

Community Board Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2024
Live Bluffton High School and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order 6:06 pm by Chair Wendy Cummings

Approval of Minutes: March meeting minutes were approved.(motion by Dr. Ronda Stevens and seconded by Francine Tobin)

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government Agency/Solicitor’s Office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant), Galen Sturup Comeau (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD),David Martin (Business Sector), Wendy Cummings (Schools/ THY Advisor CB), Dr. Ronda Stevens (Health Care Professional/Wright Directions Family Services), Catria Anchondo (Substance Abuse Agency), Mary Kathryn Lockhart (Youth/HHCATHY), Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector), Lt. Washington (Law Enforcement/Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office), Aviana Stevens (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY), Payton Ward (Youth/Cross Schools THY), Ihly Cahill (Youth/Bluffton THY), Amelia Lockhart (Youth/HHCA THY), Staff: Kathy Brookshire (DFC Grant Coordinator), Intern: Ethan Barrera/USCB Student, Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator). Guest Speaker: Diana Dromsky, Program Director for Multilingual Education Beaufort County School District.

Guest Speaker Presentation:

The Director of the Multilingual Learner Program of Beaufort County School District, Diana Dromsky, presented a cultural competency information session to LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth Board Members. Her presentation provided an overview of multilingual learners (MLLs) in Southern Beaufort County. She shared data on the demographics of MLL students and included recent trends. Her presentation included understanding the background of MLLs including acculturation vs. assimilation, trauma during migration, and educational support from home to name a few. She also included her personal experiences as a multilingual student and highlighted the issues and needs of multilingual learners and their parents in Southern Beaufort County. The presentation included barriers that MLLs families may face in reaching out for help such as language barriers, judgment, and bullying. Mrs. Dromsky stressed the importance of reaching out to parents in a welcoming way at events/establishments they frequent and suggested offering resources that newcomers would need as a way to connect with the families. Hosting a cultural competency training is an activity in LCAHY’s 12-Month Action Plan under the 7 Strategies of Community Level Change, which addresses Strategy 4-Enhance Access/Reduce Barriers. LCAHY/THY plan to take ideas offered during the cultural competency training to expand opportunities to educate multilingual learners and their families on mental health and substance use. See presentation link

Dr. Ronda Stevens, Board member representing the Health Professionals Sector, noted the mental health agency of which she is the CEO, Wright Directions Family Services, has hired a Spanish speaking psychologist as a result of Dr. Novince noting the need for LCAHY to offer services to our Spanish/Latino students. She also presented that the agency has contracted with the Beaufort County School District and provides services that are free for Medicaid students.

DFC Support Program Grant Update:

Dr. Novince presented that the ONDCP announced that the DFC coalitions will be audited this year. ONDCP/DFC encouraged DFC Coalitions to contact the GAO to find out what questions they will want answered.

She noted that the DFC grant requires that DFC funded coalitions collect the following core measures (30-day use, perception of harm, parental disapproval, and peer disapproval) every two years, on tobacco/e-cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs: 2024 student data will not be available as the Communities That Care Student Survey (CTC) was not administered to students in grades 7, 9, and 11 in the Beaufort County School District. Although Hilton Head Christian Academy administered the survey to their students, it is not a representative sample. She has been in contact with the DFC to determine options for collecting these core measures and other data. Dr. Novince further stated that she has been in conversation with Wade Bishop, who was the lead contact with the Beaufort County School District, about meeting with District officials to discuss future options for administering the CTC survey.

Lastly, she noted that during the migration of the website last year, DFC and historical information were lost. This summer our DFC staff and interns will work with Dr. Novince to recreate missing information.

TEENS FOR HEALTHY YOUTH:

THY Opportunity: Laura Pirkey, LowCountry Alliance for Health Youth Coalition Coordinator, presented that she was contacted by Kelly Cooley, DFC National Evaluation Team Member, about an opportunity for eight selected coalitions to have a returning member of their youth coalition apply to participate in DFC and CARA Youth Coalition Community Practice Initiative. Laura Pirkey and Dr. Novince selected Ben Vaught, Teens for Healthy Youth co-President Bluffton High & LCAHY Summer Intern, to apply so that he can share his experience in creating a presentation to Hilton Head Town Council to incorporate no vaping in their no smoking policy. This is a great opportunity to brainstorm with other youth coalition members across the US to share successful projects, initiatives, or strategies. There will be four summer Zoom sessions for individuals selected to participate.

Bagging for Bucks Fundraiser: Payton Ward, Cross School THY President, presented on THY's recent THY collaborative fundraiser at Piggly Wiggly Grocery store called Bagging for Bucks. Payton explained that the THY representatives talked to customers about the goals of LCAHY/THY and asked for donations while bagging groceries. The THY group raised \$325 from customers and in addition, David Martin, LCAHY Board member and owner of Piggly Wiggly donated to make the grand total \$500. Payton stated that customers and community members were very support of their cause and applauded them for addressing teen mental health issues.

Belk's Charity Fund Raiser: Laura Pirkey noted that she will also be reaching out to THY advisors about the upcoming Belk Charity event held in June. THY will support this fundraising opportunity by selling Belk Charity Day tickets for \$5.

May Day 5K THY Volunteers: Laura stated that THY volunteers are still needed for LCAHY's May Day 5K Fundraiser event on Saturday, May 11th at 7:10 AM- 9:30 AM.

THY/May Mental Health Awareness Month Project(s): Laura Pirkey announced that May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. THY groups will focus on healthy strategies to manage stress during AP, End of Year, and Final exams.

Hilton Head Christian THY: Amelia Lockhart and Mary Kathryn Lockhart from Hilton Head Christian Academy THY shared that they completed a Fentanyl Awareness Project. They made purple bracelets to create awareness for National Fentanyl Awareness Day and shared facts about fentanyl via a video they produced that included LCAHY's Fentanyl Fact Card. Next, THY HHCA shared that they will help with the upcoming school blood drive.

Cross Schools THY: Payton Ward presented that LCAHY helped with a distracted driving campaign held at Cross Schools prior to prom. The students had an opportunity to engage in a distracted driving simulation. In addition, a student from John Paul II Catholic School came to Cross and shared his story of losing his sister due to distracted driving. Payton further stated that they are working on a Mental Health Awareness project in which they will encourage the entire school to wear green and green ribbons for a day. Payton also shared a recent fundraiser they held in which they made bracelets that had positive messages. Prior to this, THY Cross did a similar fundraiser in which they painted positive messages on rocks with elementary kids. These projects help build a positive climate at their school. This pilot project may be incorporated into other THY groups next school year.

May Day 5K/May 11: Wendy encouraged everyone to solicit sponsors. She further stated that the money raised comes from sponsorships rather than race participant registration fees. [See Solicitation instructions](#)

Other DFC 12 Month Action Plan Updates

Rx Take Back Day: The DEA Rx Take Back Day will occur on April 27th. THY will be volunteering at that event and will distribute LCAHY Rx Take Back location information cards. Galen reported that with our excellent promotion of year-round drop off boxes the number of people coming to drop off medications at these Takeback Days has declined. The good news is our drop off boxes are successful. Wendy noted that the Today Show gave a list of drugs that are safe to flush.

Sheriff's Office Patrols: David Martin reported that Sheriff patrols are needed at Coligny. Lt. Washington stated that the Sheriff's office is short on law enforcement personnel. David offered to inquire about private security patrols. Dr. Novince noted that we have \$6000 in our budget for additional police patrols in Coligny for the summer.

May 7th is Fentanyl Awareness Day: Everyone was encouraged to share the E-News in their social media. [See E-news link.](#)

In kind support documentation – Laura reminded everyone to report in kind hours as we are on grant year 7. The password is positivechoices for documenting hours.

See Schedules Meetings Below

Next scheduled meetings:

May 20, 2024 Hilton Head High School Media Center

June 17, 2024 Bluffton High School Media Center

July 2024- no meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary