



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2024 9-10AM

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

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/88951019172?pwd=YRYsgaKowl9b5j6iAVv9CJlW8AoJq7.1>

9:00 AM Welcome, Introductions & Vision/Mission

Attendees: Karen Andrews, Suzanne Burns, Pina Masciarelli, Sophie Greenebaum, Jackie Powers, Heather Day, Dina Baratta, Jamie Toomey, Carly McCarthy, Officer Mike Pietrantonio, Chief Skory, Deputy Chief Calabrese, Maureen Buzby, Helen Rouse, Laurel Gourville, Liz Parsons, Kayla Vodka-Rego, Jennifer Waczkowski, Anthony Chui

9:05 AM "7 Minute Clinic" Carly McCarthy and Jamie Toomey, school counselors at Northeast Metro Tech High School

Unique because feed into 12 different towns. Networking even a few weeks ago was good start to connect with public health and prevention professionals across the region, ie: YRBS implementation. Currently reorganizing Diversion to be proactive rather than reactive; looking at multi-tiered system of supports. Unique because the support teams need to know who we can reach out to in 12 different communities.

Discussion about "snack bins" at the schools—highly recommended by the schools. Food pantry provides snacks. The bins have opened up opportunities to connect with students and help identify families experiencing food insecurity. Karen Andrews also offered to help meet the need.

9:20 AM Coalition Updates

- **Staffing:** In the late stages of the hiring process for a social services coordinator.
- **Youth Action Team:** The Galvin club is hosting Family Feud this week; the WMHS club is working on building a supportive environment for students around vaping cessation/reduction and positive messaging.
- **Assessment:** Liz continues to meet 1-1 with community members.

9:20 AM School Programs

- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):** Medford, Malden, and Northeast Metro Tech will join the regional implementation; will also conduct KI and FG to fill out what's reported.
- **Spring Parent University:** In person event will be on Saturday, March 8th; Suzanne has done Mindfulness and Hidden in Plain Site; Ms. Keough and Suzanne did WMHS transition; and supporting parents/guardians with substance use. Please share any ideas for topics as you hear from parents/caregivers about the needs.
- **Diversion Program:** At WMHS, this month, no students were in the program, but conducted check-ins with accountability for past students. Continuing to offer the lunch group for students.
 - At Northeast Metro, started as reactive approach, and now want to bring in the DBT strategies at Tier 1 as preventative.



- **STOP Violence Grant:** A federal regional grant to prevent bullying.
 - **Positive School Culture Team at Galvin Middle School:** The team has met 2x and is exploring ways to promote belongingness among students, especially those student population highlighted in the YRBS results.
 - **Professional Development and student support at WMHS:** School adjustment counselor, PD, and Hate Ends Now program coming up in collaboration with Stoneham Public Schools.

9:30 AM Wakefield Social Service Provider Updates: Please see staffing update. Thank you to Karen Burke and her team at the COA, the Food Pantry, Jennifer Waczkowski, and others in the community who have helped fill the social services support gap.

9:35 AM Partner Updates

- **Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV):** No representatives in attendance.
- **Senior Night:** Fundraising underway. A similar event for Northeast Metro is more difficult because they serve 12 communities, but they try to mitigate risk in other ways.
- **Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition (MVPHC):** Finished environmental scans of alcohol retailers and "hot spots". Also working on Positive Community Norms to help change perceptions which will then change behavior. Have a new Youth Action Team starting in Medford. Cannabis consumption sites: there are not dispensaries in Wakefield but in neighboring municipalities. The Cannabis Control Commission is the state regulating body and have been in the news recently. For the health and safety of our young people, we're looking at lack of regulation around potency and concentration. Also, discussing lack of awareness and education about health impacts, as well as, community normalization of cannabis use for young people. There is a recent proposal by CCC for consumption sites. 3 types: supplemental (next to a dispensary, "tasting room"), hospitality (stand alone, café's etc); event organizing (temporary permit). Ideas to address: caregiver/community education re: safe storage (also pets/animal risk); updates to health curriculum to catch up to the issues/products; look at policy space to address any health harms.
- **Regional Tobacco Prevention:** More communities across MA are adopting NFG. Making sure all retailers understand what this means.
- **Others:** Anti-Hate Task Force and have resources. Liz will send out.

10:00 AM Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 21, 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.