



**CASS COUNTY
SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
PREVENTION
COALITION**

MINUTES FROM 5/6/21

Attendance: Matt Prifogle, Eric Regan, Michelle Dials (z), Andie Nichols (z), Derreck Parkevich (z), Ed Schroder (z), Chuck Newton (z), Vicki Byrd, Karli Armstrong, Nikki Malott, Marc Williamson, Rick Hollering, Austina Reed (z), Mark Vanhorn (z)

Introductions/Welcome

Website: <https://www.ysainc.org/prevention-dfc> Coalition activities are guided by the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) and Seven Strategies to Affect Community Change. You can find these on the website as well as links to DFC grant website (CDC), ONDCP (where DFC funds come from), and CADCA (training organization). You can also contact us and fill out a member assessment on this page.

Previous homework was to bring people to the meeting that should be here, continue that please. Which Action Team would you like to be on? There are going to be three teams, one to recruit youth, one to help with data collection systems, and another for training and public engagement. The teams will need leaders to head them up and may need to communicate outside coalition meetings as well.

Austina will be helping with the data collection group. Needs others who will want to help with creating a system of data collection. This team will help with tracking progress throughout the DFC process, finding a way to report findings, helping with surveys for the schools, etc.

We are working to build our community assessment (first step on SPF is assessment), CADCA trains to complete assessment with community members, then work on projects. We wrote the grant to work on problems with alcohol and tobacco use in our youth, as seen by the INYS these are problem areas in our community. We can add to the problems we want to address through this assessment process as well. We will identify what risk factors our community has and what protective factors we have and need to build upon.

Mapping exercise:

What “groups” or “communities of interest” are out there that should be at the table?

- Recovery group, peers in high school, faith community, Hispanic/Latino/Burmese, mental health services, anymore? We need to think of those that need to be at the table to help with the community problems.

Where are youth (18 and under) gathering, where are “areas of interest” or “hot spots” in our community?

- Riverside park (smoking and drinking), on the River Bluff by the Dam (smoking, possibly marijuana and tobacco, maybe drinking), South of town in abandoned fields, North of town at abandoned gas wells, Skating Rinks, Empty parking lots in town, within the schools in bathrooms, vaping at recess in elementary.

Are there policies around vaping in schools? Are they enforced?

Social availability is getting it from friends, family, etc. **Retail availability** would be stealing it from stores, stores selling it to youth, etc.

Where are they getting the alcohol or tobacco?

- Parents have supervised parties (better here than not mentality), graduation parties (maybe not as frequent now), events, kids home from college not quite drinking age, older siblings/cousins, stealing it, etc.

It’s usually people that KNOW them giving it to them.

High percentage on Indiana Youth Survey say it is easy or very easy to get alcohol or tobacco. Parent attitudes towards alcohol affect how youth sees it. Youth perception of harm is low. They do not think that it will hurt them. *** will send INYS data ***

We need to educate youth (and parents) of just how harmful these substances are to children. The brain is not fully developed until 25. Kids have no fear of consequences. They think their parents drink so it must not be harmful. There is a reason for age limits on substances, it is not good for them. With Opioids they may think a doctor gave it to them so it’s “safe”.

Kids like talking about brain development, they think it is interesting, this is a way to educate them on how harmful it is to use substances so young.

With vapes often parents are giving it to their kids not thinking there is anything wrong with it. Sometimes parents of the child’s friends gives it to them and their parents are ok with it.

Generational, “my parents did it, so now I do it”, parents would get them high on for their birthdays. It is their normal, they don’t see anything wrong with it. Jail groups- often started using with their parents, most the time it started with alcohol and tobacco.

Media- kids are seeing it on Netflix and Amazon shows and the actors doing it are “cool” so kids think it is cool to do. Used to show cigarettes on TV and commercials, now that it is not allowed they now show vaping.

Through our community assessment we can work to fill gaps, we need to be aware of what is happening locally to really make an impact.

We can do something locally to build momentum and take action on something to make a difference. That is what we hope to do.

This is a community grant, we need groups outside of this one to join and become involved. We need to reach out to others on different boards and in different groups to work with them as a community.

Anything else?

Possibly add marijuana (it’s becoming a normal now)

Are environmental structures contributing? Buildings and housing. There is a school moving the playground to the front of the building so that it more visible and accessible for example.

DFC is about BIG picture, one of the 7 strategies is “alter environments physical design” which is things like that. We are switching from just a programs mind frame to an environmental mind frame.

We need these to be conversations, how can we make a difference, come with ideas.

Homework:

3 cups of coffee challenge: in the next 7-10 days sit down with 3 different people, have a cup of coffee/soda/tea and ask them 4 questions somewhere in your conversation:

1. How are youth getting alcohol/tobacco from retail locations? (stealing, being sold, fake ids, etc.)
2. How are youth getting alcohol/tobacco from someone they know? (stealing, given to them)
3. What kind of alcohol/tobacco are youth getting and using?
4. What are parental attitudes on underage drinking/tobacco use?

There is a social hosting law, they can get fined for providing alcohol to minors.