

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth

Friday, May 19, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wilbraham Police Department

Community Room (Parking in the rear)

2780 Boston Road Wilbraham

Attendees: Teri Brand, HWRSD Nurse leader, Ruth DiCristoforo, Coalition coordinator, Pete Dufresne, Wilbraham Middle School principal, Officer William E. Jacques, Hampden Police department, Kathy Fuss, Wilbraham Junior Women's club, Gail Gramarossa, Prevention consultant, Gina Kahn, Director HWRSD Safe Schools Healthy Students/H-W Partners for Youth, Dan Menard, Wilbraham Police SRO, Cindy Milner, Pathways for Parents, Mike Roy, HWRSD Athletic Director, Janet Farrell, Coalition Program assistant, Jen Moulton, UWPV/AmeriCorps, Amy Kasper, Pediatrician.

Minutes

I. Welcome

- Introductions were shared amongst the group.
- Support Cards were filled out, summarizing individual/organization activities related to the prevention and reduction of youth substance use, since our last meeting.

II. Coalition News and Updates

- The upcoming DFC (Drug-Free Communities) Site Visit agenda, for Wednesday, June 14th, was discussed. Gina Kahn stated how this is a non-evaluative voluntary site visit to gather information about how funded Coalitions are working on local opioid/heroin issues. The logistics of the site visit were discussed including: interview roster, focus group locations, and mid-day trip, to capture a broader county perspective, at the HCAT (Hampden County District Attorney's Addiction Task Force) monthly meeting. Gail Gramarossa reported, according to other area Coalitions, who have undergone the site-visit, Coalitions have an opportunity to highlight their strategies in use to address Rx Drugs and Opioid prevention and misuse, share community sector perspectives about this issue, and discuss accomplishments, and challenges with this issue, as well as future goals for what work lies ahead.
- The 2017 YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) data was presented, and discussed with the group. Gina Kahn explained how the survey was established over twenty years ago, in Massachusetts, and has been customized over the years by individual school districts. However, the long-standing approach, of obtaining anonymous, self-reported data from students, remains as the foundation of the data collection. This year consideration was given to the length of the survey, with careful selection of questions related to potential programmatic strategies, as well as DFC Core measures. Overall 2017 data is positive, with a few key exceptions. 1. In the Grades 7 & 8 response to the question: "Have you ever had a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips", there was an increase to 25.4% from a reported 19.5% in 2016. 2. When high school students (only) were asked, during the past 12 months "have you felt sad or hopeless, (almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row) the group was concerned with the reported rate of 24.5%. 3. The group was concerned that only 61.6% of Grade 7 & 8 students reported that "there is at least one teacher or other adult in this school that you can talk to if you have a problem" compared to the 79.5% of High School students who reported "there is at least one teacher or other adult in this school that you can talk to if you have a problem". The group discussed possible reasons why this number is significantly lower in grade 7 & 8 compared to high school students, offering the

importance of developing meaningful adult-student Advisory programs that help foster communication.⁴ As the group reviewed the similar response of 92.1 % High School students, and 92.7 % Grade 7 & 8 students, to the question “Outside school, is there an adult (adults) you can talk to about things that are important to you, the group raised the concern about the missing 8%. What can be done to support this at-risk group of students? ⁵ 13.3% of High School, and 3.3% of Grade 7 & 8 students reported they “used an e-cigarette in the 30 days prior to the survey”. Concern was raised about the growing emergence of Vape shops, in the town of Wilbraham, (4 in total) and the impact these shops will have on the perception of use of these products with youth.

- The Coalition Logo contest was discussed. Students at MRHS will be invited to sketch a logo, capturing a visual message about prevention of drug use amongst youth. The designs will be collected by June 9th, and the winner will receive artistic credit for their winning design sketch, an invitation to the official logo launch, an opportunity to be featured on the website, and a \$50 Amazon Gift card.

III. SAVE THE DATES:

- A. The CADCA Mid-Year Conference, titled Engineering Healthy Communities, will be held from July 23rd to July 27th, at the Marriott Marquis Atlanta, Georgia. This conference is open to members of the Coalition. Anyone interested in attending, or would like more information please contact gkahn@hwrdsd.org soon! Travel arrangements are being booked very soon!
- **The Second Annual Partners in Prevention Community Forum**, will be held September 15th 2017. Coalition members and affiliates will be invited to participate in this forum, concerning *Environmental Strategies to Prevent Youth Substance Use*. There will be three CADCA trainers, facilitating the conversation about the substances of alcohol, marijuana, and Rx Drugs and Opioids.

IV. Coalition Partner News (please add your updates!)

- The next Youth Mental Health First Aid course will be offered June 10th. Contact Teri Brand by email at: Tbrand@hwrdsd.org if you are interested in attending, or want information about upcoming programs.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainer class is scheduled for June 27th - June 29th. Ruth DiCristoforo and Kim Lee are waiting to hear if their applications have been accepted, as there were more applicants than spots for this training!
- Gail Gramarossa informed everyone that there are two new young adult residential addiction treatment facilities in the area. Goodwin House, for young men, operated by CHD, is now open in Chicopee. The Cornerstone Residential Recovery Program center, operated by The Gandara Center, for women age 18 to 25, is now open in Ware.
- The topic of bringing “In Plain Sight”, a walk-through exhibit of a youth bedroom, displaying disguised drug use objects displayed “in plain sight”, to the community was discussed. This exhibit was at Holyoke Mall last December, and the members felt Hampden and Wilbraham would benefit from this type of program. The groups discussed the different ways of bringing the adults to the exhibit, timing the display to a school or community-wide event in the fall. Kathy Fuss volunteered to chair a sub-committee to bring *In Plain Sight* to the District, and we will be looking for additional volunteers to assist.

- Gina Kahn reported on the Kindness Rocks project, and received positive input about reaching out to the project for possible collaborative efforts.

V. After the meeting adjourned, members were given a tour of the brand new Police facility. The facility includes a Medication Return box, open 24/7, located in the lobby for safe disposal of all Rx medications (pills only). (The Hampden Police department also has a Medication Return box, open 24/7.)

VI. Next Meeting: Friday, June 23rd 1 p.m. *
Location to be determined

*Note June 23rd is the **4th Friday of the month**. Due to the DFC Site Visit, occurring on June 14th, we moved the Monthly meeting to the following week.

Minutes prepared by Ruth DiCristoforo, Coordinator

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth
United for Safe, Healthy, and Drug-free Communities