

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth

Coalition Meeting Minutes

January 19th, 2018 (1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Assembly of God Church 348 Stony Hill Rd, Wilbraham

Attendance: Karen Auerbach, CES, Teri Brand, HWRSD Nurse Leader, Tom Brennan, Bethlehem Church, Ralph Clark, Assembly of God church, Ruth DiCristoforo, Coordinator, HWP4Y, Kathy Fuss, Wilbraham Junior Women's, Gail Gramarossa, Public Health Prevention Consultant, Officer Bill Jacques, Hampden Police, Gina Kahn, Director HWP4Y and HWRSD Safe Schools/Healthy Students, HWRSD School Resource Officer Dan Menard, Wilbraham Police, Cindy Milner, Director, Pathways for Parents, Jen Moulton, Vista Intern, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Jared Proulx, Clinician, Crossroads Agency, Joe Kielczewski, Rotary Club of Wilbraham Hampden

I. **Welcome** – Ruth welcomed the group, and thanked the volunteers of Assembly of God for providing a very generous lunch to all in attendance. Participants were encouraged to fill out their Support cards, listing related activities that help support the collaborative work within the community that serves to prevent and/or reduce youth substances use, in their day to day professional or personal lives. Participants went around the table to introduce themselves, and give a snapshot of their work in the community.

II. **Drug-Free Community/Stop Act Requirements and Reports**– Gina reported both grants require annual and mid-year reporting (August and February). Presently, the Coalition is in year 4 of the DFC grant, and year 2 of the Stop Act grant.

A. Role of Data in the Strategic Prevention Framework was discussed. Within the Strategic Prevention Framework, data helps to pinpoint areas of critical concern, identify information gaps, start conversations with key players, make your case to assess resources, allocate scarce resources strategically, implement programs that will affect change, and/or monitor indicators for progress and emerging concerns.

The **Coalition Strategic Prevention Framework goals** include:

1. Prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance use
2. Reduce substance use related problems
3. Build capacity and infrastructure
4. Infuse data across all planning steps

B. Seven Strategies to Achieve Community Change were discussed and how they relate to Coalition planning around the Strategic Prevention Framework goals. The seven strategies to achieve community change include:

1. Providing information
2. Enhancing Skills
3. Providing support
4. Enhancing access/reducing barriers
5. Changing consequences (incentives/disincentives)
6. Physical design
7. Modifying/changing policies

C. The Coalition Snapshot is a report summarizing the DFC ME reporting data. The August 2017 report includes information about the goals of the Coalition, Membership by Sector, Core outcomes overview compared to the national average, Core measure outcomes by grade levels by reported data on alcohol, tobacco, Marijuana, Rx Drugs, Number of Coalition activities, Policies, and Progress Reports by 7 Strategies to Achieve Community Change type, and percentage of activities by strategy type by targeted substance. The 4 DFC Core measures were reviewed and identified as 1. Past 30 day use 2. Perception of parental disapproval 3. Perception of peer disapproval and 4. Perception of risk.

D. The Coalition Year 5 *Action Plan* was discussed. The members voted to accept the Action plan.

E. Carry-over Budget recommendations were discussed. The last budget cycle included a carryover request to use unused funding in this year's budget to help fund a Communications Coordinator/Youth Liaison Coordinator, Travel to Mid-Year Orlando conference, and Contract services for the 3rd Annual Parents in Prevention Leadership forum. Members voted to approve this recommendation.

III. Rx Drugs, Opioids & Youth Just Once Program status

A. Keep Spreading the Word! –Ruth handed out the flyer for this event to be held January 23rd at Minnechaug Regional High School at 6 p.m., asking members to keep spreading the word. The program will include a Community Resource Expo prior to the Main program. The Expo will include a take-back Rx Drug table for participants to bring unused pills, as well as a Resource fair for participants to pick up information and resources from organizations in the local area about preventing and reducing youth substance use. Prior to the show the trailer for *It's An Issue* Here will play in the auditorium, featuring a local documentary about the local conditions of drug addiction. The main program will be presented by the Hampden County District Attorney's office, featuring their video, Just Once, personal stories by residents of the WMA Recovery and Wellness Center, followed by a Panel discussion of local experts. More information can be found on the Coalition website: HWP4Y.org

IV. Youth Mental Health First Aid Community Training outreach

A. Teri gave an overview of the YMHFA training that is available at no cost, in the community for any adult who interacts with youth (ages 12 – 25), who wants to learn more about how to help a young person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge. To date, more than 250 adults have been trained and certified, as a Youth Mental Health First Aider in our area from this program. More information can be found on the Coalition website: HWP4Y.org.

V. Updates

A. Communications Coordinator/Youth Liaison interviews are being scheduled. Gina will keep the Coalition updated.

B. There will not be a group going to the annual **CADCA training** this year. Plans are in the works to participate in the Mid-Year CADCA training in Orlando, in July.

C. Over 350 registrations have been merged into an **E-News Group Email**. This new communication strategy will be used to send program, event, and key resources to participants.

D. HWP4Y.org Website

1. Ruth presented data from about the **Coalition Website Traffic Report**. The number of unique visitors has increased from 34 visitors during the month of June 2017 to over 1600 visitors during the month of November 2017. Half-way through the month of January 2018, (January 1 – 18th) the site had over 1,000 unique visitors. HWP4Y is being accessed by the community for information about events, programs, and resources related to youth substance use prevention!

2. Ruth reported a **Coalition E-News signup** was launched, and now includes over 300 participants who will receive direct emails about upcoming programs, and important announcements.

3. Ruth encourage use of the **HWP4Y.org Event Calendar**, as a way for members to reach the Coalition audience about their Community events. People can email Ruth directly with their event information at rdicristoforo@hwrsc.org .

VI. Upcoming Programs and Activities

A. Grade 8 Transition Night is January 31st at MRHS. The Coalition will have a table at the event to share resources with participants.

B. Hampden County DA Gulluni **Stop the Swerve Contest** is now. Applications are due by March 26th, and an event to announce the winners will be held on April 4th, at the Basketball Hall of Fame. For more information, go to the Hampden County District Attorney Website.

C. A sub-committee for the 2018 **Youth Risk Behavior Survey review** has been formed. The survey is administrated in the spring health classes for grades 7 – 12. There is a middle school and high school survey. Parents are mailed opt-out letters home, welcomed to preview the survey, take a Parent Perspective’s survey, and may participate in a Parent Perspectives Focus group. Collaborative for Educational Services is contracted to provide technical assistance.

D. There is an upcoming **YMHFA Training**, scheduled on March 7th and March 14th, at Wilbraham Senior Center from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Interested Seniors can sign up at the Senior Center or email rdicristoforo@hwrdsd.org

E. The next Community Education program will focus on **youth and alcohol prevention**. The target date for the program is late April/early to mid-May. Members interested in helping on this planning committee may contact Ruth or Gina.

VI. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- A. **Friday, February 16th** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Wilbraham Public Library
- B. **Friday, March 23rd** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Wilbraham Council on Aging
- C. **Friday, April 27th** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - open
- D. **Friday, May 18th** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - open
- E. **Friday, June 15th** 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. – open

VII. Coalition Meeting Assessment Feedback Survey

Before adjourning, Members were asked to fill out and return their Feedback survey.

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth

HWP4Y.org

*new year
new beginnings*