



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 9-10AM

HYBRID in person at **WAKEFIELD TOWN HALL 1st floor Conference Room** or Zoom Teleconference:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88951019172?pwd=YRYsgaK0wI9b5j6iAVv9CJlW8AoJq7.1>

9:00 AM Welcome, Introductions & Vision/Mission

Attendance: Karen Andrews, Tiffany Leyne, Jackie Powers, Suzanne Burns, Pina Masciarelli, Maureen Buzby, Kayla Vodka-Rego, Madhu Mohanraj, Laurel Gourville, Anthony Chui, Rose Ruiz, Liz Parsons

9:05 AM "7 Minute Clinic" *Tiffany Leyne, Director of Family & Community Relations, Massachusetts Center for Adolescent Wellness*

Tiffany shared information about the Massachusetts Center for Adolescent Wellness which provides mental and behavioral health treatment for youth ages 13-17; but can consider at 12 year if a younger group of kids; 18-year-olds accepted if still in high school. Offer "partial hospitalization program" (PHP) and after school program (intensive out-patient program-IOP) for 6-8 weeks. Small group (12) in one group. Family involvement is mandatory. Other services for youth with Substance use disorder shared are: ASAP, MGH ARMS, BMC Catalyst.

9:15 AM Coalition Updates

- **Staffing:** Welcome, Madhu Mohanraj, our new prevention & wellness coordinator! Madhu will oversee the Youth Action Team and support other initiatives. Our social services manager, Jason Stone, recently left Wakefield to become the social services coordinator in Medford. Congratulations, Jason!
- **Youth Action Team:** LGBTQ+ café project and multi-lingual student advisory group at middle school to identify needs and address barriers are to YATL projects underway. We are waiting on funding announcement for the ML advisory group, and are reaching out to WMHS GSA to collaborate on the café project. The Youth Action Team clubs continue to meet.
- **National Take Back Day:** 60+ pounds of medication disposal. Alternative and 24/7 disposal methods discussed. Check out HHS website for drop off sites. Need for updating the funeral homes re: medication disposal. Other places for outreach: senior center, hospices, and funeral homes.
- **Assessment:** Liz continues to hold 1-1 meetings with coalition and community members. She'll also be working with MA Public Health Alliance for guidance with the process.

9:25 AM School Programs

- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):** Schools are planning for the Spring 2025 YRBS implementation to monitor health behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth. Collaborating with the region on implementation and communication. Several members of WPS staff and the Northeast Vocational school



attended a regional discussion with other coalitions/public health professionals about implementation. Also discussed importance of survey in multiple languages.

- **Parent University:** Virtual offerings this fall on mindfulness. See below for info first one.
- **Winter Sports Parent/Caregiver Night:** Liz and a Candance Linehan, NP will present information about health and protecting athletes from harmful substances like alcohol and other drugs.
- **Diversion Program:** The “iDecide” model is working great. Added an additional 1x/cycle drop in lunch for students in diversion or those who have gone through it.
- **STOP Violence Grant**
 - **Positive School Culture Team at Galvin Middle School**-this year’s team will meet next week and discuss strategies to address bullying prevention. Liz is providing guidance along with the grant coordinator, Emily Hatchouel.
 - **Professional Development and student support at WMHS**

9:40 AM **Wakefield Social Service Provider Updates:** Began hiring process to fill the social services coordinator position.

9:45 AM **Partner Updates**

- **WAAV**—No representative present. Fundraiser seemed well-attended and great to see coalition members there!
- **Senior Night:** No representative present for updates.
- **MVPHC:** Working on alcohol environmental scans; reviewing mini-grant applications; restorative practices training will be offered soon.
- **Tobacco Control:** Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) in Chelsea hearing tonight; attended MA Health Officers Association (MHOA) and presented NFG. Generated a lot of interest and increased understanding
- **Others**

Upcoming Events:

Intro to Mindfulness for the community: [Wakefield Recreation: Intro to Mindfulness: Living Fully Present \(myrec.com\)](https://www.myrec.com/Events/Intro-to-Mindfulness-Living-Fully-Present)

TONIGHT! Wakefield Parent University [*Teaching Mindful Resilience to Children and Teens*](#) **November 19th at 7 p.m.**

10:00 AM Adjourn

Next Meeting: December 17, 2024 9-10am at Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room AND Virtual

Wake-Up's vision is a safe, vibrant, resourceful Wakefield in which all members, young to old, engage in making healthy decisions.

Wake-Up (Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition), formed in 2011, is a community-based coalition of residents, businesses, organizations, professionals, and advocates who work together to promote a healthy community environment. The coalition is dedicated to reducing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among its residents, especially its youth. Partnering locally and regionally, we take a leadership role in implementing environmental and evidence-based substance prevention strategies.