



February Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2017 at the

Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Chris Bracken, Julia Brilla, Chris Chaplinsky, Heather Clinger, Tom Gallo, Jim Garstang, John Goralski, Kristen Guida, Tom Lombardi, Morgan Maccione, Lisa Mason, Steve Nyerick, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Joshua Rinas, Denise Sicotte

Honorary Attendance: John Meyers

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Kristen Guida, at 4:32pm.

STEPS Moment of the Month: The Moment of the Month was presented by Steve Nyerick who shared a story about a positive and funny interaction with a student this past week.

Board Action:

Approval of minutes: In Shane Lockwood's absence, Kristen Guida presented the January 9, 2017 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Chris Palmieri. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: In Josie Rogala's absence, Heather Clinger reported that the STEPS donation balance is \$20,750.00. This includes the Drive-in Donation of \$2,000 that wasn't posted in last week's balance. There are two other deposits not listed and not shown in the balance: a donation of \$290.87 from the Southington Community YMCA on behalf of Christina Simms and \$100 for T-shirt and conversation card sales.

Staff Reports:

Kristen Guida presented the staff reports on behalf of both Megan and Kelly. Meagan, Kelly, and Christina are at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conference in National Harbor, MD.

From Megan Albanese, Administrative Assistant:

1. The Tips Training last month was very successful with 23 participants that all passed the exam. They are hoping to host another training sometime in late Spring.
2. Thank you to everyone that submitted their volunteer hours. We appreciate you all staying up to date with your logging hours.

3. We have been working with a new marketing company called ARID- Media. Right now, we are working to launch a new 'drip marketing campaign where newsletters subscribers will receive an email from us every few weeks (in addition to the monthly newsletters) on various topics and about our coalition in general. Our new updated newsletter with the new template will be out next week as well.

From Kelly Leppard, Youth Prevention Coordinator:

1. The Healthy Family Fun Fest is on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at the Aqua Turf. We are having a table again this year with the theme of making substance abuse prevention a priority in the Southington Community. We will have a wheel for attendees to spin with the chance to win STEPS t-shirts, reusable grocery bags, and learn about different topics such as the CT Social Host Law, the medication drop box, the importance of locking medication, marijuana facts, and more. We are looking for volunteers to help that day.
2. Very special congratulations to Morgan as she received one of the Youth Leadership Awards last week at the YMCA Annual Meeting. She gave a speech that referenced her work with our coalition and how important it is to give back to your community. She did a wonderful job.
3. Our mats finally came in for a project we are working on with the police department and package stores. We are providing each package store in town with a counter mat that has a message regarding not providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Letters signed by our president Kristen Guida and Chief Daly are going out next week and the mats will be delivered shortly after.
4. Please save the date of Wednesday March 15, 2017, for a parent education night on drug trends at Southington High School at 6:30pm. This event is a collaboration between STEPS, the Board of Education, and the Southington Police Department. More details to come but we would appreciate having advisory board members take part in the evening if possible.
5. A forum on our survey information is being planned for the clergy sector tentatively on March 29, 2017. More details on this event to come.
6. Thank you to everyone who has been participating in our workgroups to take our forum results and put them into working plans. I appreciate everyone's help.

Marijuana Legislation Presentation:

Lisa Mason gave a presentation on possible marijuana legislation in the state and how advisory board members can get involved to stop it from getting beyond the public health committee. She directed the group to the SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) website for current scientific information on marijuana. www.learnaboutsam.org The Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals (CAPP) is the state affiliate of SAM. CAPP members and their coalition members are currently working to prevent legalization of marijuana in Connecticut by contacting their legislators to educate them on the dangers of marijuana.

Lisa showed advisory board members the section of the CAPP website that includes a script that members can use to call their legislators to share information about the risks of legalization of recreational marijuana. There is a section on the website to record your contact with a legislator for each call, letter or in person meeting. <http://www.cappct.org/ct-sam> Lisa also distributed the following: Know Marijuana Quick Facts and Relationships Among Marijuana, Opioid Pain Meds, and Heroin. Advisory board members are encouraged to make calls sooner rather than later.

