



## Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth

Meeting Agenda/Minutes: November 19, 2020

Present/Sector: Jared Proulx (Treatment/Intervention; Parent), Jennifer Elkas\* (Mental Health), Dina LaMotte (Parent/Community Leader), Kerri O'Connor (HWRSD/ Intervention Resource Specialist), Gina Anselmo\* (District Attorney's Office), Tracey Plantier (Volunteer/Community Leader), Sherrill Caruana (Local Government/School Committee), Mike Roy\* (HWRSD Athletic Director), Tom Mazza (HWRSD Admin), Mary Cieplik (Volunteer Staff), Cindy Milner\* (Local Business), Dan Menard\* (School Resource Officer), Danielle Maurice (Parent; Higher Ed); Terrence Smith, Americorp/United Way Volunteer; Teri Brand, HWRSD Nurse Leader; Jenna Swotchak, HWP4Y Coordinator; Janet Farrell, HWP4Y Program Assistant; Gina Kahn, HWP4Y Director

\*Denotes formal Sector Representative (Signed Coalition Involvement Agreement)

The November meeting of the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth was called to order via ZOOM on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** As the main objective of today's agenda was to present the Coordinator Search Committee's recommendations and introduce the selected candidate, Jenna Swotchak, to the group, we took a little bit of additional time with the welcoming activity as each member introduced themselves and briefly shared their sector representation/involvement.

**II. Coordinator Search Summary:** Tracey Plantier described the multi-step selection process: application screening, first interview (ZOOM), second interview, reference checking and committee recommendation. We were fortunate to receive numerous qualified applications and to have a strong pool of finalists to consider, with objective criteria upon which to assess and ultimately make our recommendation with confidence.

**III. Introduction of Coordinator Candidate/ Recommendation:** Jenna Swotchak addressed the group, shared a brief summary of her background, and expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to assume the role of Coordinator. She was then asked to step away briefly from the meeting so that the team could discuss and vote on the Committee's recommendation. The discussion included the selection committee's affirmation of many ways in which the qualities and experiences that had been recognized through the search process with Jenna aligned with the priorities that had been identified during the September meeting discussion. Particularly impressive to the search team, her Master's Degree in Public Administration, her previous work with the Gandara Center which included grants management support for their DFC program, her awareness of issues related to equity/social justice, her social media fluency, and her overall spirit of enthusiasm, flexibility and collaboration. Gina also noted that, due to budget availability and the continued vacancy of our Youth Liaison/Communications, we were able to extend an offer of full time employment to Jenna. As she becomes acclimated to the role,

we will determine whether she may serve in the dual capacity of Coordinator/ Youth Liaison or if that second search will be reopened.

**IV. On-Boarding Priorities:** The discussion transitioned to on-boarding priorities, specifically the desire to assist Jenna in learning about the community, reviewing data on risk and protective factors, student engagement, engaging community members in a higher level of involvement and leadership in Coalition work, and program planning that both addresses action plan needs, supports parents' roles, and promotes Coalition visibility. Gina also mentioned the ongoing priority of sustainability as we now enter year 7 in the last half of our 10-year funding cycle. One specific project will be for Jenna to identify members of the coalition and create a "spotlight" segment, either to be published in the W-H Times, featured on the website/Facebook, or both. Another suggestion was to engage someone with visibility and recognition, i.e. Steve Hale, to create a video about the Coalition overall.

**V. DFC Grant Updates:** Gina explained that there are still logistics to be worked out in the transition from SAMHSA to CDC, but communication so far with the CDC team has been very responsive and we will continue to work out the "bugs" to be sure that we can access our year 6 carryover funds and make any necessary adjustments to the Year 7 Action Plan.

**VI. Community Education/Programming:** Gina reminded that there was still an opportunity to register for tonight's vaping awareness program, Parenting Now: Catch My Breath, What Parents Should Know about Teens, Tweens and Vaping, and that the program would be recorded for later broadcast. She also said that the next program could potentially involve bringing Search back to do a Developmental Assets program for parents, but there is clearly a high priority for mental health support right now, and we may wish to do something in-between to give parents more resources to support their children through the concerns that have been raised in the COVID-19 challenges.

**VII. Next meeting/Future meetings:** The team agreed that the noon meeting time seems to work, and that moving to Wednesdays might increase the opportunity for students to attend. With that in mind, we will convene again on **Wednesday, December 16 at noon, via ZOOM**.\* 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, will be proposed and voted upon at the December meeting. (additional considerations: quarterly evening meetings; resuming "in-person" as well as virtual options)

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Notes submitted: Gina S. Kahn, Coalition Director

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\* Gina Kahn is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on behalf of the H-W Partners for Youth.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://hwsd-org.zoom.us/j/83680063238>

Meeting ID: 836 8006 3238

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