



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: March 16, 2022, 6:30 PM at SHHS Library

Sector Representatives Present: Jadyne Christie (Youth), Karl Jubinville, Denise Kelly-Lachat (Parent), Mary Walsh: Nurse Leader, Elizabeth Wood: HS Principal, Megan Lee: Peer Leader Advisor (School), Josh Helems (Police), Ellie Small (Civic/Volunteer), Bruce Patryn: DA Office, Sharon Hart: Board of Health (State or Local Government Agency), Karen Walsh Pio (Other Organization Reducing Substance Use).

Coalition Partners Present: Heather Warner (SPIFFY Coalition)

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

Regrets: Dianna Goldberg, Beth Winfield, Dave Bergeron, Sarah Kohm

Topic	Action to be Taken/Decision to be Made	Who is responsible*
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option to make a nametag, sign in sheet passed around as people entered and had some pizza and took a water bottle. There was a sense of joy in meeting live again among the members. Ground rules for this meeting shared – Introduce yourself, your sector and honor all voices and opinions. Volunteer to take minutes – Heather was running late so Susan took notes 	Susan and membership
Approve Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of February 2022 minutes – there was time given to review the minutes. There was no discussion, motion to pass by Karen Walsh Pio, second by Megan Lee, and vote to accept minutes. Susan said they will be posted next week on the website. 	Membership, Karen and Megan
Coalition Capacity Building and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome new members – Our Youth Outreach Worker, Jadyne, introduced herself and told us that she was beginning to have to make choices about drugs and friends. She was not interested in seeing her friends make bad choices and wanted to help prevent drugs use. Karl J. was there to speak about the concerns he had with the marijuana use in the HS. He indicated that when he voted for marijuana to be legal, he never thought it would be easy for his freshman son to get it and now regrets his vote. He hopes this group can help tighten the laws. Susan and Steve thanked them both for attending and their honesty. Susan reported that the bi-annual Progress Report was submitted on time for Feb. 25. It is a summary of the work of the Coalition from Sept. 2021 to Jan. 2022. Susan said because it is 27 pages, she did not print it but would send to anyone that wants to review it, just email her. Review Coalition By-Laws (annual activity). The By-Laws were passed out and time was given to read them. Denise asked when they were last reviewed. Steve said last year, and the only changes were adding the virtual meetings/voting part and allowing for parents of former students to attend. There was no further discussion, and the By-Laws were approved. 	Membership, Jadyne Karl Steve Susan Membership Susan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was shared that the Year 9 Non-competing Continuation Application is due April 5th. It will cover Sept. 30, 2022, to Sept 29, 2023. Susan asked for suggestions for strategies/activities for these simplified goals? Goal 1: increase membership, youth and parent. Goal 2: reduce youth alcohol access and use. Goal 3: reduce youth marijuana access, use, and perception of acceptance. Goal 4: reduce youth use of vape devices. Activities suggested included: Parent surveys, focus groups, social media norms campaign, targeted messages to parents through the newsletters, targeting youth through PSA's made in-house by Peer Leaders or the Leadership group, continuing the membership in "The 84", an in-house poster campaign around "You don't have to participate", educate parents with a Hidden Bedroom activity. Susan thanked everyone and said these will be added to the Year 9 Action Plan where appropriate. She also offered to send a virtual Hidden in Plain Sight Bedroom link from Rhode Island to be shared with HS caregivers (QR code below.) There was a question and then conversation about vape detectors being donated by the Board of Health and local District Atty's office. It was mentioned that the youth are sharing and hiding the vape pens in the bathroom (above ceiling tiles, behind toilet and in sanitary container). Vaping (nicotine and or THC) is the primary offense that HS youth are committing in the HS said Liz. Most of the youth are repeat offenders and there is a concern that suspension will not help them understand the dangers – there needs to be more opportunities for alternative punishments. Parents are also not understanding the consequences required by the MIAA (MA Interscholastic Athletic Assoc) for drug violations, like missing 20% of a sport season! She indicated that they are doing more to inform the parents through the Spring pre-season meetings. Karen asked if there was a Drug and Alcohol Counselor in the HS any longer. She shared that the support groups in the past had some success. Liz said no, that was cut several years ago. Susan shared that the MS is down one Health teacher also. Denise shared that Hope for Holyoke (Guardia) has recovery coaches available if the school reaches out. Regarding vaping, Megan shared that the Peer Leader posters in the bathrooms had been ruined – Susan asked if they could be laminated to help them last. The HS does not have a laminator, but Sharon Hart said she thought the Board of Health could help as they have one. Susan offered to help do the laminating if necessary. Karl mentioned that most parents he talks with do not know the difference between THC and CBD, or why vaping THC is riskier (no CBD to balance the effects of THC). Steve suggested the Coalition share that information with the HS parents in the April school newsletter – Steve and Susan will work on that. Karl also mentioned his disapproval with the retailers in town that sell tobacco products and how they also sell pipes and bongs. He asked why that is allowed. Sharon explained that the 11 retailers in town are monitored. Megan shared that the pipes and bongs are legal since they are marketed for loose tobacco. Susan offered to have the Coalition work with the Board of Health to educate the retailers on checking ID's, product placement and youth access. Sharon suggested we meet outside this large group. Steve suggested the Coalition could create "gift bags" for the tobacco retailers like the ones for the alcohol 	Karen Denise Karl Liz Susan Karl Liz Josh Liz Karen Susan Denise Megan Sharon Karl Steve Karl Sharon Megan Susan Sharon
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	retailers with youth prevention information, 21+ signage, ID card training and facemasks. That idea was supported by the group. Steve, Susan and Jadyne will work on what the initiative will look like and will report back in April.	
Strategies – Reduce Youth Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sector Reports: Nurses – SBIRT scheduled for May 3rd and May 10th. Susan reminded them that there is money to cover the sub nurses from the grant. Peer Leader Advisors – HS held the Cotillion on March 12th in Holyoke with 181 SHHS youth attending. It was a great success and the Officer on duty mentioned that they were a well-behaved group of teens. The grant funded the officer and a party patrol in town that night. There were no issues reported. Susan reminded the group that there is funding for a bus to the Prom in May. Susan said the MS Peer Advisor reports that the group is planning an anti-vape bookmark contest around “Kick Butts” Day with the slogan, “Breathe Happy, Breathe Healthy, Live Happy, Live Healthy.” Bruce reported that the Safe School Summit is re-scheduled to the Fall and more information will be out in the summer. Liz shared that the HS is bringing in a counselor from CHD to run a 10 week session for 10 youth that need support around substance use prevention. She asked if the Coalition could support the program with incentives. Susan said she would work with Alex M. and Steve on that and that the grant should be able to help since it is preventive. Pizza and Prom tix were mentioned as ideas. ● Drug Take-Back event is now scheduled for April 30. We are interested in providing Lockboxes for medications. Sharon Hart offered to help purchase the boxes with her grant funds. It was suggested that 20 or 25 would be good for the event and that they should have lock and key for the seniors instead of a combination. Susan will reach out to the Town Reminder for an ad in the newspaper and will get it in the HS newsletter. Josh suggested the town use the electronic signs again and Steve mentioned the banner on Rt 202. Susan asked Josh and Liz if they thought the HS would like to have lockboxes to offer caregivers when they are meeting about a youth having been caught a substance or paraphernalia. She said yes and requested 10 boxes. ● Goggles and Carts event for the last week in April – HS approved, and Health teacher is connecting it to the AAA distracted driving curriculum. Officer Doug Percy is working with SRO Josh Helems to run it. Steve offered to look into high-potency THC goggles if they are available for the event. Steve will try to get press coverage as we have in the past. ● Sharon Hart brought 10 large (18” by 24”) metal signs for the MS and HS campus that have images representing “no cigarettes, no vaping” on them. Josh will work with the DPW to get them installed. She also provide #50 + window stickers for the schools. ● Eleanor Small spoke of a suggestion to support families in South Hadley. She shared an article about the need for mental health days off for youth and read a letter proposing home visits. The article and letter are attached 	<p>Susan Mary Megan</p> <p>Susan</p> <p>Bruce</p> <p>Liz</p> <p>Susan</p> <p>Steve Sharon</p> <p>Josh</p> <p>Susan</p> <p>Josh</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>Sharon</p> <p>Eleanor</p>
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sharon shared that the Board of Health (in partnership with Hampshire HOPE) has Naloxone boxes to install in all four school nurses’ offices. She will explore the possibility of having them installed in the local Libraries as well. At this time the district admin is not interested in having them installed by the gymnasiums used by the public. The SRO indicated that the PD and FD are only 3 minutes 	Sharon

