

SHINE

Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2025

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

Members in attendance: Tim Keeney, Gail Tishler, Bob Schmidt, Kim Littig, Margot Martello, Pastor Scott Spence, Kassie Mashiak, Brian Wissinger, Joanne Nichting, Arianna Flagg, and Matthew Cox

Welcome and Introductions: none

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Bob to approve the meeting minutes from January 28 as presented. Gail seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Drug free Communities Grant Updates: Arianna reported that she, Jen Griger, and Matthew attended the annual CADCA Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. There, they met coalitions from across the US, and attended a number of workshops, classes, and other learning opportunities focused on prevention, life skills, and curricula geared to youth, parents/caregivers, and communities. She mentioned a variety of resources which may prove helpful for our community. Matthew mentioned other resources, such as life skills curriculum and products and programs like Fatal Vision that include substance use simulation goggles that help demonstrate impairment to senses when under the influence. Catch My Breath was another opportunity in which high school students mentor middle schoolers to prevent/cease nicotine vaping. Arianna is also working to launch a series of learning opportunities to be piloted with the Juvenile Review Board to address tobacco cessation.

Margot mentioned that the number of students caught vaping on middle school property has steadily decreased over the past two years, attributing much of the success with peer-to-peer conversations and peer pressure around prevention. There have also been several cannabis-related challenges due to the easy access in homes, but that only one incident had occurred on campus in which a student was caught with cannabis, which had not yet been ingested.

Matthew reported that he and his team were already working to prepare our DFC Annual Performance Report, due March 11. He also noted that due to executive orders, our federal project office and program manager had been terminated and the planned webinar on report preparation had been cancelled indefinitely. We do not yet know how this may impact the program or funding, but in the short term we are relying on support from CADCA, the technical assistance provider for DFC.

He also reported on a proposed collaboration with Johnson Memorial Hospital, to provide resources and social support to those who exit services related to substance misuse, overdose, etc. Soon, he will meet with our partners at the Somers Fire Department to finalize their proposal and wish list to be funded with Opioid Settlement funds.

Old Business

Matthew reported that Dr. Galloway recently informed him of the approval to administer the biennial Youth Voices Count Survey, which would be announced to parents/caregivers via an email from the superintendent, co-signed by Matthew, to include survey topics, methods for parents and students to opt out of taking the survey, and a special link to request to see survey questions in advance.

Bob moved and Brian seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Cox