

This AYHSC Monthly Meeting was held on May 11th, 2017 at 5:35 pm at the Whittemore Robbins House.

**Staff Present:** Ivy Laplante, Karen Dillon

**Members Present:** Carlene Newell, Cooper Schoenthaler, Julie Powers, Kerry Austin Smith, Pat Egan, Jessica Winstanley, Joe Curro, Sana Mohtadi and Kaeli Jo Harney

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions, Accept Minutes of the April Meeting	Student Advisors and community members all introduced themselves and shared their respective roles in the Arlington community. Julie moved to approve the April meeting minutes, Megan seconded. All present approved the April meeting minutes.	Ivy will publish April minutes on town website.
Student Coalition Updates	<p><b>AHS Student Texts:</b> Julie is managing this project to send daily messages of affirmation with AHS Student Council. 110 people have signed up so far, and 5 messages have gone out so far.</p> <p><b>Kick Butts Day:</b> Karen and Carlene chaperoned 6 students from AHS on April 26th. The AHS club was the recipient of the Statewide Youth Leadership Award and Peer Outreach Award.</p> <p><b>YRBS:</b> Administered online at AHS as a statewide initiative. Student thought is allowed for more privacy but some of the questions especially about nutrition were condescending.</p> <p><b>Senior Recognition:</b> We recognized 4 graduating students who have contributed to prevention work for the past 3 years.</p>	
SAP-C Grant Updates	<b>SAPC Cluster</b> went to the State House on April 13th to advocate for stronger alcohol policies. Julie, Cooper and Megan attended with Ivy and spoke to Representative Sean Garballey about youth substance use in Arlington.	
Project Updates	<b>Focus Group about marijuana at AHS</b> On Tuesday, May 9th Kaeli jo Harney led a focus group at AHS with 13 students from grades 9-12th. The goal was to learn about marijuana	Ivy will send summary report of focus group findings to high school principal.

	<p>use among students at Arlington high school.</p> <p>Focus Group Report Highlights:  Perception of harm of using marijuana has dropped due to peer influence and societal messages. The risk benefit ratio is unbalanced. In 1991 78% reported perception of harm from marijuana use, which dropped significantly (to 35%) in 2016.</p> <p>Students stated that using is the sharing of an experience and they believe use elevates their social status.</p> <p>Students are aware that it negatively affects their athletic performance and use more in off season (“to make up for it”)</p> <p>Students reported that marijuana is easy to get, often older siblings assist.</p> <p>Prevention efforts student think are helpful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assemblies at school</li> <li>- Talk “with not to” students</li> <li>- Discern between medical and recreational use.</li> <li>- Don’t just state all use is bad.</li> </ul>	
Policy Updates	AYHSC staff is meeting with AHS administration to strengthen substance use policies at AHS regarding tobacco violations, marijuana use, and student suspensions.	Ivy will provide update at June meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

**The next Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1st, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Whittemore Robbins House.**