



## South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition

*The mission of the South Hadley Prevention Coalition is to collaboratively initiate, coordinate, & sustain prevention efforts to reduce youth substance use & abuse within the town of South Hadley*

Minutes: June 12, 2024

**Sector Representatives Present:** Rejoice Ebai-Bates (Youth), Ray Faginski SRO, Josh Helems SRO (Police), David Bergeron (Faith Community), Heather Warner (Youth Serving Organization), Karen Walsh Pio (Medical Professional), Eleanor Small (Civic/Volunteer), Laurie Loisel (Local or State Government Agency), Taylor McAndrew (Other Organization Reducing Substance Use).

**Coalition Partners Present:** Alexis Polokoff (SPIFFY Coalition)

**Coalition Staff Present:** Susan Cook (Coordinator), Steve Fleming (Director)

Regrets: Beth Winfield, Megan Lee, Dianna Goldberg, Aubrey Nicholls

Topic	Action to be Taken/Decision to be Made	Who is responsible*
<b>Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introductions</li> <li>● 15 minutes to visit and share dinner from Family Pizza</li> </ul>	Susan
<b>Approve Minutes</b>	May 2024 Minutes: Dave made motion to accept, Taylor seconded and all approved.	Membership
<b>Coalition Capacity Building and Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alexis Polokoff of SPIFFY was invited to present about her partnership with our Coalition and the work happening around Policy and Prevention in the region. A Copy of the Powerpoint presentation that Alexis Polokoff of SPIFFY (Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth Coalition) gave is at the end of these minutes. She highlighted that “policy influences social norms,” and that without enforcement, policy is not helpful for that influence. Policy can happen at the school, local, state, and federal level and for policy to impact youth substance use/access we need to look at the 4 P’s: product, placement, price and promotion. Heather and Karen reminded the membership of the forward-thinking by-law work done in South Hadley over the last 11 years limiting cannabis, youth access to vapes, banning of flavored vapes and tobacco, TIPs training, drug disposal box, DART and naloxone boxes. We have a lot to be proud of within this town!</li> </ul>	Membership
<b>Strategies – Reduce Youth Substance Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sector Reports:</li> <li>● Josh shared that the SHPD sent party patrols out the night of graduation and reported no issues. Susan reminded him that the invoice should go to the Coalition as that was one of our goals and we put funds aside for that.</li> <li>● Taylor reported that the Opioid Survey for the county had #415 responses, Northampton was #150 of those, and South Hadley was #50 residents and another #17 that work in town for #67 total. (Boston had only #400 for their survey so we are happy with our amount of data.) There is a need for more data from those with ‘lived experience’, shared Taylor, so Susan offered to pay to put the survey poster in the local newspaper (The Town Reminder) but requested a change in the date on the poster. Taylor offered to adjust the poster and Susan said she would get it in the newspaper for 3 weeks in July.</li> <li>● Taylor also shared that the regional data is showing a decrease in overdose fatalities from 44 in 2021 to 29 in 2023 (the most recent data). This is not the case in all counties of Massachusetts and our work is far from over.</li> </ul>	Membership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Karen reported that the Board of Health is involved in using the Opioid survey data to initiate activities, but the data is still raw and needs to be carefully analyzed first. The Board of Health Director has the data to review. Susan shared that the Coalition would like to help and will reach out to offer to help. The SH Board of Health is also busy applying for grants.