
Sherill Caruana -- HWRSD School Committee (Local Government)
Magda Colon -- District Attorney's Office
Jennifer Elkas -- BHN Mental Health Organization
Kathy Fuss -- Jr. Womens' Club of Wilbraham, Volunteer
Kim Lee -- MHA Mental Health Organization
Danielle Maurice -- Parent (Elms College, Higher Ed Partnership)
Tom Mazza -- HWRSD- School Administrator
Dan Menard -- Wilbraham Police, SRO (Law Enforcement)
Kerri O'Connor -- HWRSD- Resource Specialist
Jared Proulx -- Parent/ SA Prevention/Intervention Organization
Michael Roy - MRHS/HWRSD Athletic Director
Jing Chen-- MRHS Student
Jaclin Robinson--MRHS Student
- II. Coalition Business
 - a. Review/approval of November minutes (no additions/corrections)
 - b. Coordinator's Update – Volunteers for “spotlight” started November 20, so far Jenna has been taking the time to become familiar with the CADCA Coalition model, and will be sharing links to some of the trainings that she has participated in as they might be helpful and interesting to Coalition members; also going out into the community/ Coalition community to get to know the various members. She has met with Mike, Dan and Rachel so far. This is associated with a “Spotlight” project! The new editor of the H-W Times has agreed to allow a regular feature in the newspaper that will include short bios of our team. Request for volunteers to be the next spotlight focus.
 - c. Request to fund guest speaker for Above the Influence group -- approved
 - d. Request to print “placemats” with HWP4Y messages to assist with cafeteria safety -- approved, Gina will continue to explore with Julie Dougal, Food Services Director
 - e. Support for the ATI club calendars: Coalition will purchase approximately 20 calendars and distribute them to the core team. More can be ordered if individually desired.
- III. Training/ Capacity Building Opportunities
 - a. Discussion about participation at the (virtual) CADCA Annual Leadership Conference, February 1-4. Jenna will definitely attend as part of her orientation. Several members (Mike, Dan, Sherrill) spoke of their CADCA training experiences, both in-person and virtual. The virtual format in the summer had some snags, that will hopefully be resolved this time, and the benefit is that even if one is not able to “attend” at the specific workshop time, registered participants have access to all recorded sessions and materials and can return to them for a period of time after the conference. If anyone is interested in attending this virtual conference, they should contact Jenna or Gina. Registration will be paid by Coalition.
 - b. Check out the agenda here: [Learn More About Forum! | CADCA](#)

- IV. Sub-committees/workgroups
 - a. Data analysis/ planning for YRBS survey review 2021-- Is there a way to add a question about Inappropriate attention getting? Clarification: on days that there are just subcommittee meetings, the parking lot is empty, but on “school committee meeting” days, the parking lot is full of students that are doing some questionable things. (Dan M added, however, that the school parking lot is a popular gathering spot on many evenings, which would potentially reflect the need for (1) more parent education regarding the importance of supervision, and (2) the coalition, as a community, developing more strategies around “better things to do”). We will figure out a way to incorporate something in the survey that elicits more information about how kids are spending free time. Coalition members discussed some options of offering more activities to youth such as socializing activities or keeping them engaged in physical activity to keep them occupied and stimulated in appropriate ways. Mike spoke about the positive impact of the modified team sports that were held this year.
 - b. A number of people volunteered to be part of the survey team! Gina will set up a meeting after the holidays, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 1-2:30pm, to include: Danielle Maurice, Kathy Fuss, Sherill Caruana, Mike Roy, Teri Brand, Mary Cieplik, Cindy Milner. Contact Jenna or Gina if interested in being part of this.

- V. Outreach- additional parent/community awareness/education activities, January-June
 - a. Mass Support (Mental Health) January-- Gina and Jenna will follow up
 - b. Search—Developmental Assets for Parents – February
 - c. Mental Health Awareness – May
 - d. Know Before You Go- April

- VI. Future Meeting Schedule
 - a. Proposed: A “third Wednesday” schedule for remaining “Year 7” meetings-- 1/20/21; 2/17/21; 3/17/21; 4/21/21; 5/19/21; 6/16/21; (no July meeting); 8/18/21; 9/15/21. In discussion, there was consensus on taking this approach, and monitoring feedback and attendance to see if any regular conflicts emerge. It was noted that the February and April meeting dates may coincide with school breaks, but we are not sure that this is an issue under the current circumstances.
 - b. additional considerations: quarterly evening meetings; resuming “in-person” as well as virtual options-- will be discussed in January

Adjourn: 1:01 PM, with heartfelt gratitude to all, and wishes for a Happy Holiday!



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.