

Community Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023
Live Bluffton High School Media Center and via zoom

Meeting called to order 6:03 pm by Wendy Cummings, Chair

Approval of Minutes: Sept. 18, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.(motion by Erin Pawlak and seconded by Wendy Cummings)

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government Agency/14th Solicitor's Office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant/DFC Principal Investigator), Wendy Cummings (Schools/Co-Advisor Cross THY), Tiffanie Elrod (Schools/Co-Advisor May River H.S.), Erin Pawlak (Health/), Dr. Ronda Stevens/Health (Seaside Health), Galen Sturup Comeau (Substance Government Agency/BCADAD), Aviana Stevens (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY Member Gray Cummings (Schools/Co-Advisor Cross THY), Sarah Drury (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY Member), Sophia Blackwell (Youth/Hilton Head Christian THY Member), Cara Vercellone (Civic Organization/Bluffton Rotary), Alvilda Graham (Schools/Beaufort County), Erin Pawlack (Healthcare/), Catrina Archer (Substance Abuse Government Agency/BCADAD), Ben Vaught (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY Member), Katherine Armstrong (Schools/Bluffton H.S. THY Advisor), Payton Ward (Youth/Cross Schools THY Member) David Martin (Business/Piggly Wiggly), Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent). Guests: William Ayler IV (Peer Counselor/Substance Abuse Agency),Cindy Wasik (Substance Abuse Agency/Alateen). Staff: Jaci Coleman (USCB Intern), Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator).

DFC Support Program Grant Requirement:

Sustainability Plan: Dr. Novince again reiterated the importance of identifying funding opportunities to include in the Sustainability Plan required to be submitted in DFC grant year 7. She presented potential opportunities to apply through the Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund, which will be available for the next eighteen years and added that through Kroger additional Opioid Abatement Settlement Funds will be announced. She further stated that funding was awarded to state, county and local governments and asked David Martin to give an update. In July 2023, learned about the Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund and that the county and Towns of Hilton Head and Bluffton received funds. David met with the Town of Hilton Head County Manager to inquire as to how the funds might be used, noting there is a need for treatment. David also gave a general report on the First Responder's Project. Gaylen explained that whenever an overdose is reported a team offers services. Through the project, NARCAN training is offered.

12-Month Action Plan Updates/Ad-Hoc Committee Assignments

TEENS FOR HEALTHY YOUTH

Laura Pirkey, LCAHY's Youth Coalition Coordinator, presented that October is National Bullying Prevention Month, National Youth Substance Abuse Month, and National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month so currently THY is working on initiatives to address these themes. She also stated that Teens for Healthy Youth members have the opportunity to participate in Bluffton PD's Safety Spooktacular on Friday, October 27th from 4 PM- 7 PM. THY will pass out their Medicine Safety Tip Fact Card to parents while they face paint kids. Also, some THY members will help staff LCAHY's informational table and help pass out LCAHY's Year-round Rx Dropbox location fact cards with other prevention materials. The town expects 1000 people to attend so everyone should bring a bag of candy. We also need LCAHY board members to help staff the table and transport materials.

In addition, October 28th is National DEA Take Back Day from 10 AM to 1 PM in Bluffton at the Government Building. A few LCAHY and THY members are needed to assist the Beaufort County Sheriff's office at this event. THY members will provide citizens who drop off unused medications with LCAHY's Year-round drop box location information. THY volunteers can sign up on the Band app.

Bluffton H.S. THY: Ben Vaught, Co-President, presented that THY Bluffton plans to engage the school in a school-wide National Bullying Prevention Month Project. Teens for Healthy Youth will make and read their own announcements to encourage youth to be upstanders and participate in National Bullying Prevention Month activities, such as wearing orange on Unity Day, a day to promote inclusiveness for all. THY at Bluffton High also will provide students and staff opportunities to make kindness cards with candy to help create a positive environment. THY made a large banner and posters to display in the school all month long to create awareness for bullying prevention month. A THY member also made an educational Kahoot bullying prevention trivia game for students to play during third-block classes. In addition, THY is posting messages on Instagram to discourage bullying. The THY Cyberbullying Prevention Card was shared with all educators and staff members at BLHS. THY acknowledges that bullying is a risk factor for substance use and hopes their project will promote positive mental health and wellness. Finally, THY Bluffton High will participate in Trunk-or-Treat at Bluffton High. During the event, they will pass out candy and flyers to kids that say "Say Boo to Drugs" and will provide parents with the THY Medicine Safety Tip Fact Card. Dr. Ronda Stevens presented that we may want to incorporate anti-bullying messages aimed at teachers as there are teachers who experience bullying. Laura responded saying that educators and staff were included in the school-wide prevention project.

Hilton Head Christian Academy THY: Sarah Drury and Sophia Blackman, members of THY Hilton Head Christian Academy, reported that their group is developing ideas for promoting positive teen health throughout the school year. Members have been recruited to help at the THY information table at the Town of Bluffton's Safety Spooktacular Event. They are also working on getting THY members involved in the National Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention walk in Bluffton. THY HHCA is developing morning announcements on drug facts related to medicine abuse awareness month and also developing anti-bullying messages during October National Bullying Prevention Month.

Cross Schools THY: Payton Ward, THY member, stated that THY elected officers, and they are starting to launch their projects. Currently, Cross Schools THY is working on a skit to prevent bullying during National Bullying Prevention Month. THY Cross School's goal is to get the anti-bullying messages out to their peers and the younger grades as well. Payton is working to find volunteers from Cross Schools THY to staff the THY table at the Safety Spooktacular event. THY has also created morning messages to be read on Wednesdays to discourage bullying.

May River THY: Tiffanie Elrod, THY co-advisor at May River High School, presented that the May River High THY has around 30 members. They are working on putting up drug fact cards in the bathrooms to educate their peers during Medicine Safety Awareness Month. THY May River High also created a school THY Instagram page so they can reach more people in their school community.

General THY Updates: Laura Pirkey reported that the THY Induction Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the Seahawk Cultural Center at Hilton Head Island High School. Advisors should have their students RSVP using the Google link provided. Parents should attend the event. When she announced that LCAHY also needs a board member to speak and applaud the youth for their efforts, David Martin was suggested. Laura further stated that THY members will be asked to sign up to be a part of the Bluffton Christmas Day Parade on Sat. December 2nd by Nov. 10th. THY will distribute the 3D Holiday Campaign material to prevent drunk, drugged, and distracted driving during the holiday season. All members should start bringing in holiday candy now. Two advisors are needed to chaperone this

event. Lastly, Laura reminded THY Advisors to share the THY parent letter created by Cheryl Rodriguez, parent sector CIA, with their members. All returned and completed parent interest forms can be sent to Laura Pirkey, who will provide the information to Cheryl and the LCAHY office.

Building Capacity/ Sector Recruitment: Wendy encouraged Board members to identify Faith Based and Civil Organization representatives. Gaylen reported that Camila Floria from La Isla Magazine has expressed interest in LCAHY Board representation.

We ID the LCAHY Way Training: David Martin presented that he will contact the Island Rec Center regarding making the training available for persons serving alcohol at community festivals. David is also presenting the “We ID the LCAHY Way” training to the Community Heritage Golf Tournament Organizers. Galen reported that the “We ID the LCAHY Way” training PowerPoint has been drafted and translated into Spanish by Katrina.

2023-2024 12 Month Action Plan: Introduce/Review Selected Activities to Prevent/Reduce Youth Misuse of Prescription Drugs (Using the 7 Strategies of Change) in DFC Goal II, Prevent and Reduce Youth Substance Use.

Dr. Novince introduced DFC Goal II, Prevent and Reduce Youth Substance Use. She asked Board members to refer to the Seven Strategies of Community Level Change used to create the DFC Grant Year 7, 12 Month Action Plan, which was approved by DFC/CDC officials. DFC grantees are asked to identify the substances that they will target. In 2017, the LCAHY Board identified four substances (youth alcohol, marijuana, e-cigarette use, and misuse of prescription drugs, which were based on student CTC survey responses, focus groups, and key informant interviews. Selected activities, which target reducing youth misuse of prescription drugs were reviewed and Board input was given.

During the review of the activities to prevent/reduce youth misuse of prescription drugs, Board members were asked to distribute to their Sectors/colleagues/friends the LCAHY fact card that identifies the locations of year-round drop off locations for medications, which includes resources and has been translated into Spanish. Board members were also asked to forward the LCAHY E-News addressing medicine misuse, fentanyl, and resources. It was noted that October is Nation Medicine Misuse Awareness Month and that the goal is to increase awareness about the risks of misuse of Rx drugs.

Public Health Awareness Campaign: Dr. Novince asked Cheryl to present thoughts she had mentioned in an earlier conversation around community outreach. She presented that LCAHY could consider handing out information, such as the SC Social Host Laws, to parents and community members at football games. Dr. Novince noted that LCAHY had distributed prevention information in past years. Currently, WHHI was running the LCAHY PSA’s during the football season.

Guest Presentation: Cindy Wasik from Alateen presented information about the program. She mentioned that they offer face to face meetings in Bluffton and noted that Alateen is a program for teenagers who suffer from the effects of living with/knowning someone with an addiction. Cindy brought flyers, which promoted the meeting location and time.

New Business: Galen presented that schools, public and private, are to submit commitments to participate in the SC Communities that Care (CTC) Survey. THY advisors in the private schools could help by making sure that their schools are signed up for the survey by bringing the survey to their school’s administration. Galen is preparing a letter for the THY advisors to give to their respective administrators.

In kind support documentation – Laura reminded everyone to report in kind hours as we are in DFC grant year 7. If you forgot to document anything before October 1, 2023, document in grant year 6. The password is positive choices for documenting hours.

Next meeting we will continue to work on the 12 month action plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Next meeting is November 13, 2023, Hilton Head High School Media Center

The 2023-2024 schedule for meetings is as follows:

December 18, 2023 Bluffton High School Media Center

January 22 2024 Hilton Head High School Media Center

February 26 2024 Bluffton High School Media Center

March 18, 2024 Hilton Head High School Media Center

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

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary