



**Community Board Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2024
Live Bluffton High School Media Center and Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order 6:00 pm by Jim Berl, Treasurer, in lieu of Chair, Wendy Cummings' absence.

Approval of Minutes: January meeting minutes were approved.

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government/Solicitor's office), Jim Berl (Youth Serving Organization/Island Rec.) Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant), Ben Vaught (Youth/Bluffton THY), Juliet Blackwell (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY), Kaci Schutz (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY), Jill Campanella (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY), Rassie Schultz (Parent/Hilton Head Christian), Francoise Shuppert (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY), Ava McCone (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY), Stephanie Banigbe, (Youth/Cross Schools THY), Payton Ward (Youth/Cross Schools THY), Max Homann (Youth/Cross Schools THY), Sgt. Cecil Lancaster (Law Enforcement/Bluffton Police Department), Dr. Rhonda Stevens (Health Professional/ Wright Directions Family Services), Tiffanie Elrod (Schools May River THY Advisor), Ashlyn Elrod (Youth/May River THY), Erin Pawlak (Health Professional/Behavioral Wellness Group), Gabriella Black (Youth/Bluffton THY), Claudia Barrientos (Youth/Bluffton THY), Cara Vecellone (Civic Organization/Bluffton Rotary), Cheryl Rodriquez (Parent), Galen Sturup Comeau (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD). *Staff:* Kathy Brookshire (DFC Grant Coordinator), Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator). USCB Intern: Ethan Barrera

DFC SUPPORT PROGRAM GRANT REQUIREMENTS/UPDATES:

Dr. Novince presented a brief PowerPoint on the following DFC Support Program Grant updates:

- 1) 2024 Communities that Care (CTC) Student Survey Administration:** The survey will be administered to grades 7, 9, and 11 this Spring.
- 2) 2024-2025 Continuation DFC Program Grant Application:** The application is due March 13. The Performance Narrative Instructions requires DFC coalitions to submit 12-Month Action Plans for grant year 8, September 2024 to September 2025, including describing activities implemented from 8/23-2/24 along with successes and challenges.
- 3) DFC Risk and Protective Factor Survey Administration.** She then explained that the DFC created a revised Risk/Protective Factor Survey. Coalition members are to be involved in identifying the extent of the presence of risk and protective factors in the Community, School, Faith, and Peer, Family/Parent Caregiver, and the Individual. She further explained that risk and protective factors exist on multiple levels that contribute to youth development and decision-making. It was noted that Risk Factors increase the likelihood that a person will engage in substance misuse and related risk behaviors and protective

factors decrease the likelihood of negative outcome or increase the likelihood of engaging in positive behaviors/better decision making. Dr. Novince referred everyone to the risk factors in the LCAHY brochure. She pointed out that the DFC is asking coalitions to examine such risk factors as ACEs, Adverse Childhood Experiences. She noted that sixty-percent of the total population of students in the public schools meet the criteria for a free and reduced lunch. After instructions were given, youth and adults were asked to complete the survey during the meeting on their individual cell phones.

12-MONTH ACTION PLAN UPDATES/AD-HOC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

TEENS FOR HEALTHY YOUTH (THY)

Laura Pirkey, LCAHY's Youth Coalition Coordinator, reported that Teens for Healthy Youth (THY) participated in February Health Initiatives including Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Random Acts of Kindness Week, and Heart Healthy Month. She also announced that LCAHY's Outstanding Senior Service Award application was sent to all THY Advisors to share with their dedicated seniors of THY. She then called on each THY group to present.

Hilton Head Christian Academy THY: Teens for Healthy Youth Teens for Healthy Youth members from Hilton Head Christian Academy, including Juliet Blackwell, Kaci Schutz, Francoise Schuppert, and Ava McCone, presented that their PR team has been putting out Instagram posts on their school account for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Heart Healthy Month to educate their peers and school community members. These posts were also shared on THY's Instagram. Also, THY members reported that they made bracelets for Fentanyl Awareness Month, and they plan to pass out bracelets at sports events at their school.

Bluffton High School THY: Ben Vaught, co-president at Bluffton High School, reported that THY Members at Bluffton High passed out THY's Teen Dating Violence Fact Card to all students with candy on Valentine's Day. Also, during Random Act of Kindness Week, Bluffton THY put together goodie bags for staff and teachers at the school that included THY's Teacher Stress Fact Card. THY is planning its activities for March National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week.

