
Hello! Introduction

12 messages

Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>
To: RGRiffin@easthamptonma.gov

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 2:51 PM

Hello Ryan,

I hope this email finds you well! My name is Lexi Polokoff, and I coordinate the SPIFFY Coalition, a youth substance misuse prevention coalition covering Hampshire County. I saw your name listed on the RSVP for the SPIFFY Full Coalition Meeting that happened a couple weeks ago on 1/15, and I wanted to follow up with you since you are the Director of Public Health in Easthampton and we haven't met before (to my knowledge).

If you are interested and have capacity, I would love to schedule a short meeting to just introduce myself and the work of the SPIFFY Coalition, learn more about you and your priorities/goals as Director of PH in Easthampton, and possibly brainstorm some ways we might be able to support each other's work. Let me know!

All the best,

Lexi

--

Lexi Polokoff, MPPA (she/they)

SPIFFY Coalition Coordinator

SPIFFY Coalition & Collaborative for Educational Services

97 Hawley Street,

Northampton MA 01060

apolokoff@collaborative.org

Phone: CELL (716)-289-0780

Follow the [SPIFFY Coalition](#) on Facebook



SPIFFY has a new resource for parents & caregivers to support conversations about substances with the young people in their lives: check out talklistenrepeat.org and let us know what you think!

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 1:01 PM

Hi Lexi,

Thank you for reaching out. I'm definitely interested in learning more about SPIFFY and the work you've been doing in Hampshire County and with local municipalities, especially in the area of prevention and substance misuse.

I'd love to hear more specifically about your work in Easthampton, Easthampton Public Schools, and throughout Hampshire County, how things have been going, and whether there are ways the Health Department might be able to support your efforts.

Do you have any availability next Wednesday or Thursday, the 11th or 12th?

Thank you,

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 3:37 PM

Hi Ryan,

Thanks for getting back to me! I'd be happy to share about the work SPIFFY has specifically done in Easthampton.

I have availability next Wednesday, 2/11, anytime between 12:30-4PM. How does 1PM on the 11th work for you?

Thanks again,

Lexi

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 3:50 PM

1 PM is great, does it work here at the Health Department? 50 Payson Avenue, right in the basement.

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:45 PM

That works for me! I will see you at your office in Easthampton next Wednesday at 1PM.

Looking forward to it!

Best,

Lexi

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:56 PM

Thanks, see you then!

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Community Health <ech@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 11:36 AM

Hi Brad,

If you are able to, I am having an introduction meeting with Lexi from Spiffy today at 1 PM. Go over what they are currently doing in Easthampton, and brainstorm ideas to support each other in discussing HD goals. Would love for you to be there.

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Community Health <ech@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 11:42 AM

Sounds good! I'll make sure my web-cam is in working order before the meeting!

-Brad

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Community Health <ech@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 11:48 AM

In- person right in my office

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Community Health <ech@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 11:59 AM

That's a lot easier!

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>
Cc: Community Health <ech@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 4:01 PM

Lexi,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us this afternoon! I really appreciate it.

I have cc'd Brad on this email. Please feel free to add both of us to the newsletter.

Thank you,

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Lexi Polokoff <apolokoff@collaborative.org>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
Cc: Community Health <ech@easthamptonma.gov>

Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 9:48 AM

Hi Ryan and Brad,

It was a pleasure to meet both of you yesterday! Thanks so much for taking the time to do so. Some follow-up items:

I have attached some data and other related materials that the Getting to Y/Make a Change (YPAR) club collected and analyzed. This club ran from fall of 2021 through spring of 2025.

- **Year 1 (2022-23):** Analyzed the most recent PNAS data and identified key concerns, which are laid out in the GTY Presentation.
- **Year 2 (2023-24):** Planned and implemented strategies to address key concerns, including the promotion of the Anonymous Alerts system at EHS and creating the Make a Change box for anyone to submit ways to improve school climate. See GTY pre/post survey comparison where they collected data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Anonymous Alerts strategy. At the end of 2023, they learned from the Make a Change box that students wanted more snacks in school.
- **Year 3 (2024-25):** Created a school climate survey (you can view pre and post survey data [here](#)) to send out to the student body and collected this information to inform how they should improve school climate at EHS. Continued to promote Anonymous Alerts and ran a snack drive at the end of the school year. The team also presented the data results from the school climate survey to EHS staff as well as multiple student clubs. The team wanted to collaborate with other school clubs to improve school climate, but they ran into some major challenges with that which I can share more about another time.

Also, I looked at the raw data from our 2025 PNAS data-set (county-wide), and see that use rates are very low this past year from nicotine pouches and other alternative forms of nicotine ingestion, which is good news! We only asked these questions this year, I think.. so no longitudinal data yet for Hampshire County.

44F. In the past 30 days, on how many occasions (if any) have you: used nicotine pouches or sachets (for example, Zyn, On!, Velo)?

	Hampshire County										
	8th	10th	12th	Male	Female	Trans, Non-Binary, Other Identity	Straight	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual	Not Sure, Other Identity	White	Students of Color
0 occasions	99.0	98.0	94.2	96.5	98.0	99.0	97.0	97.9	100.0	97.2	97.9
1 or 2	0.7	0.9	3.2	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.6	1.2	0.0	1.6	0.8
3 to 5	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.4
6 to 9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
10 to 19	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
20 to 39	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
40 or more	0.2	0.1	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.6

Note: Please refer to the Demographics tab for sample sizes. Use caution when making comparisons among subgroups with samples less than 30.

(Valid N=2252)

44G. In the past 30 days, on how many occasions (if any) have you: used flavored nicotine gum, lozenges, and/or gummies?

	Hampshire County										
	8th	10th	12th	Male	Female	Trans, Non-Binary, Other Identity	Straight	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual	Not Sure, Other Identity	White	Students of Color
0 occasions	99.2	99.7	99.1	99.8	99.0	99.0	99.5	97.9	100.0	99.8	98.1
1 or 2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.8
3 to 5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
6 to 9	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.6
10 to 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 to 39	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0
40 or more	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0

Note: Please refer to the Demographics tab for sample sizes. Use caution when making comparisons among subgroups with samples less than 30.

(Valid N=2248)

Speaking of nicotine and your hope to support NFG bylaw in Easthampton, I definitely recommend reaching out to Heather Warner (hwarner@collaborative.org), the Hampshire Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership Coordinator. I can also make an e-intro for you both, if you'd prefer that. Just let me know! I'm also going to forward you an email I got that is on this topic and has more resources.

Lastly, I just added you both to the SPIFFY Coalition listserv, so stay tuned for our monthly newsletter and occasional other opportunities/resources!

Hmm.. I think that's all for now, but let me know if I'm missing anything in this follow-up that I said I would include!

Thanks again and looking forward to staying connected! :)

In community,

Lexi

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3 attachments



MAC School Climate Pre-Survey Data.pdf

79K



GTY Pre and Post Survey Comparison - tables.pdf

142K



Getting To Y Presentation (3) (1).pdf

1145K