

HC-HK Coalition Minutes
March 16, 2011

Call to order: By Co-Chairwoman Eileen Lawrence at 8:05AM,

Members Present: Keith Lyke, Hilary Kumnick, Tanja Moriarty, Anna Shultz, Kitty Dornfeld, Michelle Wendt, Alli McFee, Liam Granucci, Cheryl Chandler, Michael Malone, Allie Peplau, Sarah Goldsmith, Doug Sumner, Jim Connelly, Divinna Schmitt, Giana DeNisi, Eileen Lawrence, Seth Nuzum, Lauren Iannucci, Liz Young, Lisa Mason and Carol Dupuis

Minutes of last meeting: Distributed by email prior to meeting. Motion to accept was made and seconded. Minutes were accepted as read.

Coalition Logo: Kathryn and Cheryl asked that we consider changing the wording on our logo from "a Program" of Y & FS. There was a discussion of two possibilities: "a Community Initiative" and "an Initiative". The majority of members chose "an Initiative" of Y & FS. This should bring us more in compliance with what we should have under our grant.

Guest Speaker: Seth introduced Lauren Ianucci, representing MADD of CT to give us an overview of what the organization has available to help us. She informed us that the organization provides services to victims of fatalities resulting from DWI, speeding, etc. The services are free. MADD is lobbying for ignition locks for repeat offenders, a measure that is having positive results where it is in use. MADD has underage drinking programs aimed at younger students because HS is really too late, since the average onset of drinking is now 11 years old. Lauren has developed a program for MS titled *Katie's Gift*. It is based on her personal experience of losing a friend at age 13 to a drunk driver.

The program involves decision making and social networking skills. She said that the middle school students are very open to discussion. The program runs about 35-40 minutes. Lauren would be available to meet with administrators ahead of time to go over the program. The suggested donation is \$250.00, which Hilary pointed out is the amount of our mini-grants. Liz Young, Transition Counselor at H-KMS said she would like to incorporate the program into her Developmental Guidance classes. John Daviau suggested we give her data from our surveys to use. Lauren also uses social norming in her presentations. Lisa Mason suggested that perhaps MCSAAC could help by developing pre and post testing to collect data.

Lauren also told us about a program for parents launched last October titled *Power of Parents-It's Your Influence* sponsored by Nationwide Insurance, developed by Dr. Teresse of Penn State who did a study with Penn State students. There is an interactive web site: www.MADD.org/powerofparents . A community based, 25 minute, presentation, which includes a handbook for MS and HS parents, is also available and can be done in conjunction with another event attended by parents. Local statistics are used. Examples of conversations to have and good parenting skills are shared. Kathryn Glendon has been trained to do this program. There are other handouts available as well as the handbooks.

On April 21, 2011, *Power Talk 21* a statewide promotion for parents to talk to kids will be sponsored by MADD. There are handouts available. Hilary asked about the cost of the program

for parents. Lauren said it is currently \$500.00 but she expects to have sponsors available to take care of that. Divinna suggested having events that both parents and students attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL NORMS: Kate reported that the posters were put up in the HS 2 weeks ago. She said the stress balls would be given out soon, at lunch, to students who answer questions correctly about the posters. Pens will be given out in May with the alcohol poster. Posters on marijuana, alcohol and smoking are still being worked on. The students reported, with delight, that the posters have been left alone so far, i.e. they are still hanging!

EDUCATION: Eileen reported that we will have an info table available at the 4th grade parent program on March 21. The MS SADD group will present Dr. Stephen Wallace as a speaker on March 22 at the MS at 7:00 PM. There will be committee members at each. In April, Linda Kauffman and Kitty Dornfeld will do a presentation on energy drinks and possibly a presentation by our local pharmacists on prescription drugs.

OUTREACH: The committee met on March 9th. Hilary distributed a written report to the group regarding membership dues. There was a discussion about the possibility of having a Coalition web site separate from Y & FS.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES: Cheryl had nothing new to report.

Youth Groups:

Students for Change: the group is working with the Human Resources Club to provide a luncheon for the custodians as a thank you to them.

GLASS: no report

Youth in Action: will be holding a community wide can drive for the food pantry. There will be bins by the office in each school. The MS will have a competition.

GIVE: will be having a fundraiser for Protectors of Animals

MS SADD: Kate reported that the "Kick Butts Day" is March 23. There will be a display.

HS SADD: no report

Habitat for Humanity: no report

LEOS: no report

New community groups: Kate reported that the new Family Connections group is already growing.

Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC): Lisa reported that their website is up now and they hope to have info from all the local councils or coalitions posted on it. She told us about several bills currently before the State Legislature. They include: decriminalization of possession of marijuana (\$100 fine), medical marijuana, ignition locks for repeat DWI offenders and one to add language to an existing law on cyber-bullying that would specify what schools must do to combat the issue. Lisa also mentioned the MCSAAC Camp, "*Do This*" instead of "*Don't Do That*" and she spoke about recognizing parents who make the commitment to not serve alcohol to underage students.

Civic Organizations:

Killingworth Lions Club: Hilary reported that the organization, in conjunction with the KWO, is sponsoring a Wine Tasting fundraiser (adults only) for the Killingworth Library.

Killingworth Womens' Organization: Cheryl reported that KWO has given a donation sponsoring Ginger Katz to do a 4 week parenting program.

Law Enforcement: Jim Connelly reported that 13 Party Patrol shifts will be carried out from May through September. The mock crash is being scheduled for H-K senior class at the end of May.

RSD 17: No report

Community: No reports from Rec Dept or public officials. Doug mentioned that the HK Football Boosters had to cancel the flag football game planned for last fall as a fundraiser due to the cost of the lights for a night event. He said it might be held in the spring. Basically they want to raise money by providing a concession stand. Seth mentioned the upcoming volleyball tourney and Anna mentioned the dodge ball tournament could offer another opportunity for them to run a concession stand.

Clergy: Michael Malone mentioned that a community interfaith group would like to get students involved in a daylong program to fix up a house for a person in Essex.

Cheryl mentioned that applications for mini grants for up to \$250.00 are due in Y & FS office by 4:00 PM 3/18/11.

Adjournment: Doug moved and Jim seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:12 AM.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011, 8:00 AM at the H-KHS conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dupuis