



Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

General Membership Meeting

May 25, 2017

Smithtown Library Main Branch

*Keeping Our Youth & Families Safe...
Physically & Emotionally Healthy & Free of Substance Abuse*

Meeting highlights:

Roundtable introductions were made. An overview was given regarding the Alliance and formation of the three special committees (Substance Abuse, Healthy Relationships, and Bullying/Cyber-Bullying).

The new Alliance website was shown to the group. The website was developed after one of the bullying/cyber-bullying committee meetings. The group wanted a resource available to the Township. Each committee will provide content for their section of the site.

Dana Tortora and Max Sherman of Smithtown HS East Leadership Group were part of the creation of a bullying video, which was shown to the group. Dana & Max discussed why this video was made, and spoke about other videos that have been created. A link to the video has been posted the bullying committee section of the Alliance website.

Committees broke out into **Work Groups** and had a discussion on their current and future initiatives:

Bullying/ Cyber-bullying Committee:

The group discussed what should be featured on the website. Suggestions included:

Bullying and prevention video (P.S. I love you- SHSE); links to supporting pages (hotlines, Dignity for all Students- DASA, police form link); how to deal with bullying/what to do (geared toward parents); testimonies- where people can share their stories anonymously (an online form); and developing a bullying prevention logo (Ignacio Rodriguez offered to help with this, as a graphic designer).

Substance Abuse Committee:

The group discussed an underage drinking public education campaign that will be held on Smithtown Day, June 4, 2017. Youth volunteers will educate the community on Suffolk County Police Department's initiative, "Cancel the Keg", the Federal Trade Commission campaign "We don't serve teens" and medicine Take Back.

Adults will sign pledges that they won't serve alcohol to minors. The group also mentioned having the COS referral listing available during Smithtown Day, for anyone that might be seeking help with substance abuse.

The committee gave several suggestions on what should be added to the website: Faces of addiction video (OASAS), COS brochure (referral list), AA/NA/ANON phone numbers, SC Substance Abuse Hotline, Stats on overdoses on the Township, Synthetic drug info, and pictures from completed committee activities

The group also discussed developing a public education campaign to help reduce stigma about substance abuse. People in recovery can be speakers/presenters, and we can target groups such as boy scouts or the Council of Schools.

A “Sticker Shock”, community education event was held on May 12, 2017 at Uncle Giuseppe’s and Bullseye Beverage (both in Smithtown). Youth and adults placed 1,100 informative stickers on alcoholic beverage cases. A Not on Your Life (NOYL) campaign and a Pizza Box Top event will be held during the summer months.

Healthy Relationships Committee:

Horizons Counseling & Education Center, the Smithtown Youth Bureau and the Healthy Relationships Committee will be providing a workshop on *Learning & Practicing Healthy, Effective Communication Skills* for Kings Park In The kNOW. The group would like to hold the presentation during the school year and have two workshops (one for parents and one for students).

The group has started focusing on the parent workshop first. The parent workshop will include two main topics; *Listening* and *Talking* to your child so they will listen. The members of the alliance will provide interactive activities and role playing demonstrations to highlight what they perceive as obstacles to communication between children and parents. The group created an outline of the workshop and will continue to discuss the details regarding how to foster healthy family communication skills at the next meeting in August.

Meeting Wrap-up:

After the committees reported-out on their group work, some suggestions were added by the other Alliance members:

Pam F. discussed holding a Medicine Take Back Day at Town Hall during Tax Day (Jan/Mar), and to post the PS I Love You video on the Smithtown Government channel. Max S. would like to advertise the coalition to school administration and share with different school groups.

Next Alliance Meetings:

Special Committee meetings- All held at Horizons/Youth Bureau Center (161 E. Main St., Smithtown)-

- **Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Committee- 7/10/17, 4:30 pm-5:30 pm,**
- **Substance Abuse- 7/25/17, 4:00 pm -5:00 pm**
- **Healthy Relationships- 8/14/17 7:30 pm -8:30 pm**

Next general meeting:

August 29, 2017, 4:30 pm-6:00 pm at the Smithtown Library, Main Branch



Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

“To promote the health and wellness of our young people; mobilize schools and communities; and utilize resources to create and sustain an environment where destructive decisions and substance abuse are reduced”