

**LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth
Community Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024
Live Hilton Head High School and via zoom**

Meeting called to order 6:00pm by Wendy Cummings.

Approval of Minutes: August meeting minutes were approved. (Motion made by Jim Berl and seconded by Jill Lutz).

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government Agency/Solicitor’s Office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant/DFC Grant Principal Investigator), David Martin (Business Sector), Galen Sturup Comeau (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD), Geoffrey Lawson (Faith-Based Sector/Grace Bible Church), Jennifer Weitekemper (Schools/Hilton Head High School THY Co-advisor, Dr. Rhonda Stevens (Health Sector/Wright Directions), Jim Berl (Youth Serving Organizations/Island Rec Center), David Martin (Business Sector), Jill Lutz (Schools/HHCA THY Advisor), Susie Maurer (Health Sector/Nurse), Ellen Androletti (Parent/Bluffton HS), Erin Pawlik (Health Sector/Behavioral Wellness Group), Laura Fuller (Schools/ HHIHS THY Co-Advisor), Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector),Sgt. Chris Wilson (Law Enforcement/Bluffton PD), Sgt. Lancaster (Law Enforcement/Bluffton PD), Brea Lutz (Youth Sector/HHCA THY), Aviana Stevens (Youth Sector/Bluffton THY), Kyra Pasqualone (Youth Sector/Bluffton THY), Darby Linkimer (Youth Sector /HHIHS THY), Caroline Linkimer (YouthSector/HHIHS THY), Staff: Kathy Brookshire and McKenzie Guerrero (Co- DFC Grant Co-Ordinators , Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator). Interns: Natalie Barnett (USCB Public Health) and Ethan Barrera (USCB/Marketing Major)

WHHI Launches LCAHY 2024 Fall Sports PSA

In lieu of WHHI’s availability due to a scheduling conflict, Dr. Novince introduced LCAHY’s 2024 Fall Sports PSA featuring football coaches highlighting the dangers of substance use on athletic performance. Clips of players were included throughout the PSA. [To view the PSA, click here.](#)

DFC Support Program Grant Update

Dr. Novince announced that the Progress Report was approved and reminded everyone that Grant year 8 begins September 30, 2024.

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

Teens for Healthy Youth

THY Cross Schools: Wendy Cummings, THY Advisor at Cross Schools, gave an update on Cross Schools Teens for Healthy Youth. She reported that THY began holding THY meetings after Labor Day. THY recruited new members to its group and is looking forward to planning activities for October.

THY Bluffton High School: THY members Bluffton High, Avi Stevens and Claudia Barrientos, reported that THY is engaging their whole school in September Suicide Awareness Month. Each morning THY members are reading morning announcements in English and Spanish to educate their peers on facts related to teen suicide and to provide information about risks factors related to teen suicide. They also made a video message for Bluffton No Cap Student News based off of information from the THY Teen Suicide Prevention Fact Card. THY put up 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline number magnets on each classroom and office door in the school. They also put up posters from SAMSHA in English and Spanish

that have the suicide hotline number. They made their own encouraging posters for students that are struggling with depression or thoughts of suicide. They gave each teacher and faculty member in the school the THY Teen Suicide Fact Card. They worked with an art teacher to make a banner to display in front of the school and gave out bracelets to students to create awareness for Suicide Prevention Month. They also did a dress down day where students and teachers could wear teal or purple with jeans to show their support for Suicide Awareness Month. The LCAHY E-news on Suicide Awareness Month was also shared in the Bluffton High School Parent News, as well as the other LCAHY E-news that have gone out.

THY Hilton Head HS: Jennifer Weitekamper, THY Co-Advisor Hilton Head Island, reported that THY is working on getting approval for a dress down day for Suicide Awareness Month. They also have been prepping ahead for Red Ribbon Week. They prepared dress down days from Oct. 28th-November 1st for their school to participate in. Jennifer said she would share the file they created with all THY groups to see if everyone could potentially participate in the dress down days. She stated that THY members will be recruited to staff the LCAHY table at the VIM Latin Food Festival at Celebration Park. THY representatives,

THY HHCA: Jill Lutz, THY Advisor at HHCA, and her daughter reported that they have been recruiting new members to their THY group, especially from the freshmen class. They have elected their leaders and are planning activities for October bullying prevention month and October Red Ribbon Week. They are also sharing information from E-news with parents at their school.

THY May River High School: THY Advisor and rep were not in attendance but Mrs. Pirkey will follow-up with a report from the MRHS THY group and reported they signed up to help with the environmental scan in HH.

Safety Spooktacular: Mrs. Pirkey reminded THY Advisors to check their email for signup sheet to participate in Bluffton annual Safety Spooktacular event. THY members will face paint kids and pass out candy, meanwhile distribute their THY Medicine Safety Fact Card. LCAHY would love to have 2-3 students from each school help.

Environmental Scan: Laura Pirkey announced that LCAHY is looking for a few more adult drivers for an environmental scan of gas stations in Hilton Head Island that will occur on September 28th, 2024 at 10-12 PM. Meeting point is Shelter Cove Lane Starbucks. She also stated that she is looking into doing an environmental scan of vape shops in Bluffton and Hilton Head during November Smoke Free and Vape Free Month. David Martin reported his concern about Kratom, a herbal substance that can produce opioid and stimulant effects, is being sold in gas stations and vape shops.

Suicide Awareness Month Proclamation

Kyra Pasqualone stated that on behalf of LCAHY, she and Ashlyn Elrod accepted the Suicide Awareness Month Proclamation that was issued by the Mayor Toomer of Bluffton, which declared Suicide Awareness Month in the Town of Bluffton. They thanked the Mayor and Town Council for their continuous support in promoting awareness about mental health issues that impact not only adults but also the youth in our community.

USCB Intern Project

Dr. Novince introduced Natalie Barnett, a USCB student in Public Health, who is interning with LCAHY. Natalie shared that she will graduate in December and had experience as a realtor in New Jersey where she also worked as a pharmacy tech. Dr. Novince will serve as her preceptor. Natalie presented that one of her projects will support an activity in the 12-Month Action Plan to prevent misuse of medicine, which is under Strategy 4, Enhance and Reduce Barriers. She will create a project that will provide information to realtors to give to clients about increasing barriers to reduce access to prescription medication in their homes/rental properties. David Martin will contact several realtors/realty companies asking for their

support with the project. Wendy and Jill also offered to reach out to realtors/realty companies they personally knew.

Sector/Community Outreach

David Martin reported that Teens for Healthy Youth (THY) members of Hilton Head Island High School staffed an information table at the Out of Darkness Suicide Prevention Fundraiser at Hilton Head Island Cycle Bar Gym. THY members distributed their Teen Suicide Prevention Fact Card to attendees. THY's involvement in the event was coordinated by David Martin, Business CIA. THY Hilton Head HS Co-Advisor, Jennifer Weitekamper, recruited THY members for the event.

Bluffton 911 Non-Profit Project: LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth was invited to table an information booth at the Bluffton 911 event. The Volunteer Fair is a new addition to this ceremony to give people opportunities to use this remembrance to connect with neighbors and community programs to contribute to community. The Volunteer Fair will offer people a chance to contribute to what works for the betterment of this community, channeling the grief of 911 and other negative events which affect us. Kathy and McKenzie, DFC Grant staff, provided information to create awareness about the Coalition and its campaign to prevent/reduce medicine abuse. Locations of Year-Round Rx boxes and Deterra bags were made available to attendees. They also met several individuals who are interested in learning more about LCAHY, including signing up for E-News.

Introduction to Year 8 DFC Medicine Misuse 12 Month Action Plan

Dr. Novince asked members to review the Seven Strategies of Change for Community Level Change, which is required of DFC grantees to use in developing their 12 Month Action. [See link here.](#) A brief overview of DFC Support Grant/LCAHY goals were presented. She then introduced LCAHY's 12 Month Action Plan to prevent/reduce medicine misuse by youth. Grant year 7 accomplishments were highlighted. The Board gave input into the plan, which will be implemented by the Board during Grant Year 8.

New Business

New Business was not reported.

IN- Kind Support documentation

Laura Pirkey asked that we all document in kind support. The end of DFC year 7 is September 29.

Next meetings schedule:

October 21, 2024 – 6 pm Bluffton High School Media Center
November 18, 2024- 6 pm Hilton Head High School Media Center
December – no meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary