



**November Advisory Board Meeting**  
Monday, March 6, 2017 at the  
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

**MINUTES**

**Advisory Board Attendance:** Julia Brilla, Heather Clinger, Mark Fazzolari, Tom Gallo, John Goralski, Kristen Guida, Tom Lombardi, Joshua Maccione, Morgan Maccione, Josh Maccione, Steve Nyerick, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Joshua Rinas, Denise Sicotte, Christina Simms, Carson Stifel, Rachel Wache, Gianna Wadowski

**Staff Attendance:** Megan Albanese, Kelly Leppard

**Honorary Attendance and Guests:** Kiana McDavid, John Myers, Josh Hamilton

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Kristen Guida, at 4:36 p.m.

**President Remarks:** Kristen welcomed everyone and remarked on the warm weather.

**STEPS Moment of the Month:** The Moment of the Month was presented by Mark Pooler and he shared the success of Good Deeds Week last year. Mark gave a brief overview of what Good Deeds Week is and when it will be. Each Board member was encouraged to fill out their pledge sheet with the good deed they intend on doing and the group took a picture holding the pledge sheets.

**Board Action:**

**Approval of Minutes:** In Shane Lockwood's absence, Kristen Guida presented the February 2017 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Palmieri and seconded by Heather Clinger. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** In Josie Rogala's (Treasurer) absence, Megan reported the current balance of the STEPS donations account is \$20,641.00. This balance does not include two recent donations: one from Mancini, Provenzano & Futtner for \$420.00 and another from MOTA's Convenience Store for \$125.00. These both came from the holiday party for Mancini, Provenzano & Futtner, where they listed STEPS as their donation beneficiary.

## **Staff Report:**

### **Megan Albanese, Administrative Assistant, reported the following:**

1. We are still busy working with our new marketing company, ARID Media, to help with rebranding and getting the word out about our coalition. We handed out some of this material at the Healthy Family Fun Fest. The bookmarks were a hit because the March asset of the month is Reading for Pleasure. We have also launched our new automated email informational series that will be sent to people once they sign up for our newsletter and also to those that are already signed up.
2. Megan mentioned the newsletter's new format and sections. The most important new section to us is the Board Member Spotlight. This month we would like to shine the spotlight on Heather Clinger. Heather is always willing to help, whether it is gathering information for handouts, running our last Board meeting or spending the day with us at the Healthy Family Fun Fest, Heather always goes above and beyond. We wouldn't be able to do this work without all our Board members.

### **Kelly Leppard, Youth Prevention Coordinator, reported on the following:**

1. Kelly has spent a large amount of time in the past few weeks, creating an outline of talking points for the last BOE and TC meetings. One of our founding STEPS members, Victoria Triano, made some passionate remarks recently at a Town Council meeting regarding drugs at the high school and our community. Kelly then presented at the Board of Education and Town Council meetings with her outline about current and local drug trends, our coalition work and how we can strengthen our partnerships with these community stakeholders now and in the future. Kelly encouraged Chris Palmieri and Tom Lombardi to share any thoughts they had regarding the meetings since they were in attendance.
2. STEPS, the SPD and the Clergy Association held a lunch and learn at Southington Care Center with member of the clergy on the current opioid situation. Kelly, Deputy Chief Bill Palmieri and Pat Rehmer presented. Overall – a great opportunity to strengthen our partnership and work with that sector.
3. It is important to start thinking about board nominations for this fall. We have a few seniors that will be graduating and a few retirements so we will have some seats opening. A few names have been submitted so if you have a nomination, please do submit that. Kelly will also be reaching out to everyone regarding their commitment for next year so hopefully by April, we will have a better look at which sectors will need to be filled.
4. The CADCA conference Kelly, Christina and Megan attended in DC was great – very powerful to see thousands of people throughout the country working on the same issues.

### **On behalf of Kiana McDavid, STEPS intern, Megan reported on the following:**

1. Kiana had been working hard on our new Wheel of STEPS and was able to see it put into action at the Healthy Family Fun Fest. There was a great turnout and we were educated people that spun the wheel on alcohol and marijuana use as well as asset building and the Social Host Law.
2. Kiana enjoyed attending the CAPP membership meeting where the focus was E-cigarettes and vaping. She learned quite a bit of new information, including tobacco can be concealed in various ways and that marketing is currently targeted towards young people.
3. Kiana is also staying busy with working on the Prom Promise campaign and a fact sheet on drugs that might be a helpful tool for parents.

### **Sector Reports:**

#### **Youth Council:**

The students debuted the new PSA created to show the dangers of E-cigarettes. Board member Julia Brilla gave a quick introduction and the Board viewed the video, as well as a 'Behind the Scenes' shoot, which was created by Josh Maccione. Both were created in the kitchen at DePaolo middle school. The innovation and creativity by our youth was well received and applauded by the Board.

#### **Marijuana Legislation Follow-up:**

At the previous Board meeting, Board member Lisa Mason urged Board members to call and email legislators to express the dangers on legalizing marijuana. This was also followed up by an email with legislative contact info. We still encourage Board members to continue to keep that communication flowing.

#### **Re-cap of Meeting with Speaker of the House:**

Board member Chris Palmieri reported that he and fellow Board member Christina Simms, along with founding STEPS member Victoria Triano, met with Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz at the Hartford Legislative building. The Southington citizens spoke our community's behalf about the concern for the legalization of recreational marijuana. The topic has gained increasing concern as it enters the Public Health Committee on the path to the Floor.

#### **Parent Education Night at SHS:**

Each member received a copy of the flyer for March 15, 2017 at 7pm. The informational night will include a variety of presenters from various outlets to help adults understand the drugs and issues students are currently facing.

**Faith Forum for Congregations: Pastor Josh Rinas, reported the following:**

There will be a forum, similar to the past parent forums that were held, that will help inform and involve our community members and congregations about our Coalition and substance abuse prevention. Pastor Rinas encouraged Board members to please send information to the heads of their congregations or religious affiliates. A flyer was also given to each Board member. Kelly Leppard asked for help from Board members by asking them to please attend and also to help facilitate the table discussions with attendees.

**Law Enforcement Sector:**

**Tom Gallo, Board Member, reported the following:**

**Drug Arrests:**

2/14/17	1330	CM	F	27	Waterbury	Larceny 6th, Misuse of marker plates, Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana
2/6/17	2027	CM	M	14	Southington	Poss of Drug Paraphernalia
2/18/17	2357	I	M	24	Vernon	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana
2/21/17	1330	UAR	M	32	New Britain	Sale of Heroin
2/19/17	1005	I	M	20	Southington	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana
2/26/17	2143	I	F	25	New Britain	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana
2/26/17	2212	I	M	18	New Britain	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana
2/28/17	2154	I	M	21	Bristol	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana

**Underage DUI:**

2/18/17	1825	MM	F	19	Southington	DUI, Failure to drive right 500.00
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**Possession of Alcohol by Minor:**

2/19/17	0914	I	M	19	Southington	Poss of Alcohol by a minor
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Tom Gallo also reported there will be an upcoming K-9 search through the High School in response for a request to have more frequent searches. Kelly Leppard reminded the

Board that this important partnership with the Police Department is not to scare students; it is to deter them from ever bringing drugs to school.

**Positive Youth Development Workgroup update: Megan Albanese, Staff Member, reported the following:**

1. Mark Pooler has done a great job keeping this group on-task and focused. We are in full throttle promoting our Good Deeds week, which will begin April 3. We are exploring various avenues to promote this event, including attempting to get on Fox 61 and Hot 93.7. We have Board members bringing the message to both the Board of Education and Town Council.
2. One of our youth group members recording a PSA at AMP radio on the importance of STEPS throughout his high school career, as he prepares for graduation.
3. John Myers is currently working with Kelly and the high school administration to try to make community service a requirement for graduation from Southington High School.

**Prescription Drug Prevention Workgroup: Board member, Tom Lombardi, reported the following:**

1. The group met for the second time and brought a lot of great ideas to the table.
2. We have gotten permission to hand out information at Music on the Green and this might be a great way to reach an older population in our community to educate them on the importance of locking up your prescription medications so that young people do not have access to them.
3. Tom commented on the amount of valuable information that Shane Lockwood was able to share on the effects of prescription drugs on the adolescent brain.

**Marijuana Prevention Workgroup: Board member, Christina Simms, reported the following:**

1. Christina again urged Board members to reach out to their legislators with the information that Lisa Mason provided. Lisa is also working with the PTO's within our school system to put together a focus group on what information parents would find most helpful.
2. Christina has two youth volunteers that are studying the negative effects of marijuana in youth to put together an informational brochure.

**Off-Premise Merchant Mats:**

Last month, a letter was mailed to all merchants in Southington that sell liquor that stated we would be distributing mats to thank them for not serving alcohol to minors. A sign-up was sent to Board members asking them to help with the distribution of the mats. Kelly and Megan demonstrated a mock skit to help the conversation with the merchants get started and distributed the mats to the Board members.

**New Business:** None

**Next Board meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2017, 4:30pm, at the YMCA Administrative Building.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Albanese