

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth – Minutes  
Friday, May 15, 2020 (1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)  
Zoom Video Meeting

**Attended by:**

- Ralph Clark, *Faith Sector Leader*, Evangel Assembly of God Church
- Kathy Fuss, *Civic Sector Leader*, Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club
- Catherine Brooks, CES Data Consultant
- Mike Talaia, Student
- Peter Salerno, Rotary Club Member
- Jared Proulx, Supervisor and SUD coordinator, West Central Family Counseling
- Misty Foss-Trombly, R.N. HWRSD Nurse Care Coordinator
- Tom Brennan, Youth Pastor, Bethlehem Church
- Jay Dalessio, ATI Club Advisor, MRHS Faculty
- Terrence Smith, UWPV AmeriCorps Vista Intern
- Lori Cooney, Member, Bethlehem Church
- Alex Karpinski, *Youth Sector Leader*, Student
- Teri Brand, *Health Professional Sector Leader*, BSN, RN, NCSN, HWRSD Nurse Leader, Wilbraham BOH Advisory
- Jing II Chen, Student
- Rachel Hapgood, Wilbraham Youth Librarian
- Tracy Bauduccio, Wilbraham Middle School Guidance Counselor
- Karen Auerbach, CES Data Analyst
- Debbie Kelder, *Youth-Serving Agency Sector Rep*, Director Scantic Valley YMCA
- Dr. Amy Kasper, Pediatrician, Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine
- Tim Person, Student
- Tom Mazza, Principal, Wilbraham Middle School
- Sherrill Caruana, HWRSD School Committee member
- Joe Kielczewski, *Fraternal Sector Leader*, President Rotary Club Wilbraham Hampden
- Brad Sperry, Rotary Club Wilbraham Hampden Member
- Chief Jeff Farnsworth, *Law Enforcement Sector Leader*, Hampden Police
- Ruth DiCristoforo, Coalition Coordinator
- Gina Kahn, Coalition Director

**I. Welcome**

Gina opened with letting members know that we will be recording the meeting. Gina will be taking notes, but we may be asking for assistance with notetaking in the future as it is hard to juggle these various aspects. Ruth will facilitate the meeting, as usual. Also, we would ask that in addition to feeling free to jump in during the conversation, people utilize the comment box. Teri will help us with being the comment box monitor for this meeting, and before we log off will highlight the comments and copy them into a document to make sure we don’t miss anything.

**II. Youth Coalition Senior Spotlight:** Alex Karpinski, Mike Talaia, Jeena Joseph

Ruth DiCristoforo, Coalition Coordinator welcomed the Coalition and asked for a change in the agenda to accommodate some people who needed to leave early, including Mike Talaia, who was on his last day of school and still had a work deadline. So, the Senior spotlight was put first on the agenda to be followed by the Member updates.

Ruth introduced Alex and Mike, who were present at the meeting, along with Zeena, who was unable to attend. She then said a few words about each student as Coalition Coordinator, and also as Coalition Youth Advisor this past year, since the resignation of Tracy Bauduccio, in September.

**To ALEX:**

- Known you since the days when Sebastian brought you into HC DA YAB! Right up to your role as our current Youth Sector Rep.
- Have been involved with the Programs, and activities supporting the youth voice at our Community programs, attending the National CADCA Youth Leadership training in National Harbor, MD, with the added bonus of a side trip to Washington, D.C. House of Congress , being instrumental with the development of the Youth Coalition, and a strong peer role model within the HW communities.
- Thank you, Alex! Your future is bright, we wish you much success in your future studies at WNEU.

**To MIKE:**

- Known you since Ralph brought you into the Youth Coalition, recommending you for our National CADCA Youth Leadership Training
- Have always been impressed with your maturity and willingness to always help your peers with role modeling how to be safe, healthy, and drug-free.
- You were the STAR of our Middle School Vaping Program last January, keeping it real with your message to the younger students about just keep saying, NO until they get off your back and also – hang out with friends like you who do the kind of things you like to do.
- Unfortunately, our Youth Coalition partnership with the Y for the Dodgeball tournament did not happen in May, as planned, but we have an awesome framework to get it up and running, when local conditions allow and that will happen, in part due to all your hard work in the planning process!
- Thank you, Mike! Your future is bright and the U.S. Airforce is very lucky to have you in their ranks as your next step.

