



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 9-10AM MINUTES

9:00 AM **Welcome, Introductions & Vision/Mission**

9:05 AM **"7 Minute Clinic"** *Liliana Patino, Eliot Community Human Services, Director of Community Engagement*

Community Based Health Center (CBHC): Emergency mental health services 24/7 (urgent care for mental health) It can be hard to access mental health resources. Eliot has a team of support for families, including a parent partner, clinician, nurse, group/individual therapy, and serves the lifespan. Can also provide transportation. If a client is at the emergency room, Eliot gets an alert to help the client. No wait times at CBHC and Eliot can connect you with services either with Eliot or other services.

Family Resource Center (FRC): support schools and families with "Children in Need of Services"; FRC will complete intake and implement a family plan, including connecting with schools. We often support families with explaining an IEP. Families can access via phone/email/virtually. Have clinician, social workers, family connectors, language capacity on site, no waiting list. FRC can help explain how services work. Also offer evidence-based parenting class for families who are referred by DCF. Current challenges: funding cuts and some reluctance from families to participate given current climate.

9:20 AM **Coalition Updates**

- Youth Action Team Initiatives
 - Rainbow Café sessions: Two of our Youth Action Team leaders have been working on a Community Cafe project, also known as the Rainbow Cafe, to provide a safe space for our LGBTQ+ youth and allies within the community and allow for them to meet with community partners who are supportive. There will be 4 cafe sessions during this academic year and we've implemented 2 already. 5 youth leaders from the high school and middle school who have been involved in providing feedback on our activities and advertisement of the cafe along with Ms. Kristen Brazille from the high school and Ms. Bonnie Warren from the middle school. The sessions are interactive art workshops related to mental health, self-care, and empowerment. Partners include Minding Your Mind, NAGLY, and the Beebe library and the last session will be an art showcase for our youth. We partner with Inspire Cafe for catering.



- Multi-Lingual Student Advisory Group: The ML student advisory board is a project through Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition; this advisory board is a group of students from the middle school who will work together to identify the needs and barriers to accessing school and community resources. There will be a total of six sessions and at the end of the project implementation, the advisory board will implement an activity that addresses an identified barrier. We have an Adult Advisor (a former YATL!) who has identified 5 youth leaders that represent a diverse experience of being a Multi-Lingual youth in the community. The adult advisor and I have worked to come up with a list of potential session dates and a plan to build rapport with the leaders, conduct focus group training, and for the leaders to implement a focus group with community members and key informants, such as their family members. This will prevent the reliance of identifying the needs and barriers being the sole responsibility of the middle school youth leaders, while developing their leadership skills.
- ENUFF Day: The Youth Action team attended ENUFF day or ending nicotine use for the future on April 3rd and met with Rep Kate and Rep Wong and with staff from Senator Lewis' office.
- 9 youth action team members attended to bring awareness to the projects they are working on to prevent nicotine use and to share what new products and effects of nicotine use they are seeing in the schools.
 - Annual Meeting: will be the 10th Annual breakfast. Will be held at the Crystal Community Center at 77 Preston Street. Instead of Year in Review, could do a decade in review. Usually 6-8 tables. Jamie and Merrie can help set up on the day. Laurel will email to get input/support.

9:20 AM

School Programs

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): Administration is happening this week. The health department has been supporting survey instrument development, translation support, and communication support along with the schools.
- Diversion Program: Suzanne supporting students to reduce use. No students went through the diversion program this month.
- Northeast Metro Tech High School: Jamie runs diversion 1x/month and usually have 1-2 students. Planning for May--Mental Health Awareness Month. Also have a Spanish speaking person in recovery to talk to students about goal settings.

9:35 AM

Wakefield Social Service Provider Updates:

- Welcome our new Recovery Coach: Ness Burgos; works with Eliot and in Wakefield M & F 8-4, Wed 8-12

9:40 AM

Partner Updates

- Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition (MVPHC): MVPHC sharing 4k to communities to support MVPHC strategies and we will use to help support alcohol prevention strategies, including the Town Council request for alcohol regulation recommendations from the health department, among other strategies. We will work with the BOH, Police Department, and other stakeholders to prepare recommendations.

- Regional Tobacco Prevention: NFG still rolling along; request for information on tobacco compliance for Mobil Mart in Greenwood because they are seeking an alcohol license.
- Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV): new virtual support group will start Monday, April 21st; 6 week sessions by LICSW; will volunteer for Senior Night; always looking for more members.
- Senior Night: June 4th looking for volunteers and sponsors.
- Others:
 - Melrose and Wakefield will partner on Alcohol Awareness Month event on April 27th.
 - Wakefield PD is running a RAD kid program next week and do safety awareness.
 - Cannabis overlay district is no longer an initiative by a community resident.
 - Northeast Arc: Merrie shared a list of resources on how to support neurodiverse individuals.

10:00 AM Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 20th 8-9:30am Wake-UP Annual Meeting Breakfast at Crystal Community Club

Upcoming Events:

National Drug Take Back Day: Saturday, April 26th 2025, 10-2pm at the Public Safety Building

Alcohol Awareness Month Event: Sunday, April 27th 2025 at Follow Your Art time TBD

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.