

Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2009

**Attendance**

1. Hilary Kumnick, Co-Chair HC-HK Coalition
2. Tanja Moriarty, Co-Chair HC-HK Coalition
3. Cheryl Chandler, HKYFS Executive Director
4. Divinna Schmitt, Parent
5. Trooper Jim Connelly, CT State Police, Resident Trooper, Town of Haddam
6. John Westerholm , Pastor, Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church
7. Seth P. Nuzum, Youth Minister, Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church
8. Catherine McGuire, Student assistance counselor, RSD 17
9. Dave Matthews, HKHS/ Director, Media Center
10. Ann O'Mara, HKYFS/Admin. Assistant
11. Kristin Brooks, Community Liaison, Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council
12. Frank Sparks, Director, H-K Recreation Dept.
13. Trooper Jeff Mazzetta, CT State Police, School Resource Officer

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**1. Welcome/Introductions:**

All members present introduced themselves and their role/position in the community, school, etc.

**2. Discussion**

**Drug Free Communities Grant**

Cheryl announced that Youth & Family Services of H-K, Inc. was awarded the Drug Free Communities Grant. This grant is for \$125,000.00 per year for five years. This grant will allow for YFSHK to hire a full time Prevention Coordinator. This is a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Center for substance abuse treatment.

**3. Music for a Cause**

Cheryl reported that the music festival was very well planned and raised \$300.00. Vendors participated and bands from as far away as New Jersey performed. Cheryl would like to get a committee together again to discuss next year's festival. The event was funded by a grant from MCSACC. Expenditures were approximately \$1000.00.

**4. Prescription Medication Take Back**

Cheryl will contact Carol Dupuis regarding this event. MCSACC will fund this program. Applications are due by September 30, 2009. Funds will be allotted by the end of October 2009. The date of this event will be decided at the next HC-HK coalition meeting. Kristen from MCSACC informed the coalition that pharmaceutical students from UCONN may like to participate. The Department of Environmental Protection must be notified and a law enforcement officer must be present on the day of the event. MCSACC can help plan and organize this event. Hilary asked about illegal drug disposal. Troopers Connelly and Mazzetta stated that presumably all medications will have a prescription. Pastor Westerholm suggested having it at the transfer station. Hilary suggested Haddam Meadows.

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Trooper Connelly suggested the Haddam firehouse. A follow up report will be given at the next meeting.

**5. Reports**

- **Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant (SPF/SIG)**

Cheryl said the Underage Drinking grant that was to end on 09/30/09 was extended until 06/30/10. Billboards targeted at parents to reduce underage drinking will be in Haddam, Chester, Essex and Deep River. Press release will follow as well as by postal patron post cards. Party line pledges were given out at open houses, freshman orientation and drivers education class. An established tip line is in place for Haddam-Killingworth and will be advertised. There will be an educators breakfast meeting hosted by the Together we Can coalition for community stakeholders to educate them about underage drinking initiatives.

Trooper Jeff Rhoades and Trooper Matt Ward will be receiving an award from the CT. Youth Service Association for their collaboration with the Together We Can Coalition.

- **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD HKHS)**

October 6<sup>th</sup> is Safety Day at HKMS. SADD will have the students decorate bags for a "Don't Drink and Drive" message. The enrollment last year was 20 students. Good enrollment is anticipated this year.

- **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Students(GLASS)**

Dave reported there are 15-20 members this year.

- **Youth in Action (YIA)**

A practicum student from Central CT State University will be advising YIA this year.

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- **G.I.V.E.**  
A practicum student from Central CT State University will be advising G.I.V.E. this year.
- **Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC)**  
Kristen reported that the annual meeting will be at the Crown Plaza in Cromwell on 10/16/09. The Youth Leadership conference will be held on 11/18/09 at Middlesex Community College. The Improbable Players are actors in recovery will have 4 workshops for students at the conference to attend.
- **Killingworth Women's Organization (KWO)**  
No report
- **Haddam-Killingworth Lions Club**  
Hilary reported that the Killingworth Lions Club now has a permanent building at the Durham Fair Grounds.
- **Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS)/Support Group**  
Divinna reported that this group is growing. Divinna has been trained at Mass General in this approach for kids with behavioral problems. Yale New Haven is now using CPS in their psychiatric outpatient clinic. The support group is held the third Wednesday of every month at the Killingworth library. Beth Edelstein from Mass General will be speaking on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Divinna would like YFS to advertise this event.
- **School Resource Officer (SRO)**  
Trooper Mazzetta reported that he is covering three schools now. Vinyl, Haddam-Killingworth and Coginchaug. Two SRO's now cover multiple school districts. Trooper Mazzetta also explained the SRO program and stated the reasons why he thinks that it is successful. Trooper Connelly said that good relationships are formed with students as a result of the program.

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- **Habitat for Humanity**  
No report
  
  - **School (s) Update**  
Linda Kaufman said that there are adult advisors for all students at HKHS. Advisory groups consist of one adult advisor and 10-12 high school students. The purpose of advisory is for every student to have a connection with a caring, non-parent adult. Cheryl Chandler has been with her group of students for three years (since freshman year) and believes the groups to be rewarding for both students and advisors.
  
  - **Community Updates.**  
**Haddam – Killingworth Recreation Department**  
Frank reported the usage and attendance for 2009/2010 was 11,000 participants in a total of 125 programs in Haddam-Killingworth Recreation programs. The attendance numbers were down in the childcare program.
  
  - **Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.**  
No Report
- 6. Other**  
Hilary Kumnick announced that he will be leaving the Co-chair position for HC-HK after two years but will still be a member of the coalition. Cheryl stated that she would like to have a Killingworth resident as a Co-chair. Hilary Kumnick and Tanja Moriarty were commended for their leadership of the coalition during the last year.

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**Next Meeting and adjournment**

Next meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Meeting officially adjourned 9:15 am

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann O'Mara