**To ZEENA:**

- She has been a familiar face to the Coalition initially by our partnership with the ATI club, has volunteered at many Coalition- supported community events.
- Personally, I had the privileged of getting to know Zeena, recently when we resumed the Youth Coalition meetings after a lapse from Tracy’s great work with all of the students.
- Zeena was a real leader in her passion for helping us redesign the Coalition t-shirts and banner, as well as inputting the Dodge ball tournament planning with the Y, ideas for how to engage more students, and always willing to do more to be involved and help.
- Thank you, Zeena and I wish you well on your very bright future.

Ruth concluded with telling the Seniors that within a short while, each student will receive a Coalition Congratulations bag which will include: a framed photo collage of some of your Coalition moments, a newly designed Youth Coalition inspired Coalition t-shirt, and a Rice Farms gift card.

Next, Ruth facilitated hearing from a few adults and students share a few words about the Seniors, and then gave our star seniors a few minutes to talk, before Gina concluded the student recognition for today.

Tracy Bauduccio, WMS Guidance Counselor and former Coalition Youth Liaison spoke next about Alex and Mike. She expressed her pride and good fortune in being able to work with these exceptional born leaders with such a bright future, stating we are fortunate to have them as part of our community, and there are so many kids that look up to them, and they have paved the way for leadership in the coalition's youth element going forward. Furthermore, we have learned as much from our students as we hope they have been able to take with them.

Ralph Clark, Youth Pastor at Evangel Assembly of God Church talked about the way in which our students motivate each other to set the standard for the way in which youth can be true forces in this type of work. Ralph had a long history with Michael and his family, but about two years ago Ralph had reached out to Michael to ask for his assistance to join forces and kick off the formal Youth Initiative, coordinated by Ruth, and things just gathered momentum from that point forward. Making us look good!

Peter Salerno, Rotary Club of Wilbraham Hampden spoke about service above self, validating hope for the future. Never met young people who care as deeply and want to serve as much as these students. Furthermore, leadership is recognizing that they serve the people that they lead, and these youth have very bright futures.

Jay Dalessio, ATI Club Advisor states how Zeena is doing such a great job with all things, including being President of ATI and serves as youth advisor to the Coalition.

Tim Persons, Minnechaug Student told of how he has known Alex since he was seven years old and have been such a great friend, always giving back to the community.

Jing II Chen, Minnechaug Student spoke of her friendship to Zeena and what an amazing role model she has been to her and their peers, also a great and smart leader!

Alex Karpinski, Graduating Senior, shared how she got involved in the Coalition after Chelsey Hahn, former Youth Liaison, came to the school to talk about the Coalition. When she went home to tell her family, her brother Sebastian told her this is the Club he is in and it is great. Alex thought this was a place to have an opportunity to make a difference in her community and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Mike Talaia, Graduating Senior, spoke to everyone about how this opportunity was a natural fit for him because he really believes in the mission of keeping kids off drugs and alcohol. This is how he has been his whole life and really felt good about talking to kids and helping out in the Coalition, going to leadership trainings, and helping anyway he could. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to be part of something great like this.

Gina Kahn, Coalition Director, concluded the tribute with thanking the students for their contributions and telling them to come back and visit anytime.

### III. Member Introductions and Updates

- Ralph Clark- Evangel Youth pastor
- Kathy Fuss, Jr. Women's club—update on neighbor to neighbor and interested in finding out if that's a project that might have some potential. Will coordinate with SC
- Brad Sperry - Rotary will be providing some lunches for HFD and WFD and remain active helping out at the local community survival center. Lots of folks in need.
- Jared Proulx—telehealth is going strong; addiction is a big concern in the pandemic
- Misty Foss-Trombly, nurse care coordinator for HWRSD, first meeting.
- Tom Brennan- Bethlehem Church
- Terrence Smith-AmeriCorps Vista Pioneer Valley - doing research and network building addressing the opioid situation in the area, helping with addressing other prevalent needs. University of Wisconsin has developed a prototype for an opioid prevention leaning game geared at younger kids.
- Alex K thanked everyone again
- Teri Brand, nurse leader- update on how proud she is of nursing staff and other support staff in the district with conducting COVID-19 case interviews and contact tracing for the community.
- Deb Kelder, Scantic YMCA- providing emergency child care at three different locations, trying to keep community connected, workout videos and children activities are on the website and accessible for anyone.
- Jay D, ATI—made 75 greeting cards for Lifecare center of Wilbraham; reached out to soldier's home and sent greeting card emails, 11,000 raised to create a gift packages for seniors.
- Tracy B- former youth liaison formerly and now 6th grade school counselor; district has come together, amazing leadership.
- Amy Kasper-Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, local Pediatrician, rates of illness in the community are dropping and at the peak of the pandemic rate was 24% positive but now down to 15% positive.
- -Joe K wishing Alex and Mike good luck—going to update later in the meeting with Rotary involved activities
- Catherine Brooks—data updates with new project in the works (later on in agenda)

