



Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

Substance Abuse Committee Meeting

January 23, 2017

Horizons Center Community Room

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

Meeting highlights:

1. A recap of the November Substance Abuse Brainstorming Meeting was given.
2. The group was made aware of two programs that Horizons and the Youth Bureau will also be running. They include a “Sticker Shock” community education campaign, and helping to promote the screening of the short film “Underwater.”
3. An open discussion on what the group should focus on moving forward took place. Ideas included:
 - a. Sticker Shock. Full explanation of the event was discussed. Community education done by student volunteers. The tentative date of the event will be May 11 or 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm.
 - b. As far as picking what grocery stores or other businesses should be invited to partner for Sticker Shock, group members discussed having a focus group of teens to determine what places sell alcohol to minors; there is also public record for when a business gets cited for selling to minors or can request this information from the police. The group discussed making sure businesses get positive recognition if they do decide to be a part of the event. Possibly go to stores that are not participating to show them who *is* participating.
 - c. We can also contact the Chamber of Commerce to get the word out to local businesses. Kelly reached out to Police Officer Susan Laveglia about Sticker Shock and she or another police officer may be available. If not, Stephanie recommended asking the Sheriff's Dept, or speak with Suffolk County Police Commissioner Sini's office. Adult volunteers will also be needed for the event. The group can reach out the SCCC Chemical Dependency students, American Legion/Rotary, and the other local coalitions to help make it town-wide.
 - d. Do a Public Service Announcement (PSA) - Riverhead CAP runs several PSA's throughout the year that focuses on a different message. They work with an organization called *Youth to Youth* and their youth volunteers create messages. We can also create seasonal messages (i.e.: prom, holidays, super bowl, pre-summer, etc.) and include stats on the PSA. The group can also focus on a “social norming” campaign which focuses on the positive and discuss common perceptions.

- e. Do a Medication Take Back Event- It can be intimidating for people to drop off medications at Police Departments (they also have a drop off for syringes). A drop off box is also located at the Smithtown Public Safety Department. The group discussed holding an event with the Senior Citizen department, during the DEA's Drug Take Back Day which is April 29th , during Smithtown Day/ Kings Park Day/St. James Day, St Patrick's parade, during a town waste event, or at the Smithtown Fire Dept. Messaging can also be put on Discount Value Pak's that get mailed home, put on place mats at diners or child friendly restaurants, any eateries that high schools kids can walk to after school, on coffee sleeves, at grocery stores or pharmacies, post offices, or in the welcome packets that realtors give out when someone purchases a home. A grant opportunity may also be available through Cardinal Health called generation RX for \$25K
4. **Future projects:** The group's short term project will be the Medicine Take Back Day and Sticker Shock town-wide campaign. Long term project will be the seasonal PSA's.
5. **Next Steps:** Alan (SHS West Student) will reach out to other students about the Sticker Shock program, Lisa will speak with the Junior National Honor Society (Kings Park SD) about Sticker Shock, Carissa will find out if she can get some National Guard volunteers for Sticker Shock and look into stores that have been cited for serving alcohol to minors. They will also compose a list of businesses in good standing. Smithtown Horizons/Youth Bureau will contact Barbara Franco at the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce. Mathew will find out if we can get a radio connection through one of the Horizons workers.
6. Alexa Stern will be the spokesperson at the general membership meeting on **2/16/17 at the Smithtown Library Main Branch, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**. She will update all Y & C Alliance of Smithtown members about Substance Abuse Committee activities.



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"