



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 9-10AM

Attendees: Jill Block, Officer Kelley Tobyne, Officer Matt Malone, Destiny Delgado, Maureen Buzby, Liz Parsons, Jamie Toomey, Laurel Gourville, Karen Andrews, Merrie Rothstein, Sandra Siguenza-Hache, Officer Mike Pietrantonio, Heather Day, Madhu Mohanraj, Sophie Greenebaum, and Suzanne Burns

9:00 AM **Welcome, Introductions & Vision/Mission** Welcome Sandra Siguenza-Hache, our new social services coordinator at the Health & Human Services Department.

9:05 AM **"7 Minute Clinic" Wakefield Food Pantry Listening Session with Jill Block, consultant**

Jill Block is a consultant for the Wakefield Food Pantry hired to help with an assessment to identify gaps and areas for growth to help serve those residents who they aren't yet reaching. Socio-economic status is a risk factor for substance use (among other health behaviors). Coalition members shared barriers to food access that they see in the community. Increasing awareness about the resource among providers, transportation challenges, potential need for satellite sites, accessible little free pantries, and more was discussed. Please contact Liz if you have more information to share with Jill.

9:20 AM **Coalition Updates**

- **Youth Action Team Initiatives:** The Youth Action Team Leaders continue to support the planning of café sessions for LGBTQ+ youth and allies in the community. Thank you to the adult advisors at the schools for helping spread the word and recruit youth leaders to support the sessions. 4 sessions will be offered this spring with the goal to provide a supportive community resources and connections. Thank you to the Beebe Library, Minding Your Mind, and NAGLY for their support! Madhu is also supporting the formation of the multi-lingual student advisory group at the Galvin and an adult advisor (a former YATL!) has been identified to lead the group. The goal is to increase school and community connections among our ML students and families.
- **Positive Community Norms training:** Coalition staff are participating in professional development for positive community norms in anticipation of a tri-community effort to address youth alcohol use.
- **Coalition Assessment & Website:** Members agreed to take the town up on the offer to host Wake-UP information on the town website instead of a separate site. Many other substance use prevention coalitions in other towns do the same. Madhu and Liz continue to conduct 1-1 meetings with YATLs and coalition members.

9:20 AM **School Programs**

- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):** WPS will implement the YRBS on April 17th for grades 7-12. Liz has joined other public health colleagues to support an updated survey instrument and provide resources to the schools as needed.
- **SBIRT implementation:** Galvin will begin implementation for 7th graders soon.



- [Spring Parent University](#): March 8th 8:30-12 at Galvin Middle School with keynote Linda Price, "Caring for Ourselves Is Caring for our Kids". Free childcare and interpretation offered.
- **Diversion Program**: No program this month but continue to do the follow-ups.
- **STOP Violence Grant**
 - **Positive School Culture Team at Galvin Middle School**: The team continues to meet and plan for upcoming peer leadership training program to promote belongingness.
 - **Professional Development and student support at WMHS**: The funding continues to support a school adjustment counselor, professional development, and education/awareness activities.
- **Northeast Metro Tech High School**: Substance Use Prevention Awareness Month on March 26th 6-8pm for parents, students, and communities. Randi Schuster will be the guest speaker. Wake-UP will have a table.

9:35 AM **Wakefield Social Service Provider Updates:** Welcome, Sandra!

9:40 AM **Partner Updates**

- **Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition (MVPHC)**: The Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS) event is tomorrow night in Winchester at Town Hall 7pm; MVPHC is supporting Northeast YRBS implementation and all communities with focus groups for qualitative data collection; hosting positive community norms training; and mini-grants are in phase 2 of implementation with 5 communities funded for various initiatives that promote belongingness in communities.
- **Regional Tobacco Prevention**: 14 communities have adopted the NFG policies. Provided information to Sen. Keenan who is a tobacco prevention champion. ENUFF (End Nicotine Use For the Future) day (formerly Kick Butts day) has a statehouse day of education/awareness. April 3rd at statehouse. YAT members will attend. A reminder that the 1800QuitNow is a cessation support line.
- **Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV)**: February was DV awareness month and sent an article to the Item; WAAV website has parent/caregiver resources.
- **Senior Night**: 16k raised to date. Need to get the word out to the parents and increase donations/volunteers. Could have a table at Parent University, shared other fundraising ideas. Coalition members provided other ideas for fundraising.
- **Others**

10:10 AM Adjourn

Next Meeting: March 18, 2025 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.