- Sherrill Caruana, HWRSD School Committee member - great to see every one doing their best work! She thanked the Rotary for being incredibly generous and helpful in donating, bagging and distributing toiletries to our HWRSD families in need. School Committee member Patrick Kiernan and his wife, Erin, have a collection bin at their house that could be used as a drop-off for toiletry donations. There were other community partners involved with this also. On the list, please add Clorox Wipes. (See attached) Also there is a Facebook page for this effort, called *Toiletries for Those in Need*. Sherrill could also pick up the donations if you like and get them to Minnechaug to be distributed during the food pickups each week--just call, text or email me. My cell phone is 413-330-9856. Or they can be dropped off at Patrick Kiernan's house: 615 Main Street Wilbraham. These donations go into the HWRSD meal program pick up, serving Hampden and Wilbraham families. Also, right now the SC is heavily involved in planning for next year and dealing with budget issues.
- Chief Jeff Farnsworth, Hampden Police was present at the meeting to update the group and take a few questions during member updates. He has been assigned as the local law enforcement representative for the state COVID-19 task force, involved on the the state department of ed School reopening task force. On the National level, they are seeing a spike in substance abuse, domestic violence and suicide and attempted suicide. We are hoping that some changes next week will alleviate that, and this group is ahead of the curve in terms of a total community look at what we can do with these situations. Specifically, DCFs ability to get eyes on children who are at home right , without the safety net of going to school/adult interactions has seen a difficult barrier for typical mandated reporters. This role has been diminished and a lot of vulnerable populations are not able to access supports, as well as being impacting from economic conditions in the community by COVID-19. As a local community, how do we figure this out to address this? It's a landscape that seems to be changing by the hour and by the minute at times and a coalition like this will be helpful in terms of outreach and the ability to be able to work on these things. Our local communities seem to be doing well as far as food distribution and the senior center is stepping up, also. There is some additional funding streams being looked at through local entities that seems promising.  
Terrence asked the Chief if mindfulness practices are being integrated into the response by mental health providers to help with anxiety and addiction recovery tools.  
Chief stated that the response details have not been drilled down into specific practices just yet. How we facilitate more resources being available when the typical avenues have been taken away is a real barrier that is being worked on as a priority. What we're looking at right now is how to best deal with access and there was funding released yesterday, and then how to open up the pathways that were taken away is a frontline priority of the group.  
Another question was asked about the prevalence of substance use since COVID-19?  
The Chief stated that there is a noted large increase in alcohol consumption across all demographics and ODs are up, spread across multiple demographics, as well.

The stimulus payment was needed, but many of those who suffer with substance use issues took this money as a windfall to go out and buy drugs. This is the working theory behind what added to the spike in ODs.

A question about what the reopening of school may look like followed.

The Chief responded that the goal of the return to school committee is to have guidance out by 30 days for all schools, including Residential schools, etc.

The Chief concluded stating his appreciation for all the work of the community, and how this makes his job easier.

