

Be Well Coalition February 16, 2024
11:30AM Training on Environmental Strategies
12:00-1:00PM Meeting

MEETING NOTES

Coalition members present: Katie Allen, Prevention Specialist; Betty Breen; Carol Stutzman; Wendy DePina; Dave Osbourne; Phil Dinsmoor; Tina Wood; Serena Buckner; Travis Sylvester; Clay Wood; Shannon Grisham; Monte Reichenberg; Ginger Shoffstall; Courtney Reynolds; Trish Habeck

Environmental Policies for Prevention Work - Pre Meeting Training and Agenda Item Discussion on Adult Overconsumption of Alcohol

Katie shared how we use the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) for our coalition work in the community. The SPF helps us to develop the infrastructure for community-based, public health approaches that can lead to effective and sustainable reductions in substance use. As we develop our Community Assessment for our National Coalition Academy “homework” we’ve begun the process of identifying issues. For example, through data collection from the Prevention Needs Assessment, our youth report being at community events in the past year where over 50% of the adults were drunk. When we add that data to DUI data from law enforcement, we can see what’s happening in the bigger picture. If our youth attending events where adults are drunk is a community norm that they grow up with, how can we as a coalition affect that? This is where environmental strategies come into play. We aren’t trying to change individual behaviors, this is a community level behavior that we would like to affect by finding an appropriate evidence-based strategy that works for our community.

Changing behaviors is not an easy task, but with the proper data, education and outreach, it is possible to affect change. Many ideas were discussed, keeping in mind that we don’t want our goals to be burdensome. But everyone agreed that we should do some additional research such as getting more information on liquor license laws and local ordinances and enforcement information. Our goal will be to focus on education that demonstrates the benefits for that business or organization to do something like require responsible beverage server training for all new employees; or require ID checking at events where alcohol is sold. The group expanded the conversation to how we could also look at environmental strategies related to tobacco. This was a lively discussion with many ideas. We will continue to have this as a regular agenda item as well as look to create a subcommittee that would like to work on this topic.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs & Suicide

The 5th Annual Northeastern Wyoming Prevention Summit will be September 26 & 27 at the Cam-Plex in Gillette. The coalition with Campbell County Prevention Coalition are the hosts of this amazing conference. Katie asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be on the planning committee or volunteer at some point for the event to let her know. Tina Wood already volunteered and attended the first meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21st at 2PM. This will be a Zoom meeting, if you are interested please contact Katie for the invite information.

With great appreciation to the Crook County School District, we are now providing short messages and graphics to parents through Parent Square, this reaches 2,130 people (645 of which are students). The goal is to send out messages twice a month with timely information on various prevention-related topics with links to our website and others of importance.

Suicide Prevention

On September 28th (the day after the Prevention Summit), the 3rd annual Lip Sync Battle Fundraiser for Suicide Prevention will be happening in the same space as the prevention summit. This fundraiser helps support families in need after a suicide and will pay for things such as clean up, hotels, therapy. This is another partnership between us and Campbell County. Funds raised are available to Campbell and Crook County residents. The Campbell County Coalition is working on a Memorandum of Understanding between their coalition and ours to ensure that the partnership continues (in case the current staff members aren't here anymore). This will help cement our growing partnership and relationship which is very exciting. Additionally, Katie will be attending the American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference in May with Campbell County's Prevention Specialist. It is a full week of education, a copy of the agenda will be shared with these notes for coalition members to look at, and if anyone has a specific topic or session you would like information from, please let Katie know and she will do her best to attend that session.

Tobacco

Katie and Wendy will be teaching their first tobacco/vaping education course to students who received Minor in Possession citations. The goal is to incorporate this "alternative to punishment" as an environmental strategy with the school district policies. The course is an evidence-based program called Healthy Futures, part of the Tobacco Prevention Toolkit created by Stanford Medicine's Reach Lab.

Drug Free Communities

Thank you to everyone who has been helping with the Community Assessment and Problem Analysis process. We had a great community mapping session, have conducted many interviews and we will be submitting a very rough first draft to our national coaches. Katie and Wendy will be headed to Phoenix for the National Coalition Academy on the 25th of February for a week. With the addition of Wendy DePina to our staff as the Youth Prevention Coordinator, she will fill the role within the DFC as the "Project Coordinator" for 20 hours/week as well as 20 hours/week in her existing role in the County Attorney's Office as the Diversion Officer.

Partner Sharing

Phil Dinsmoor shared with the group that the 307 Teen Challenge will be happening May 1st. Volunteers are always needed, please reach out to Katie if you are interested.

NEXT MEETING: March 15th: 11:30a - 1:30p

Meeting ended at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Allen, Prevention Specialist