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Minutes 05-21-10

Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2010
5:30-7:00PM

Present: Ethel Doyle, Kathy Hirsch, Cindy Sheridan, Jack Flood, Caroline Ress, Bryan Gallagher, Lynn Horgan, Carlene Newell, Colleen Leger, Brian Dietz

Attendees: 10

I. Welcome:

Volunteer Hours: members were given 5 minutes to document recent hours dedicated to Coalition-related activities.

Coalition Process Survey: members who had not previously completed the survey were asked to do so. The survey will be emailed to all other Coalition members with meeting minutes. Members, please complete survey and email it to deacon@epiphanycommunityservices.com.

II. Upcoming Events:

Volunteers Needed

Pen an article for Coalition Corner: AYHSC is looking for column topics, and Coalition members willing to write for the column in the upcoming months (June, July, August.) Cindy S. said that she and Lynn H. had discussed writing an article in June about summer safety. Kathy H. reported that a youth council member is also willing to write an article (topic to be determined.) Please email Colleen if you have an idea for the Coalition Corner, or if you would like to help write a future article.

Administer Rx Survey to seniors at blood pressure/podiatry clinics: Colleen asked for volunteers to help administer surveys at the Senior Center and at Senior Housing on June 10th and 15th.

GGC Outreach: volunteers needed to reach out to elementary schools, and to network with PTOs and other parent groups to promote Guiding Good Choices workshops. Kathy H. offered to promote the program at Dallin School. Susan Stewart, who was not able to attend the meeting, offered to do so at Thompson School.

Events and Trainings

Middlesex Partnership for Youth (MPY)- Secure Conference featuring Michael Thompson: Cindy S. reported there was an excellent PowerPoint presentation about sexting and Internet safety. This PowerPoint will be distributed to MPY members to use within their respective communities. It was suggested that there be an Internet safety parent forum at the Ottoson. Kathy suggested organizing a parent-to-parent email campaign about restricting Facebook use among middle school students, or at least providing information about the risks associated with social media (addressing internet bullying, sexting etc...).

Ideas for future trainings: Coalition members were asked to recommend training topics for the upcoming year. Suggested topics included stress/addressing the increasing levels of stress among youth; community data collection—specifically what sources of data are available to AYHSC, schools and other local groups about behavioral and cultural issues affecting the community.

Summer short-term working groups: volunteers needed to help develop marketing and implementation plans for a social norms campaign about underage drinking. The summer intern matched with AYHSC by DPH was unable to accept the position, but we will be moving forward on the campaign regardless. The rationale for this campaign is that youth drinking behaviors are more strongly influenced by perceptions of how much their peers drink than by the actual level of peer drinking. At AHS, students greatly overestimate the level of peer drinking, and we want to clarify this misperception.

Town Day Booth: AYHSC will have a booth at Town Day again this year. Volunteers needed during the summer to help plan for this event. Kathy suggested using this event to kick off the social norms campaign.

III. Upcoming Events: Coalition End of the Year Report

Colleen distributed copies of the draft report, written by AYHSC Evaluator, Deacon Dzierzawski. Members were asked to read through the 4-page report, and to provide feedback on whether the information made sense/was useful to them in describing AYHSC accomplishments, as well as Coalition progress towards its stated goals. Members were also asked to consider how they wanted to communicate the Coalition's story to the greater community. Overwhelmingly, members thought that the report would be more helpful if it were written in layman's terms, with less technical jargon. For example, members would prefer to use more specific language about activities other than "outputs." Additional points of reflection: 1) we have to market ourselves better, and at more events where larger audiences are gathered. Members asked if we could hire a marketing specialist. Colleen said she would review this year's and next year's budgets to see if that were possible. 2) We need to increase community outreach to expand membership—there is concern about burnout among current members.

IV. Updates from Working Groups:

Diversion and Law Enforcement:

A flowchart of the Diversion process was distributed to Coalition members, and Cindy S.C. provided a review of the Diversion Program. In the past 2 months, there have been over 30 new Diversion cases. The Diversion committee has also developed a type of Diversion for youth caught possessing or publicly consuming marijuana. Cindy has started managing these cases as well.

Youth Advisory Meetings: Cindy B. and Carlene N. generated a summary sheet of the April student advisory meetings. During these meetings, students were asked to reflect on the 2009 YRBS findings, and to comment specifically on some of the data. Colleen shared some of the students' comments about the discrepancy between actual student use of alcohol and the perception of peer drinking at AHS. Students' thoughts about Social Host Liability Law and effective prevention/reduction initiatives were also shared with the group.

Youth Council

Colleen and Kathy provided a brief summary of recent and upcoming Youth Council activities. On Thursday, 5/27, members of the Youth Council will administer a survey assessing AHS students' exposure to health messages through various media. This information will help shape our marketing strategy for the social norms campaign. The Youth Council is also planning to conduct shoulder tap surveys to assess willingness among adult community members to purchase alcohol for minors.

Medication take-back event: On Saturday, May 1st, AYHSC implemented its take-back program at Community Collection Day. With the help of Pharmacist, Bob Pasquariello and Officer Karen Kelly, AYHSC collected 13 30-gallon boxes containing non-controlled medications, syringes/sharps and other medical waste. In addition, we collected 779 pills, 4 single dose syringes and 370 ml of *controlled substances*.

V. Adjournment

Monthly Coalition meetings will be suspended through August. AYHSC meetings will resume in September (09/16/10), and will be held on the third Thursday of each month, except when otherwise noted on the AYHSC Meeting Calendar.