



ATTENDANCE:

Sector Representatives:

Rebecca Burnside, Parent Rep, President
Karin Schroeder, Civic/Volunteer Rep., Secretary
Cheryl Rozzi, Government Rep and Co-Vice President
Maria Pentcheva-Burns, Healthcare Representative
Tracy Kolsin, Southampton Youth Bureau

Other:

Georgianna Dolan-Reilly, Long Island Prevention Resource Center
Paulette Orlando, Tobacco Action Coalition
Gary Cucchi, Progressive Marketing Group
Deacon Dzierzawski, Epiphany Community Services

Staff:

Randy Hansen, SAFE in Sag Harbor Program Coordinator
Alexandria Migliozi, SAFE Youth Coordinator

Approval of minutes: Motion to accept from Cheryl, second by Maria. Approved.

Gary Cucchi from Progressive Marketing Group (PMG)

Gary shares that PMG has worked with several coalitions throughout Long Island. They can help with messaging for coalitions and creating a plan/marketing strategy. He emphasizes the importance of evidence-based surveys for the particular community for the messaging to be the most effective. He asked to hear what we are doing in the community, school district, etc to get a better understanding of the Sag Harbor community. They can share what they have seen work in other communities, and what hasn't, as well. Community activation is different from town to town.

Community issues discussed:

1. History of bars on Main Street comes from Whaling days and continues on today, this normalizes drinking in the community.
2. Vacation/resort community. Further normalizes drinking and partying with consistent exposure, especially during the summer months.
3. Lack of things for kids to do. Social hosting is more common.
4. Uptick in vaping among youth, after things went down during COVID.

Rebecca mentioned that their children have friends whose parents vape. Kids do what we do, and not what we say. Many parents are afraid to talk about more difficult issues with their kids, and avoid the topics. Parents in Sag Harbor often don't think substance use is a big deal, and it is normal for parents to allow kids to party in their homes.

Gary asked if youth have the right resources and ability to cope? Maria, who grew up in East Hampton, shared that she thinks a lot of these issues come from a lack of coping skills, and lack of social connection. School is relatively small, and if kids don't find their cliques, they can feel very isolated. She said that there is a need for

parent education on cannabis and alcohol, as many parents don't understand how it affects their kids. She also agreed that there is a big lack of things for youth to do, and that things in Sag Harbor are very expensive.

Gary asked what opportunities there are available for youth. Some school clubs were mentioned: homework club, robotics, and sports. They aren't always engaging or offered frequently enough. Rebecca shared that 6th grade students are wandering around the village after school getting snacks and going to the beach, unsupervised activities. Tracy shared Southampton Youth Bureau programming in North Sea, but acknowledged that the program was still too far away from Sag Harbor. He said that there needs to be education on afterschool programs and collaboration with the school. There is a definite need for something in Sag Harbor. We spent time discussing the youth center that existed in Sag Harbor a number of years ago.

Gary inquired what kind of data we have on youth substance use. Randy said we had most recent data from the Southampton Town Youth Bureau, which indicated that drinking and vaping were the biggest issues, with an uptick in marijuana expected due to legalization. Use of prescription drugs isn't as high, but still an issue. Maria brought up that she has seen lots of mental health issues, and that there aren't enough mental health providers on the East End. She has seen a lot of suicidal youth. Tracy mentioned that the only crisis intervention is at Stony Brook Hospital, more than an hour away.

Rebecca is involved with the Diversity and Inclusion committee at Pierson. Is there a way that we could engage teachers at Pierson to help with student's coping skills?

Georgianna shared [chooselovemovement.org](https://www.chooselovemovement.org)

Gary shared that there are organizations and resources that he will recommend for us in the coming weeks.

Paulette Orlando from the Tobacco Action Coalition

(Paulette's Slide will be shared as an email attachment with minutes)

Key Takeaways:

- Adults are NOT the primary users of e-cigarettes.
 - HS E-cigs 22.5%
 - Adults E-cig- 3.8%
- Adult and youth smoking rates are at historical lows, but vaping rates among NY's high school youth are still dangerously high at more than 22%.
- Smoking rates are still significantly higher among disparate groups, including adults who report **frequent mental distress** and those **earning less than \$25,000** a year.
- It is not someone's constitutional right to smoke. People have the right to breathe clean, safe air.
- Despite what e-cigarette companies, including Juul, want you to believe, switching to vaping (e-cigarettes) is not quitting smoking.
- The Food and Drug Administration has not found any e-cigarette to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit.
- Annual Health Care costs directly caused by smoking —~\$9.7 Billion in NYS
- Average age of a new smoker: 13
- Exposure to secondhand smoke in outdoor areas including parks, playgrounds and places of employment can be hazardous. Tobacco-free policies create healthier, safer and cleaner outdoor spaces for everyone.
- 480 municipalities in NYS have adopted smoking restrictions in outdoor recreational areas
- An official policy adds accountability
- East Hampton Village has a policy for their Main Street

SAFE Open Gym

SAFE wants to hold an open gym March 25, 2022. Waiting for final approvals from Pierson. A space for kids to come and hang out, play basketball, and play games. Maria will guide some activities. All are welcome to participate and invite others to come. Permission slips will be required. We could do a survey about emotional wellness. Deacon suggested turning it into a marble survey. Georgianna will send a talent and skills survey to Randy. This will be the first event, but we plan to do it each month until school is out.

Next meeting

April meeting will be Wednesday April 13th, 6pm