</li> <li>● Laurie Loisel shared that the Northwestern District Atty’s “Safe and Health Schools Summit” is scheduled for November 1, 2024. It will be held at Greenfield Community College and will focus on trauma-informed response in schools. There is also a School Resource Officer Training being planned for late September, more information will follow.</li> <li>● Heather reported that the State has a Vaping Epidemic Taskforce working to address the vaping issue for youth and adults. The industry has convince the public that vapes are good for tobacco cessation, and yet it has little proof. Heather offered to be available for presentations in the schools, staff and the community around tobacco and vaping.</li> <li>● Dave shared that the church is willing to offer \$1,000 toward the Middle School vape detector that SRO Ray F. requested. Ray said thank you, and he would speak to the new MS principal about the offer. Susan said the HS peer leader fund should be able to help with the balance and to let her know what the difference was.</li> <li>● The Operation Parent Handbooks were passed out to the #120 incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade student caregivers. The #120 grade 5 books are being held until September as we missed the Grade 4 caregivers in June. Rejoice is busy putting our stickers on the books as we speak 😊</li> <li>● #1000 Safe Storage stickers for pizza boxes were given to Family Pizza today for the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. They are such great partners in this campaign!</li> <li>● Eleanor Small shared an article from April 8, 2024 People magazine titled, “<a href="#">How Smartphones Are Hurting Our Kids.</a>” (use this link to read it). Susan shared that this is important information but out of the scope of the goals of the DFC grant. The Coalition can address the impact on youth substance use and Susan said she would talk to the Asst. Supt. about getting this topic discussed in the schools.</li> <li>● The safe celebration ad from the Coalition in the Town Reminder was shared and is at the end of these minutes.</li> <li>● The HS student ID cards will have the list of resources on the back again this year, Susan is working on updating the information. We have LifeTouch to thank for this collaboration!</li> <li>● The Fall HS student planners will have an information page about the dangers of vaping thanks to the Peer Leader advisor.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eleanor suggested we contact the Town Reminder to have an article written about end of the grant funding for the Coalition, the accomplishments of the Coalition and the retirement of Susan. Steve offered to help get that started.</li> <li>● Suggestions for future guest speakers: Ruth Evers: Trauma-Informed Hampshire County, Taylor McAndrew: Fentanyl and Fake Pills, a recovery coach, Translate Gender Northampton (fighting gender oppression), and Smart Phases (?) was offered for consideration for next year.</li> <li>● <b>Pencil in dates for next year’s Coalition meetings: Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, 2025, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, April 9, May 14, and June 11, 2025</b></li> <li>● June 13, 2024 New emerging drug alert! From Kirsten Krieger, Public Health Nurse for the Quabbin Health District, <a href="mailto:kkrieger@townofware.com">kkrieger@townofware.com</a>: "Urgent warning regarding <b>illicit drug adulterant medetomidine</b>: There have been reports of a new adulterant being added to the illicit drug supply, especially opiates</li> </ul>	

