

SHINE

Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

Call to order by Matthew Cox at 10:35 a.m. in the Blake Room at the Somers Public Library

Members in attendance: Arianna Flagg, Michael Szafir, Gail Tishler, Bob Schmidt, Brian Wissinger, Jen Griger, Maureen Parsell, Kim Littig, Justin Preuss, Tim Keeney, Sam Galloway, Gerard Joyal, Katherine Mashaik, and Matthew Cox.

Welcome and Introductions: none

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Bob to approve the meeting minutes from November 26th as presented. Mike seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Drug free Communities Grant Updates: Matthew reported that Arianna, Jen, and he will attend the annual Leadership Forum sponsored by CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) – the education, data, and technical assistance provider for the DFC grant program. The conference will be held at the Gaylord Hotel outside Washington, DC, the first week in February. He also reported that the DFC Annual Progress Report and proposal for continuation funding is due March 11. Jen and Arianna reported that our collaborative work with the Somers Public Library to host daily (M-F) Teen Center activities at the library continues to engage an average of 20 youth daily. Arianna reported that through the DFC grant, Scott Driscoll, an internet safety expert, had been engaged to host district-wide safety presentations for parents and youth at the elementary and middle schools in April. Mike noted that DFC staff are welcome to submit information, announcements, and upcoming opportunities for inclusion in the high school newsletter.

Old Business

Matthew reported that the Bylaws Action Team recently met with consultant John Daviau to review sample bylaws for the coalition and to consider adoption thereof. Among the options was to adopt a model with a three or four-member leadership “board” and “at-large members” to round out the coalition. As the action team discussed the proposed options, it was noted that continuity of the coalition’s work may be impacted by the departures of key partners who are non-resident employees. It was suggested that we focus on the recruitment of additional resident members and postpone the adoption of bylaws until a stronger balance has been achieved.

Matthew reported that it was nearing time to implement the biennial Youth Voices Count Survey (YVCS) in grades 7 through 12 within our public schools (last administered in January of 2023). Collection and reporting of anonymous student data on substance use behaviors, youth perceptions of harm, etc. are required to maintain good standing with the funder, as stated in the original MOU. He reported that he and Arianna met with Dr. Galloway early in the fall and that draft copies of the survey and messaging to parents had been provided. Dr. Galloway shared that he wanted to give adequate notice and information to parents, and he felt it important to share the survey in its entirety with parents who, after reviewing the questions, could choose to opt for their child not to take the survey. Matthew noted that in the past, there were opt out provisions for both parents and students but that sharing the complete survey electronically would potentially hinder the survey process. He agreed to confer with Bonnie Smith, author of the YVCS, and the grantor to discuss options.

New Business

Matthew announced that as part of the program planning component of the DFC Annual Performance Report, he called for coalition volunteers to participate in the action-planning process. Please reach out to Matthew or Arianna if you are interested.

Kassie moved and Mike seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Matthew Cox