- Tom Mazza- Principal, Wilbraham Middle School updated the group on two student centered activities that are happening. The student of the month lawn signs are going out as a way to continue this important recognition program. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade sendoff is being planned for June 17, as a creative reverse parade for outgoing 8th grade students with participation from the school community. They will be continuing to work with students of the month and want to continue with the PBIS/ climate work, chaired by AP Serenity Greenwood, to continue keeping those types of relationship building activities going.
- Rachel Hapgood, Wilbraham Public Library Teen Librarian, updated they are currently working from home, anybody that needs anything can email, there are different activities, virtual programs like story time and kids' activities, and the biggest thing that we are working on is keeping everyone reading through the summer! The summer Reading program will be starting June 20.
- Lori Cooney- Bethlehem—been a different season with different types of creative outreach while not having on-site services, have been able to connect more with the community and partner with some of the offices at Hampden Police to help deliver 1100 Easter lily plans in the community. They have made 800 headbands that were donated to BayState and mercy so that they don't need to wear the elastic bands on their ears while using a protective mask. The Community survival center needs are increasing and this is a sign of families in hard times right now. Looking for partnerships with the Coalition, as always. As Lori told Ruth before the meeting, the church is open to hosting the rescheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Partners in Prevention Leadership Training forum with Search Institute, October 16<sup>th</sup>, *Everyone is an Asset Builder*, if local conditions all ow for this type of program by that time.

#### **IV. Coordinator Updates**

Ruth asked for another adjustment to the agenda, given the time constraints of needing to prioritize some of the agenda items over others. Ruth proposed giving the details of her updates on Expanding/Enhancing Coalition Communications, National Prevention Week FB Spotlight, and Coalition Visibility and Outreach in the minutes for members to read, as a follow up to the meeting, so we could move on more quickly to the discussion items on the agenda. Members agreed.

A brief and very important update was provided about the newly updated Coalition FB page. She asked members to LIKE, COMMENT, FOLLOW and SHARE the FB page @ HWP4Y.

These Coordinator written updates are provided below:

## A. Expanding/Enhancing Coalition Communications

1. Major overhaul to **HWP4Y Facebook Page**: please like, follow, and share widely
  - **FB Metrics FOR PAST 28 DAYS**
    - 54 Page Views (# of Profile page views by log in or log out)
    - 50 Post Reach (Estimated # of people who saw posts)
    - 203 Post Engagements (# people who reacted with the page: liked, shared, clicked or commented)
  - **Member Input** – Please, *go on the page and report back what you liked, what else you would like to see, and how many times you saw yourselves!*
2. **Mail chimp e-newsletter E-Newsletters**
  - Emailed out to 153 HWP4Y members, 383 Community Members
  - Had some technical difficulty with the spam filters, esp. with HWRSD
  - I LEARNED after this later, so not sure who actually received the newsletter.
  - Will be attending some Mail Chimp new user trainings to learn more
  - Despite this – the METRICS are below for this effort:
    - For the **Coalition Monthly May Meeting Reminder sent to 153 people**
    - There was a **39% open rate**
    - For the **Coalition May E-newsletter sent to 383 people**
    - There was a **30% open rate**
3. **Instagram account** – this will be overhauled as a youth led/inspired adult guided Youth Coalition on-going activity. Hope to have back up and running soon!
4. **HWP4Y Website**
  - A reliable platform, supported by user metrics, but needs an overhaul to the layout, which is under consideration right now.
  - Looking for a new content manager and a host site to be in place by no later than July 1.
  - METRICS since End of March since COVID-19 infiltrated our lives: Indicate a significant uptick in visitors, specifically, with viewing and downloading the COVID-19 resources, but also, with viewing and downloading: the Tips for Teens on Marijuana, Tips for Teens on e-cigarettes, Booklet on Drugs, Brains, and Behavior of the Science of Addiction, and How to Talk to Adolescents about Alcohol. *MOST of the website TRAFFIC was ON THE PARENT PAGE*
  - **Member Input:** *If feasible, please follow the LEAD of HWRSD and Link our websites!*
5. **Continue with WH Times, Coalition Spotlight articles**
  - Next – will be about our Youth Coalition and Graduating Seniors Recognition
  - IDEA: to begin a Monthly Sector Spotlight Interviews

