

Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition  
Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2009

**Attendance**

1. Tanja Moriarty, Chair HC-HK Coalition
2. Cheryl Chandler, HKYFS Executive Director
3. Divinna Schmitt, Parent
4. Trooper Jim Connelly, CT State Police, Resident Trooper, Town of Haddam
5. Seth P. Nuzum, Youth Minister, Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church
6. Dave Matthews, HKHS/ Director, Media Center
7. Ann O'Mara, HKYFS/Admin. Assistant
8. Frank Sparks, Director, H-K Recreation Dept.
9. Trooper Jeff Mazzetta, CT State Police, School Resource Officer
10. Matt McEwen, Student HKHS, President, Youth in Action
11. Linda Kaufmann, RSD 17 School Nurse Supervisor
12. Wanda Sass, Higganum Family Medical, LPN, Office Manager
13. Doug Sumner, Parent/Resident

### **1. Welcome/Introductions:**

All members present introduced themselves and stated the community sector they represent.

### **2. Discussion**

#### **Take back prescription program**

Cheryl Chandler reported that she had met with Carol Dupuis, the former Nursing Supervisor for Regional School District 17 and Erin Knoll, Community Liaison for the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC). The Prescription Take Back Prescription Program costs approximately \$2000.00 for medication disposal and the police need to be present on the day of the event. Cheryl announced that the MCSAAC Local Prevention Council grant will cover most of the cost of the program. A tentative date was set in April, 2010. The HC-HK Coalition will form a subcommittee for this event. Frank Sparks asked if the event would be limited to Haddam-Killingworth only. Cheryl said she would check with Carol Dupuis. Matt McEwen asked if Youth in Action would be able to help out with the event (i.e. parking or directing traffic). A Pharmacist needs to be on site on the day of the event. The sub-committee will look into the possibility of having pharmaceutical students from UCONN assist with the event. Carol Dupuis, Cheryl Chandler and a representative from MCSAAC are currently on the sub-committee and would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining to do so. Carol Dupuis is looking into having the event at the Haddam Fire House. Tanja Moriarty asked Cheryl what the total grant coverage was. Cheryl informed her it was \$2,500 and police overtime would be covered with some of the funds.

### **3. Prevention Coordinator update**

YFS received 16 applications for the Prevention Coordinator position. The position is full time and is funded through the Drug Free Communities Support Program Five candidates were chosen for a first interview and two were chosen for a second interview. A decision should be made within the next two weeks. The new employee will have to attend a new grantee

meeting in Washington, D.C. In December which is a mandatory meeting that was budgeted into the grant to learn about the requirements of the grant. Also, they will have to attend three 5 day training sessions over the next two years in Pennsylvania.

The Prevention Coordinator will be trained to use the five steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework as a means to achieve the goals of the grant. The Coordinator will also be collaborating with and managing the HC-HK coalition. He/she will primarily focus on 1) establishing and strengthening collaborations to support the efforts of the coalition to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth and 2) reducing substance abuse among youth and over time, among adults by addressing the factors in the community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse. Frank Sparks asked for a copy of the job description and Tanja Moriarty informed him it was on the YFS website.

#### **4. Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS)/ Support Group**

Divinna Schmitt informed the coalition that there will be a guest speaker at the Killingworth Library at 6:30 pm on October 21, 2009 to speak on the subject of *Collaborative Problem Solving*. The speaker is from Mass General Department of Psychiatry 33 people have registered for this 2 hour presentation. Senator Ed Meyer, Gary Mala, Superintendent of Regional School District 17 & Tracy Whaples, Pupil Services, Regional School District 17 will attend. Frank Sparks asked if the school system notified parents about this program because it would be beneficial to some. Divinna Schmitt explained that yes it did. This informational session is based on the program designed by Dr. Ross Green author of *The Explosive Child* and Dr. Stuart Adlon author of *Treating Explosive Kids*.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant (SPF/SIG)**