Cross Schools THY: THY members at Cross School including Payton Ward, Maxwell Homan, and Stephanie Banigbe reported that during Random Acts of Kindness Week THY posted messages around the school encouraging positivity and kindness. Stephanie reported that THY Cross members plan to paint rocks with the lower school kids with encouraging messages and the rocks will be spread around the school. Payton also reported that at prom time THY Cross plans to have a drunk driving simulation to discourage teen use of alcohol. This simulation was done last year and was well received. Max reported that THY has been making Instagram posts to promote February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Random Acts of Kindness Week at their school.

May River THY: Ashlyn Elrod, Teens for Healthy Youth President at May River High, reported that THY members made friendship bracelets with kind and positive messages for Random Acts of Kindness Week. THY May River also made Instagram posts and school-wide posters with messages to educate peers during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Environmental Scan- Bluffton High THY members Claudia Barrientos, Aviana Stevens, and Gabriella Black presented their observations after conducting an Environmental Scan of Bluffton gas stations with the assistance of Board members Dr. Rhonda Stevens, Master Sargeant Washington, and Youth Coalition Coordinator Laura Pirkey. Four THY members, with their adult drivers, went to about 25 gas stations in Bluffton, Okatie, and Pritchardville. The THY members completed the Environmental Survey on their cell phones. The survey focused on alcohol, tobacco, vapes, and new drug trends such as gas station heroin. The Environmental Scan Survey was based on the Counter Tools Survey and reviewed by Dr. Novince, LCAHY Consultant and DFC Principal Investigator for the DFC grant.

At the gas stations, they recorded information on signage such as how many ads promoted the sale of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. They also recorded how many signs stated that they check IDs and/or signage stating the sale of alcohol to minors is illegal. And they checked to see if there was signage that stated the risks of using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. The THY members noticed that gas stations didn't have many signs in Spanish. Claudia Barrientos recommended encouraging gas stations to have signs in English and Spanish.

In addition, Gabriella Black stated that alcohol was easy for youth to grab, especially brands like Boom Box, which were on display charts in the aisles. Gabriella reported that the advertising was geared towards teens, such as for Boom Box alcohol which was colorful and attractive. Aviana Stevens said it was easy to shoplift many of these products because they were often not in the view of the store clerk, were in the back of the store, or were small and easy to grab. Students reported that Parker Gas Stations and Dollar General Stores had much more information regarding the dangers of alcohol and tobacco than other gas stations.

The THY members also reported that they saw fake Adderall sold at Parkers and Liquid Krom. Some vaping products were in flavors appealing to youth like Cookies and Cream. Most vaping products and tobacco products were behind the counter in glass containers, making them less accessible to youth. Galen Sturup-Comeau reported that Delta-8 fake heroine and fake Adderall are sold on Parker's website in addition to being sold at the stores.

The youth coalition is currently putting together a list of vape stores to conduct an environmental scan of vape stores in Bluffton and Hilton Head. Also, THY plans to do an environmental scan of Hilton Head Island gas stations. The information collected will be used to identify next steps to prevent youth access.

May Day 5K Solicitation Instructions: Wendy Cummings, Chair, addressed the Board via video. She introduced the instructions for soliciting May Day 5K sponsors. Wendy stated that she would like everyone to solicit at least one sponsor. Those in attendance were given hard copies of the sample solicitation letter, sponsorship information levels, and the google document to list the individuals/businesses you intend to solicit. [Click here](#)

We ID the LCAHY Way: Jim Berl reported that David Martin is in conversation with coordinators of community festival volunteers about the We ID the LCAHY Way training, which provides ID training to prevent serving underage patrons.

Parent Sector Information Meeting: Cheryl Rodriguez reported that a zoom meeting was scheduled inviting parents of THY members who expressed an interest in brainstorming suggestions for reaching and engaging parents and caregivers. Although twelve parents RSVP'd, they were not in attendance. Cheryl further stated that Kathy Brookshire, Dr. Novince remained on the zoom and discussed next steps, which included reaching parents at festivals and sporting events, noting that we may need to go where they are.

New Business: Galen presented that he has trained two individuals who sold alcohol to minors and were identified through SLED. He also reported that he reached out to local breweries with information about We ID the LCAHY Way and PREP trainings.

In kind support documentation – Laura reminded everyone to report in kind hours as we are in DFC grant year 7. The password is positivechoices for documenting hours. In year 6, we had additional in-kind documentation in support of matching funds – good news!

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary

Next meetings schedule:

April 22, 2024, Bluffton High School Media Center
May 20, 2024, Hilton Head High School Media Center
June 17, 2024, Bluffton High School Media Center
July 2024- no meeting