- **Member Input:** *Who would like to kick that off with me as an interviewee?*
- B. National Prevention Week – May 11 through today (May 15<sup>th</sup>)**
- FB Daily Posts as a Social Media Campaign to bring attention to following topics that also bring viewers back to the websites for additional resources:
  - Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> -Rx Drugs
  - Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> - Alcohol,
  - Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> Marijuana
  - Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> Nicotine,
  - Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> Mental Health awareness/Suicide Prevention
- C. Coalition Products, Visibility, Graduating Sr. Outreach Support:**
- T-shirt at the printers
  - HWP4YBanner at NEPM, under construction
  - **Member Input:** Where should or could the banners be hung around H- W to promote the Coalition, connect folks with our resources?
  - **MRHS Sr. Outreach Support**
    - Sr Lawn Signs
    - Senior Support Banners around H-W
    - Class of 2024 Spirit Towels
    - STEVE Hale, MRHS Principal told us how – *The COALITION Support has been super helpful and WE could not have done it without your help.*
    - **See all these Senior photos on our FB!!!!**
  - *Support is being requested for a (SURPRISE) Main St. Project with many other Community other Partners, culminating in a large WH Times Thank You to all partners for this community support of our 2002 Seniors.*

## V. Discussion

### A. CES DATA Project Discussion

Karen Auerbach and Catherine Brooks, CES Data Consultants were invited to present the proposal for a longitudinal study of YRBS data to the members, made possible as a creative and worthwhile alternative in our data collection for this time period during COVID -19. The annual YRBS was cancelled for this year.

Karen provided an overview of the project. Survey data analysis has been going on for years and she will be using her expertise for data base management to look at this unique. Longitudinal data base and be able to answer some bigger questions. How do things change as kids get older? How do things change over time? What are the most critical risk and protective factors and how do they change over time? Which are the most influential factors? We can look at change over time year to year and some of the smaller populations of kids over time. Can also look at the impact of changes in policy. Smaller populations can be clustered together. Members were invited to ask questions or give comments after the presentation. Members were in support of the project. There will be an update on the preliminary trend analysis to the DATA workgroup on June 3rd.



**B. Victims, Vapers, and a Virus Webinar and Follow up Discussion** (see Addendum)  
Ruth asked for input on viewing this virtual webinar, being offered by the MA PTA and MA Health Council, brought to her attention by Teri. Prior to the meeting members were provided with a flyer and registration information. She suggested a small group of people could preview the webinar and then hold a virtual discussion on their overall impressions, general assessment of Public Health messages related to overall youth vaping prevention/reduction strategies, and have a vetting on using this recorded webinar as part of a local Virtual Community Education Program. Gina was going to ask HWRSD about playing the webinar and then what is needed (technologically) to hold a live , local expert panel Q & A afterwards to replace the recorded Q& A. Ruth was going to send this info out again, asking those interested to please sign up for this activity!

## **VI. Coalition Business**

### **A. Budget Process/ Decision Making Communication**

Gina reminded the team that the coalition may be invited to help support some projects and activities that may require more expeditious decision making and that we will do our best to use the filter of coalition priorities that align with our strategies and budget guidelines set forth by DFC. She reminded members that this budget/decision-making process was outlined in detail in the April Meeting minutes, addendum. Minutes can be found on the Coalition website and any members can contact Gina or Ruth directly with any follow up questions about COVID-19 budget and decision-making communications.

## **VII. Looking Ahead**

- A. HWRSD Meals Program – Coalition-supported Summer Family activity proposed to go along with meal pick up date. Work group to form for this activity.
- B. Save the Date: Rescheduled Search Institute forums - Oct 16th and 17th  
Gina confirmed with Search group an availability to reschedule this training for these dates. We will continue to monitor the local COVID-19 related factors before making a final decision. For now, it's back on the books!

**VIII. Closing and Next Meeting:** Friday, June 19th (1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)



Addendum I. Victims, Vapers and a Virus Webinar

**Register Here:**

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eh2jx351f04ec627&oseq=&c=&ch=>

**Massachusetts**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.®*

Presents this Free Webinar  
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## Victims, Vapers, and a Virus!

Join Us Live On Zoom

Wednesday, May 20 @ 7:30pm-8:45pm EDT

REGISTER ▶▶

**Covid and Vaping, both harmful, both dangerous: Combating Both!**

is a presentation for parents and caregivers, focusing on dangers and the issues of both being “deadly” risks! What do we do?

How can we **help, protect, care and prevent** as a “community of people, both individuals and collectively.”

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and get concrete answers for practical steps they can take in real time - who has time to wait?

### Meet Your Presenters:



**Lester J. Hartman, MD MPH**  
FAAP, Westwood - Mansfield  
Pediatric Associates



**David Martin, CEO,**  
Massachusetts Health Council.