Cheryl announced that the SPF/SIG grant will continue through June 2010. The billboard aimed at parents to reduce underage drinking has received

national attention. The billboard was created by a local graphic designer and a local public relations consultant. The *Together We Can Coalition* has gotten very positive feedback about the billboard. Cheryl explained that other initiatives of the SPF/SIG include environmental strategies such as increased law enforcement to limit teens' access to alcohol. There is a perception among youth that enforcement is low in Haddam, Killingworth, Essex, Chester, Deep River and East Haddam. Over the past year there has been an increase in party patrols in these towns. Trooper Connelly commented that the billboard has been very effective. Cheryl Chandler related that a local parent had emailed her and said that by seeing the billboard it gave her the incentive to forbid underage drinking in her own home and talk to her teen about it. Troopers Ward and Rhoades received an award from the CT. Youth Services Association for collaboration with the Youth Service Bureaus (*Together We Can Coalition*) with regard to underage drinking and controlled party dispersals. The *Together We Can Coalition* has also received an award from the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC) for the program implemented to reduce underage drinking.

### **Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD HKHS)**

Catherine reported that for Safety Day the group decorated bags to be distributed at local package stores to raise awareness about drinking and driving. The group meets every other week and has 18 members. The students planted red bulbs for Red Ribbon Week.

### **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Students (GLASS)**

Dave Matthews reported that there is a national program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) which is an all day program called Names Can Really Hurt. Dave and Cheryl Chandler will finalize a date with Charlie Macunas, Principal of Haddam Killingworth High School. Dave and Cheryl will attend a presentation at a local high school in preparation for bringing the program to HKHS. Student volunteers and staff volunteers will be recruited for this program to share their own experience of discrimination or bullying.

**Youth in Action (YIA)**

Matt is recruiting underclassman to become members of YIA. The group is working on *Holiday Family Night* which will be held at Haddam Elementary School on Friday, December <sup>11</sup>, 2009. All elementary school students will be invited to attend. There will be games, arts and crafts and cookie decoration etc.

**Great Initiatives Volunteering Everywhere (G.I.V.E.)**

No report

**Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC)**

No report

**Killingworth Women's Organization (KWO)**

No report

**Haddam-Killingworth Lions Club**

Hilary Kumnick reported that the Killingworth Lions Club now has a permanent building at the Durham Fair grounds.

**School Resource Officer (SRO)**

No report

**Habitat for Humanity**

No report

**School (s) Update**

Linda Kaufmann, School Nurse Supervisor informed the coalition that there will be an internet Safety assembly at HKMS. A Problem Gambling assembly was held at the high school for seniors. The schools are dealing with the H1N1 virus and Linda reported that absenteeism is currently 2-3% overall. Schools are working with the Chatham Health District to address the need for vaccinations for the priority group. There will be a free clinic when the vaccine becomes available.

## **Community Updates**

### **Haddam–Killingworth Recreation Department**

Frank Sparks informed members that fall programs are underway. The enrollment numbers are down due to the economy. This will be the third year for the Driver's Education Program. The rec department is finishing soccer season and basketball signups will be held on 10/21/09. The winter & spring programs are being worked on.

### **Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.**

Cheryl announced that the Annual Pumpkin Run 5K to benefit YFS will take place on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed. YFS has 30 volunteers to date and needs at least 10 more. There will be children's activities and approximately 400 runners are expected.

### **Football/Booster Club**

Doug Sumner reported that the Football Booster Club will team up with YFS and Tri-Town YSB for a coat drive. Coats collected will be cleaned by Pat's Dry Cleaning of Higganum and Clinton at no cost. Coats will be collected at the Thanksgiving football game on November 25, 2009. The coats will be distributed by St. Vincent De Paul in Middletown.

Tanja informed everyone present that HC-HK is looking for a co-chair ideally from Killingworth.

**Next Meeting and adjournment**

Next meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2009

HKMS at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting officially adjourned - 8:55 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann O'Mara