and opioids. Medetomidine, a dangerous chemical sedative that is most often used by veterinarians as an animal sedative, has been detected mixed into fentanyl, xylazine, and other drugs sold on the street. The combination triggered a new wave of overdoses that began in late April and accelerated in May. Serious adverse reactions and large-scale overdose outbreaks have been seen in Missouri, Colorado, Pennsylvania, California, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. There is no information to date regarding Massachusetts, but as we know it may only be a matter of time. I have reached out to MADDs and other resources to see if it is being tested for in Massachusetts and am awaiting more information. It is known to slow the human heart rate to dangerously low levels, as low as 20. Like xylazine, it does not respond to naloxone."

- For more information, click on these links:

<https://www.npr.org/2024/05/31/nx-s1-4974959/medetomidine-overdose-fentanyl-sedative>

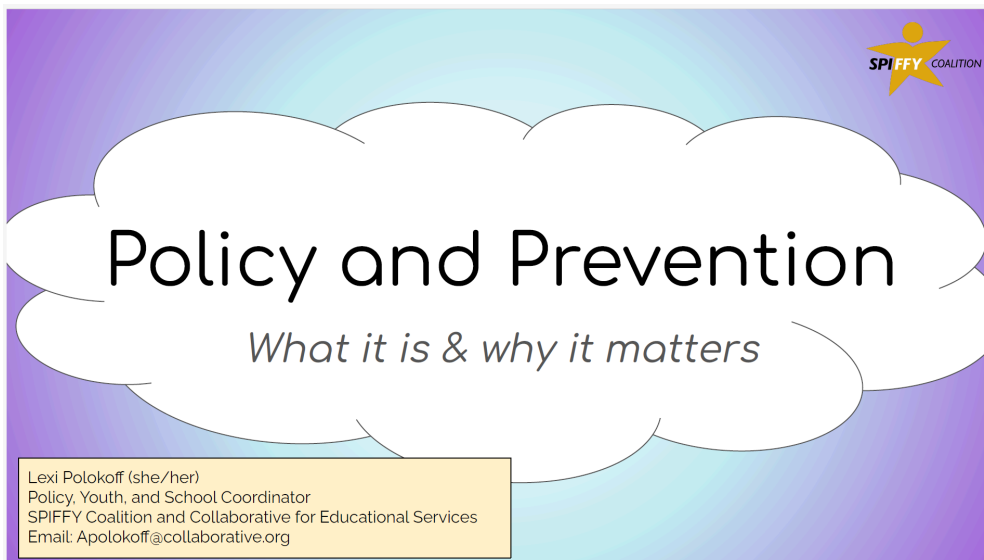
and

<https://www.cfsre.org/nps-discovery/public-alerts/medetomidine-rapidly-proliferating-across-usa-implicated-in-recreational-opioid-drug-supply-causing-overdoses-outbreaks>

### Upcoming Meetings/Events

Next Coalition Meeting: September 11, 2024 SHHS Library 6:30 PM

The (9 slide) presentation about Policy and Prevention from Alexis Polokoff:



## What is Policy?

Policy is a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions.

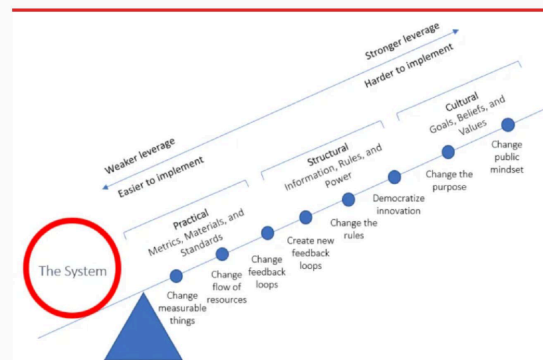
- [CDC](#)

- Local, State, Federal
- School
- Institutional

## Why does it matter?

- Directly impacts risk and protective factors
- Backed by research
- Policy influences social norms

Figure 1. Leverage points: Places to intervene in a system



Source: Populace, adapted from Donella Meadows "Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System," The Sustainability Institute, 1999.

## How can it affect youth substance misuse?

### Elements of the



**Product**



**Place**



**Price**



**Promotion**

**The four P's affect community access and availability**

## How can it affect youth substance misuse?

*So many ways!*

- Lots of research-based policies directly related to substances.
  - Ex: Alcohol Retailer Density
- Indirect ways via more upstream policy-making
  - Ex: Improving school climate by implementing non-discrimination and inclusive policies
- Other examples?

## South Hadley's Role with Local Prevention Policy



Cannabis

Tobacco



Alcohol



Other?

## Regional Policy and Norms Workgroup

A regional workgroup co-facilitated by the SPIFFY Coalition in Hampshire County, the Communities That Care Coalition of Franklin County and North Quabbin, and Greenfield 4SC Coalition. The workgroup brings together many sectors of the community to **examine policy and norms that impact youth substance use and youth health and health equity.**

### Alcohol Policy Subcommittee

- Co-chaired by Lexi Polokoff and Anaamika Nair
- Bi-monthly meetings

### Cannabis Policy Subcommittee

- Chaired by Ilana Gerjuoy
- Bi-monthly meetings

## Other ways you can influence policy

**School** - joining the school council, attending school committee meetings (or serving on the committee), etc.

**Municipal** - attending and voicing opinion at town meetings/hearings, writing your local councilors, public petitions, serve on a board or committee, etc.

**State/Federal** - meeting with legislators, submitting public comment, writing testimony, testifying at public hearings, etc.



# Questions?

Lexi Polokoff (she/her)  
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SPIFFY Coalition and Collaborative for Educational Services  
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Victor Long



 \*  \*   
 Congratulations  
 SHHS   
 Graduates \*  
 Class of 2024! 

Remember to make safe decisions as you celebrate your achievements!

Best wishes and all of our support,  
 \* The South Hadley Drug and Alcohol Coalition and the SH Peer Leaders

 [www.southhadleyprevents.com](http://www.southhadleyprevents.com) 



*www.southhadleyprevents.org, And please visit us at our Facebook page for ongoing information!*