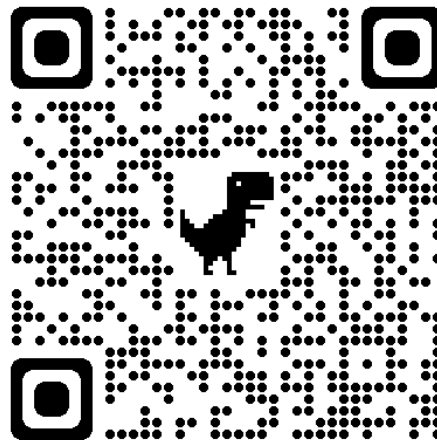
	<p>away from each of the schools and should there be a need for Narcan afterschool hours, they all carry it, just call #911.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan read a thank you note from the HS Health teacher regarding the two-day MAHPERD conference she attended last week. She was very appreciative of the grant for funding the learning opportunity and requested funding for another conference in the summer. There is budget money to cover that if anyone else is interested as well. • Screenagers II in collaboration with the Northampton Prevention Coalition is May 5th. More information will follow. • Belchertown BOUY is hosting Nathan Harmon (Your Life Speaks) on May 12th 6:00 PM on the Common, live, all are welcome. • Denise shared that the Hampden County DA's Community and Safety office is hosting "Stop the Swerve" at the Basketball Hall of Fame April 7, 5:30 PM. It is a free event to address youth drinking and driving for youth and caregivers. 	<p>Susan</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>Susan Denise</p>
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Upcoming Meetings/Events

Next Coalition Meeting: April 13, 2022, SHHS 6:30 PM

↓ "Stop the Swerve" April 7, 2022, 5:30 PM Basketball Hall of Fame

Blindspot – virtual "Hidden in Plain Sight" experience from our friends in R.I. Use your phones camera:



And please visit us at our Facebook page for ongoing information!