Sector Reports:

Law Enforcement Sector: Tom Gallo, Board Member, reported:

1. No youth arrests. He will report on overdose deaths at the next meeting.

Asset Building Classrooms: Steve Nyerick, Board Member, reported:

1. ABCs are in all schools and all grade levels.
2. A flyer was distributed for “A Taste of Culture to Stop Hunger.” Board Members are invited to attend this event on Thursday, February 23, 2017, 5:30pm, DePaolo Cafeteria.
3. Board Members are invited to attend the ABC Annual Training on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at DePaolo Middle School, 8:00am-11:00am (middle schools, high schools, and ALTA); 12:00pm-3:00pm (elementary schools).
4. There is an Asset Building Champion Meeting on February 15, 2017, 7:30am-9:00am, at the Municipal Center.

Youth Report/E-Cigarette Prevention Workgroup: Morgan Maccione and Julia Brilla, Board Members, reported:

1. We are filming a Public Service Announcement on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at DePaolo. The PSA is on ‘what is in an e-cigarette’ and ‘if you wouldn’t eat it, why would you smoke it?’ We are working with Dan LeRoy Productions to create it and we will show it to the board when it is finished.
2. We are working with the Southington Chamber of Commerce to find out how many businesses in town have a policy for tobacco and e-cigarettes in their handbook for patrons and employees. We created an online survey that Liz Francis at the Chamber is helping us send electronically to all Chamber members and we are hoping to get the results back by this Friday to review at our next Youth Council meeting which is on the 15th.
3. The Youth Council created a health class lesson plan regarding e-cigarettes and vaping and we will be writing a second at our meeting on the 15th.
4. The STEPS Youth Committee is meeting with Bread for Life next week at their new building to learn all about what Bread for Life does and the two groups are going to form a partnership for ongoing volunteer opportunities.

Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup: Heather Clinger, Board Member reported:

1. There will be an Underage Drinking Prevention Workshop on Monday, February 13, 2017, at 10:00am at the STEPS office. New members are welcome to attend.

Marijuana Prevention Workgroup: Beth Baker, Board Member reported:

1. The next meeting is February 16, 2017, at 4:00pm at the Southington Municipal center.
2. Lisa Mason is working on fact sheets on the dangers of marijuana and a focus group for middle school parents.
3. Beth Baker is working on an informal focus group of young adults.
4. Christina Simms will work with the DARE officers on marijuana prevention. Tom Gallo indicated that DARE is a fidelity-based program, which cannot be altered. There may be other ways to engage parents in marijuana prevention education.

Prescription Drug Prevention Workgroup: Jim Garstang, Board Member, reported:

1. Christina Simms and Kelly Leppard are meeting with the superintendent and the assistant superintendent on February 10, 2017, to discuss district-wide prevention strategies. They will also be meeting with the Town Council to report on the Be in the Know survey forum results and prevention implementation strategies.
2. Shane Lockwood is making contact with Hartford Healthcare to discuss the misuse of prescription drugs and effects on youth.
3. Meagan Albanese and Kiana McDavid are working on the medication drop box campaign.

Positive Youth Development Workgroup: Mark Pooler, Board Member, reported:

1. The results from the Be in the Know forums were discussed and plans of action were made.
2. Kiana McDavid will oversee a PSA discussing how important it is for parents of teens to stay involved.
3. Meagan Albanese is researching advertisements at movie theaters, the drive-in, and in the community.
4. Mark Pooler and Catherine Myers are considering having a community volunteer day.
5. Lisa Mason gave information about "The Breaking Points," a 30-minute documentary by the Partnership for Drug Free Kids. The movie describes the many ways students are pressured to succeed and use unhealthy coping strategies. This movie is for the adults in students' lives. There are different price points depending on if the movie is for personal use or a community-wide showing.
6. John Myers is investigating making volunteering a mandatory graduation requirement.
7. Good Deeds week will be April 3-9, 2017, to promote good deeds in the community.

New Business: None

Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 6, 2017, 4:30pm, YMCA Administrative Building

Meeting Adjourned: 5:23pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kiana McDavid