



FINAL MINUTES, GENERAL MEETING

Pierson School Library

August 30, 2017, 6:00 – 7:30pm

ATTENDANCE: Danielle Laibowitz, Kym Laube, Eileen Moskowitz, Nancy Lynott, Paulette Orlando (Tobacco Action Coalition, Community Engagement Manager), Mark Russo, Hope Brindle, Karen Schroeder, Cheryl Rozzi, Barbara Berkermus, Katy Graves.

Kym Laube began the meeting by reviewing the structure and function of a community coalition which is funded by the DFC (Drug Free Communities). The idea behind these coalitions is to designate 12 sectors of the community, where each representative has expertise within that sector and, consequently, a whole group of related people that can exert a positive influence in the community. Once a group has been in existence, the coalition can request support from the federal government. The coalitions are awarded \$125,000.00 and the coalitions have to match this amount. The history of the coalition in Sag Harbor has shown it to be very productive at times and at other times less productive. The federal officer and the private evaluator observed that we continue to struggle with our organizational structure. During the first two years, the coalition members making the decisions were not the 12 sectors. The job moving forward is to find, if necessary recruit, sector representation for the 12 sectors, and to adopt new By-Laws, Coalition Involvement Agreements (CIA) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HUGS. At the meeting, three sector reps were in attendance; we need to grow the group so that the 12 sectors are in consistent attendance. The purpose of these coalitions is to effect environmental change, which is best accomplished with representation from and engagement with the community. Environmental change involves building skills, sharing information and making things happen in the community. The goal of Safe in Sage Harbor is to reduce substance abuse in the schools and in the community. The sectors are responsible to do the work with the expectation that the representatives will go back to their constituents to influence people and affect change. Membership in the coalition and its committees is not limited to the representatives, any interested community member has a role to play and can come to all meetings and help affect change. We need to attract members who can be information gatherers and have buy-in to the organization.

In the process of re-structuring, we will re-work the tools needed to get the best outcome from the sectors. SAFE will tailor the Coalition Involvement Agreements (CIA) to the particular representative's needs and abilities. It would be great if we could get the sectors to be 2 to 3 people deep, and include in the CIA that another representative will attend if one cannot, thereby, ensuring representation from all 12 sectors. The CIAs are still in progress and will be discussed individually with each person/representative. The by-laws are with the evaluator, Deacon, for review and the MOU has been sent to HUGS for review.

Next steps: Danielle will plan a meeting where the by-laws get adopted and all the 12 sectors are invited and in attendance. The group needs to have an annual meeting to elect its leadership by

the 12 sectors. The leadership will be an executive board with a President, Vice-President, Secretary and an optional Treasurer. The Treasurer is optional, as long as there is a fiscal agent capable of performing the functions. As of now, HUGS is the legal entity and the fiscal agent.

Law Enforcement Initiatives:

Danielle spoke with Chief McGuire about getting involved with the coalition and received his agreement to help with compliance checks, sticker shock and shoulder taps, as well as a potential drug take back program. Earlier this week he had reported to Danielle that the Police had completed a compliance check in some local bars. Four out of five of these bars served alcohol to minors with ID that showed them to be minors. The results were reported in the local papers. The hope is that the next compliance check will show a decrease in non-compliance. Safe in Sag Harbor will send a letter to the editor of the Express, expressing appreciation for the compliance check and possibly a letter of appreciation to 7-11 for being in compliance. The bartenders who were out of compliance were charged with a misdemeanor and the bars are reported to the State Liquor Authority. Kym Laube asked, "How do we get someone in our group to do TIPS training for the servers to learn how to look at IDs and serve appropriately?"

Youth:

Seven students and three adults went to the CADCA Midyear Conference in Atlanta. The students will prepare a presentation at a later time. Mark Russo, a Pierson student, explained that by participating in CADCA he was motivated to be more involved in the community and learned about other communities who have similar problems. He shared that a common theme is that many parents think it is OK to let their kids drink. Hope Brindle, also a Pierson student, talked and collaborated with her peers at the conference and it was enlightening to her. She identified social access as one of the reasons for use and abuse. Retail access and parental permission also contribute to underage drinking. The students developed an action plan which they will share with the community during their presentation. By participating in the Long Island Teen Institute (LITI), Pierson students have developed a relationship with Alana Marino who supervised our students during the conference. Kym complimented our students for their behavior and participation at the CADCA conference. Sag Harbor should be very proud of their student representatives. It was decided that an educational board meeting would be a great venue for the students to present their CADCA experience. They will also present to Safe in Sag Harbor at a future date.

The HUG staff is delivering the Life Skills program for Sag Harbor School District in the 6th through 12th grades. This commitment by the District is something that could be put into a tailored CIA, as the School will offer evidenced based curriculum. HUGS is looking at revising the 12th grade curriculum.

Future Projects:

Harborfest: Safe in Sag Harbor is planning to set up a table at the event with information on drugs and alcohol. Danielle will design a game for people to participate in that relates to drug and alcohol use. The dates are September 9th and 10th. Danielle is looking for volunteers.

September: Recovery Month

This is a time when individuals in recovery, who were anonymous, participate in events that highlight recovery; the new movement is to expose recovery. Safe in Sag Harbor has many members in recovery and there may be champions who might want to get involved. Katy Graves suggested a quiz night to have fun without the alcohol. "Safe in Sag Harbor is celebrating Recovery Month to break the stigma of addiction" was suggested as a way to advertise and sponsor the event. A candlelight vigil, meditation or a dance were also suggested.

October: Red Ribbon Week:

Aura from the PTSA has some ideas and reached out to Safe in Sag Harbor. One idea that was suggested at the meeting, was a ribbon for the businesses in Sag Harbor to display supporting drug free environment and red ribbon week.

Next meeting dates:

September 14th: Red Ribbon Week and Recovery Month planning meeting from 6:00-7:30 in the Pierson Library.

September 27th: General Meeting at 6-7:30 in the Pierson Library.