



**LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth  
Community Board Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2024  
Live Hilton Head High School Media Center and Via Zoom**

**Meeting called to order 6:10pm** by Jim Berl, Treasurer

**Approval of Minutes:** January meeting minutes were approved. (motion by Galen Sturup Comeau and seconded by Francine Tobin)

**Attendance:** Francine Norz Tobin (Government Agency/14<sup>th</sup> Solicitor's Office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant/DFC Grant Principal Investigator), Galen Sturup Comeau (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD), David Martin (Business Sector/Piggly Wiggly), Florentina Hartley (Schools/Co – Advisor Hilton Head THY), Cara Vercellone (Civic Organization/Bluffton Rotary), Benjamin Vaught (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY), Payton Ward (Youth/Cross Schools THY), Stephanie Banigbe (Youth/Cross Schools/THY), Claudia Barrientos (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY. Staff: Kathy Brookshire (DFC Grant Coordinator). Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator).

**DFC Support Program Grant Update:**

Dr. Novince presented on the following:

CTC Survey: 2024 Communities That Care (CTC) Survey is to be administered to grades 7, 7, and 11 in the Spring. Galen noted that the Survey has been administered to 104 Hilton Head Christian Academy. He did not have an update on the Beaufort County Schools.

12 Month Action Plan: Community Board Reviewed Activities in the 2023-2024-12 Month Action Plan (September 2023 –January 2024). Revisions were included in the 2024-2025 12 Month Action Plan.

Continuation Grant Application: 2024-2025 DFC Continuation Grant Application was submitted. 3/13/24

Risk and Protective Factor Survey: Risk and Protective Factor Assessment findings will be reported in the DFC August Progress report. Dr. Novince noted that not all Community Board members had an opportunity to complete the survey. It is planned to ask these individuals to complete the survey prior to the submission of the August Progress Report. She noted that several risk and/or protective factors are currently being addressed, bullying and parent substance use. Summer interns addressed these issues by creating fact cards for dissemination. Payton Ward created a fact card on cyber bullying and Amber Vanhorn addressed ways teens can cope with grief/loss after a traumatic event. Additionally, Dr. Novince addressed poverty as a risk factor within our communities. 50% of youth in our school district are on free and reduced lunch. She further noted that risk factors can also be presented as ACEs, Adverse Childhood Experiences and that the Community Board will be introduced to the CDC's training on ACEs.

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

**THY Updates:**

Laura Pirkey, Youth Coalition Coordinator, gave updates on upcoming Teens for Healthy Youth (THY) events. She announced that THY Recognition event is April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6 PM at May River Auditorium. The LCAHY Outstanding Senior Award Recipient(s) will also be highlighted that evening. Board members are encouraged to attend the event. A RSVP link will be shared for the event.



Laura also stated she reminded all THY Advisors to encourage THY members to apply to the Town of Hilton Head and Town of Bluffton Mayor Service Awards. The due dates are approaching quickly. Teens for Healthy Youth will also be doing the annual fundraiser Bagging for Bucks at Piggly Wiggly Grocery store on Sunday, April 21 from 9-11:30 AM and 11:30 AM- 2 PM. In addition, Laura explained that she wrote an article for the local newspaper, Bluffton & Hilton Head Sun, about what THY groups are doing for NIDA's National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week.

Laura thanked Francine Tobin for being with the THY volunteers who worked the Venture Endurance Marathon in Hilton Head to raise funds for THY. Next, she asked students to present THY happenings at their school for April and March. March focused on National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week beginning on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and April will focus on Distracted Driving Month and Alcohol Awareness Month.

*THY Cross Schools:* Payton Ward and Stephanie Banigbe presented for THY Cross Schools. Stephanie reported that National Random Acts of Kindness Awareness Week rock painting session was completed with the elementary school. Positive messages were painted on rocks to encourage all to promote random acts of kindness in their school and community. THY Cross Schools is preparing fact cards for National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. They attach Dumb-Dumb lollipops to the drug myth side of the card and a Smartee candy to the drug fact side of the card. Payton said they are also preparing an Instagram post with the same information. The day before Cross Schools Prom they are having a distracted driving presentation that is mandatory for those attending prom. They have a simulator to show how drivers are affected by distractions while driving. Dr. Novince reported that the Town of Bluffton has launched a safe driving campaign along that encourages residents, youth and adults, to sign a pledge. THY Cross is also working to rally participation in May Day 5K.

*THY Bluffton High School:* Ben Vaught, co-president presented for Bluffton High THY. They are creating Chalk Graffiti on the school sidewalk in front of the school to share the risks and dangers of drug and alcohol use on the developing teen brain. THY members will also do an interview for the student news show, "No Cap News".

**May Day 5K/May 11:** Jim introduced the instructions for soliciting sponsors by having the Board view the video created by Wendy Cummings, LCAHY Chair. [Click here.](#) He stressed the importance of everyone soliciting sponsors and runners for the race. Kathy distributed the instruction packet, which included the race flyer. Jim asked everyone to promote the event. Through the LCAHY office, several notices have been sent to the Board with reminders to promote the event to family, friends, and colleagues.

**Sustainability Plan:** Dr. Novince presented that LCAHY is required to submit a sustainability plan in year 3 and year 7. The year 7 Sustainability Plan will be submitted with the Progress Report in August. Everyone was given the Sustainability Plan template. [Click here.](#) Those in attendance provided fund development suggestions: apply for local and federal grants including the Opioid Abatement Grant, , continue to have THY work on fund development, e.g. Bagging for Bucks and the Venture Endurance Marathon, register for the Heritage Birdies for Charities, explore community giving opportunities through grocery/department stores/Amazon, explore Bluffton/Hilton Head and/or Bluffton Chamber membership, an opportunity to engage business support, identify gated communities that offer an event for non-profits to share their resources at the non-profit event, and participate in the 100 Women/Men Who Care fund raiser for non-profits. David announced that he was invited to the Hilton Head 100 Men and Women Who



Care meeting to present LCAHY as a potential non-profit to benefit from the proceeds raised at the meeting. However, the chosen non-profit was Memory Matters.

### **Cultural Competency Presentation:**

**We ID the LCAHY WAY:** David Martin reported that the Heritage will not use LCAHY underage drinking signage this year as the PGA tour presented the Heritage with new Alcohol Policy signage that all tournaments are required to use.

### **New Business:**

Dr. Novince announced that the 2024 S.C. Governor Opioid Summit will be held April 30-May 1 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. [Click here.](#) She stated that she and David Martin attended past summits and is hoping other Board members might attend this year. The DFC grant monies will fund the registration \$99 fee, gas mileage, and hotel.

David announced that St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC is starting an addiction education program in April mainly aimed at adults. [Click here.](#)

*SC Synar Study:* Gaylen presented that Beaufort County completed the SC State SYNAR environmental scan of establishments selling tobacco/vaping products in Southern Beaufort County, LCAHY's DFC service area. Findings show that where youth attempted to buy vaping devices no business sold to them. Establishments were found to be in compliance. He attributed these outcomes to the work of LCAHY.

**In kind Support Documentation** – Laura reminded everyone to report in kind hours as we are on grant year 7. If you forgot to document anything before October 1, 2023, go back and document in grant year 6. The password is positivechoices for documenting hours. The in-kind support year 7 match is \$156,250.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary