



April Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Municipal Building

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Officer Chad Butler, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, Jim Garstang, Kristen Guida, Justine Griffin, Sarah Lamb, Shane Lockwood, Tom Lombardi, John Myers, Chris Palmieri, Josie Rogala, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Victoria Triano, Rachel Wache.

Staff Attendance: Kelly Leppard, Mike Moffitt.

Guest Attendance: None.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Sue Saucier, at 4:35 p.m.

STEPS Moment of the Month:

The May Moment of the Month was presented by John Myers. John told a story about how this past weekend, someone that grew up in the YMCA, stopped by John's house to say goodbye and thank you to him and his wife before he moved out of state. The man told John that he and the YMCA helped him become the person he is today. John said that you never know the impact you have on people.

John then spoke about a recent event involving underage drinking and spoke about a few conclusions that he had come to. 1. Kids go to parties, even if they know there will be alcohol. 2. Kids feel that it is okay not to drink. 3. Kids arrange for designated drivers. 4. After almost 30 students were arrested for underage drinking, two additional parties occurred in town. 5. Kids are not understanding the consequences for getting caught with alcohol and do not understand that even if they are not drinking, if they are at a party, they will still be charged for being at the party. 6. Kids' source of alcohol is from their homes, with or without parents' permission.

Sue Saucier thanked John for sharing his inside perspective with the group and stated that educating the community on the Social Host Law needs to be a major priority, especially with prom and graduation season right around the corner.

Jim Garstang stated that people keep doing the same risk-taking behaviors. He stated that hopefully due to the recent underage drinking and social host arrests in town, families won't make the same mistakes.

Victoria Triano stated that students feel a sense of justice and no one thinks they will ever get caught. Victoria stated that she feels our coalition needs to take action and possibly work with the Superintendent's office to draft a letter to parents, outlining the importance of the social host law. Sue Saucier stated that she will contact his office.

Sue also stated that this would be a perfect opportunity to get information to athletes, parents, and coaches not only about the consequences of getting caught underage drinking but also how drugs and alcohol affect a student's athletic performance.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Secretary, Kristen Guida, presented the April 2015 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Shane Lockwood. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Advisory Board Treasurer, Chris Palmieri, presented the April 2015 Financial Report. Chris stated that during the month of April, STEPS received \$60 in proceeds from t-shirt and sweatshirt sales, bringing the balance to

\$15,921.00. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Shane Lockwood and seconded by Tom Lombardi. The motion passed unanimously.

President Remarks:

Sue Saucier passed out cards around the table that were made by 5th graders in town for the seniors at the high school to receive before the prom next weekend. This is the 4th year the 5th graders have completed this project. The cards all have various messages, ranging from a reminder to be a good role model, to please make good decisions on prom night.

Sue spoke about how she, Kelly Leppard, and Officer Chad Butler attended training on the CT Medical Marijuana Program that was presented by the Department of Consumer Protection. The presentation provided information and updates on the process for physicians to certify patients and caregivers for medical marijuana use. The presentation also included the application process, regulatory oversight and discussions on legal concerns.

Sue also spoke about an upcoming forum her and Kelly Leppard will be attending, on medical marijuana from a physician's point of view. The forum is May 19th from 9-10:30am if anyone else is interested in attending.

Staff Report:

Kelly Leppard, Youth Prevention Coordinator, reported the following:

1. Please save the date for our night at the drive-in which is Saturday, June 20th and our movie is Despicable Me. We asked the drive-in committee if we could have a night before summer starts so hopefully the June date works for the majority of the board. Meredith will be sending out an email with sign-ups for shifts. There will be 2 shifts again and the jobs will be ticket sales, parking, and popcorn as well as a clean-up day the next morning. Please invite your family and friends to help out!
2. Our June meeting is going to be an end of year celebration picnic at YMCA Camp Sloper. Meredith will be sending out an electronic invitation to this as well. We will have our board meeting first with the picnic to follow at 5pm. Please feel free to invite your family members if they would like to attend. When you rsvp, please include them in the count so we can plan accordingly for food.
3. Kelly stated that she has been reaching out to current board members individually regarding their plans for the 2015-2016 Advisory Board. The executive committee has been working on a plan to update the by-laws to add additional student seats to the board so that 10th, 11th, and 12th grade will all be represented, two additional honorary seats (as two of our founding member's terms are ending) as well as having executive committee members no longer represent a specific sector, but act more as a governing member. With that said, we will have many sector seats becoming available. Kelly stated that the executive committee will be looking for nominations for the following sectors: civic, youth, business, parent, youth serving, and media. If you have any names you would like to submit, please email them to Kelly by next Friday, May 15th as we would like to have an idea for our June meeting for what next year's board will look like.

4. Kelly spoke about a few upcoming events:

5 th Grade Asset Day	May 12, 2015	9:00am-1:30pm	YMCA Camp Sloper
5 th Grade Asset Day	May 13, 2015	9:00am-1:30pm	YMCA Camp Sloper
5 th Grade Asset Rain Date	May 14, 2015		YMCA Camp Sloper
ABC Annual Training Event	May 21, 2015	8-11 & 12-3	VoAg Center at SHS
8 th to 9 th Grade Transition Day	June 16, 2015		YMCA Camp Sloper
8 th to 9 th Grade Transition Day	June 17, 2015		YMCA Camp Sloper

5. Kelly stated that Asset Building Classroom Team at SHS is having a dog supply drive on Monday, May 18th before the boys home baseball game against Simsbury. All donations will be given to the Southington Dog Pound.
6. Kelly also reminded the board that if they interested in hosting a QPR Training for your sector, please be sure to contact Heather Clinger.

Sector Reports:

Law Enforcement:

Kelly Leppard, reported the following for Officer Chad Butler:

1. May 16th is the SHS Senior Prom at the Aqua Turf. Officers will be assigned to the Aqua Turf and will be patrolling the community for underage drinking parties from 10pm to 2am.

Parent Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Chair, reported the following:

1. The committee supported the Prom Promise campaign through its May ad in The Southington Observer with the message "Southington Senior Prom is right around the corner. Make the PROMise not to host an underage drinking party."
2. The spring 2015 campaign is "Parents: you matter! Teach your teens that drinking alcohol before 21 is too risky." On April 8, 2015, a group of students and board members put labels imprinted with the message on the back of 2500 nail files. The parent committee supplied pizza, soda and iced tea for volunteers. Nail files and a stand-up sign with flyer were delivered to 28 salons and the YMCA's Spirit Mind and Body Center during the week of April 27. Modern Formal took our sign to display. Many thanks to the board members who helped on April 8 and to those who delivered the items to the salons.
3. The parent survey will be conducted this Spring. Heather and Marc Goldstein, the evaluator, will be meeting with the superintendent the week of May 11 to discuss the survey and how he may assist us in getting the survey out to parents. This meeting was rescheduled from April due to a scheduling conflict with the superintendent's calendar. The survey will be asking questions regarding to parents perceptions of drug and alcohol use, their knowledge of the CT Social Host Law, information about our medication drop box, etc. This will be the third time this survey is administered.
4. Heather stated that she was recently a guest lecturer for "The Psychology of Drugs and Behavior" class at Mitchell College. The focus of that week's class was "Drugs: Prevention and Education ó Schools, Community, and Family." One of the programs Heather highlighted during her presentation was STEPS and the Southington Parents Raising Healthy Teens parent committee and their various activities and campaigns.

Youth Council:

Trever Rogers, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Trever reported that this past month, students on the Youth Council wore buttons in school that stated, "Ask Me About Southington Serves" to hopefully intrigue students about the site and get them to ask questions about it. If students asked about the button, the Youth Council members were prepared with their "evaluator speeches" and gave out pens.
2. The Youth Committee is having a car wash on May 16th from 10am to 3pm at the Southington Community YMCA to raise money for the STEPS Relay for Life Team. A car wash is \$5 and Trever asked all board members to please try to stop by to support them.
3. Trever also reminded everyone that Relay for Life is Friday, May 29th to May 30th. Trever asked everyone to join the team online.

Prom Campaign:

Mike Moffitt, STEPS Intern, reported the following:

1. Mike reported that as we had hoped, this year's prom Promise campaign appears to be a greater success than last years. Mike stated that we are very appreciative of the local businesses who have thus far donated items to this year's campaign; they are as follows: *Art Rich Photography, The Purple Petal, Rose to the Occasion, Stop and Shop, Silk Nails, Blonde and Beyond, From Tips to Toes, the Eclipse Hair Salon, Sixth Point Wealth Advisors,* and most recently a full years membership to the *Southington Community YMCA*.

For the senior prom this year, we received 53 postcards back from parents who pledged to not allow any underage drinking or drug use on their property, and that they will not provide minors with any alcohol on the night of prom. Of the 53 parents, 26 would like lawn signs and 21 would like to be recognized in the local newspapers (*The Southington Citizen, The Southington Observer, and The Record-Journal*, per their requests) on May 15th.

Participation from the senior class this year was staggering, as 324 out of approximately 330 students decided to make the pledge. Raffle winners were announced on Wednesday and students seemed to be very appreciative.

Military Sector:

Rachel Wache, committee chair, reported the following:

1. Rachel reported that the military sector is going to have a food drive on Saturday, June 6th outside of Walmart with the help of the Southington Armory. Rachel will be making a flyer. She asked everyone to please spread the flyers around and to tell other about the event.
2. Rachel also mentioned that the Southington Touch a Truck is this Saturday, May 9th from 10am to 3pm at the Southington Drive-In.

Youth Serving Sector:

Sue Saucier, reported the following:

1. Sue and John have been working on a list of agencies in their sector to reach out to, to become -STEPS Partners. John created a plaque and brochure design and Sue is working on drafting a letter. More details to follow.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. at YMCA Camp Sloper, 1000 East Street, Southington, CT 06489

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Leppard