



Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

Substance Abuse Committee Meeting

January 30, 2018

Horizons Center Community Room

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

Meeting highlights:

1. Roundtable introductions were made.
2. Recap of previous substance abuse committee meeting was given.
3. **Committee Project Updates-** The group discussed collaborating on a “Not on Your Life!” (NOYL) campaign. Youth volunteers would be trained by members of the LI Prevention Resource Center and would then go to local stores that sell alcohol and ask them to sign a pledge stating that they would follow the drinking laws and not serve alcohol to minors.

The Town of Smithtown Y & C Alliance will be collaborating with the Commack Coalition of Caring, Kings Park in the kNOw, and Youth and Community Alliance of Hauppauge. Debbie V. from the Commack Coalition of Caring discussed the pros and cons from the last NOYL event that they took part in. The biggest difficulty was the volunteer transportation issue and the fact that Commack does not have a Main Street. Stores that they visited previously included: Waldbaums (now Best Market), Rite Aid, 7-11, Commack Beverage (they declined participation), and a local liquor store.

Georgia from LI P.R.C. also suggested visiting the IGA in Fort Salonga since they are community oriented. The Collaborative, town-wide N.O.Y.L. projects will take place after school on **May 18, 2018**. The committee members focused on the logistics of this campaign. The training will be held at each of the local schools in the various towns (or pizza place if the students are hungry). The adult and youth volunteers will then go to a few stores to get pledges signed, and then return to the Horizons building for a de-brief activity. Town of Smithtown will supply pizza for the volunteers.

The tentative schedule will be: 2:45 PM training (45 minutes), 3:30 PM go to stores (1 hour), 4:30 PM debrief (length: as long as needed). There will be 3-5 students in each group. There could be more student volunteers if there are enough stores who agree to participate. Parents will be invited and encouraged to participate.

A draft of the flyer was distributed and discussed. The flyer will be modified to state that transportation will be needed for the students, since none of the partnering Alliances can accommodate this need.

4. **Next steps:** Reach out to the Smithtown and KP Chamber of Commerce's; update flyer; have coalition leaders decide what stores to visit; and have the letter sent out by early/mid-April. Committee members will follow up with phone calls before the students go into the stores.

Horizons/Youth Bureau will receive the RSVP's from interested students. The PRC has a post press release that the Alliance can use. All participating Committee member groups can list all stores that were visited and thank the ones that signed the pledge. PRC also has stickers they can share about the drinking law and Certificates can be given to stores that comply. There will be a photo release form for the student volunteers to have parental permission to participate. Kim R. from KPITK suggested that the new Public Information Officer for the Town of Smithtown, Nicole Garguilo, be informed about the event.

5. **Tobacco Action Coalition (TAC):** Paulette discussed some of the initiatives that *TAC* and *Reality Check* (partners who work with young people) are working on in the community: Tobacco-Free Pharmacies; letter writing campaign with young people - send letter to the Major Motion Picture Association about tobacco and movie ratings; and letter to the editor about the Corrective Ad statements that tobacco companies use. If anyone would like to be involved in any of TAC's campaigns please contact Paulette.
6. **Future Open House Event -** The Substance Abuse Committee, Horizons and Youth Bureau will be holding an open house on **Smithtown Day (June 3, 2018)** to showcase the Horizons and Youth Bureau building, various services and our community partner services. At one of our previous substance abuse committee meetings, a member mentioned that some members of the community have a negative viewpoint of the Horizons Center building and are un-aware of the services/programs provided there. The Alliance S.A. Committee wants the community to be educated about the various services and agency/alliance goals/mission. Some suggestions are to have activities in several of the offices and/ or lobby, for community members to take part in, have a spin the wheel activity with prizes, possibly a vision board of a healthy community, etc. An Open House Event sub-committee for the open house planning may be formed.
7. **Next Youth & Community Alliance - General Membership Meeting** will be held on **March 20, 2018 from 4:30-6:00 pm at the Smithtown Library (Main Branch).**



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"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"