

Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition  
Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2010

**Attendance**

1. Tanja Moriarty, Chair HC-HK Coalition
2. Cheryl Chandler, HKYFS Executive Director
3. Divinna Schmitt, Parent, Killingworth resident
4. Trooper Jim Connelly, CT State Police, Resident Trooper, Town of Haddam
5. John Westerholm, Minister, Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church
6. Seth P. Nuzum, Youth Minister, Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church
7. Chad Hemphill, Associate Pastor, Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church
8. Carol Flanagan Dupuis, Community Member
9. Linda Kaufmann, RSD 17 School Nurse Supervisor
10. Catherine McGuire, Student Assistance Counselor, RSD 17
11. Eileen Lawrence, Pediatrician
12. Ernest Nagler, Mentor Program, RSD 17
13. Catherine Iino, First Selectman, Town of Killingworth
14. Betsey Chadwick, MCSAAC
15. Neil English, Assistant Principal, HKMS
16. Frank Sparks, Director, H-K Recreation Department
17. Kathryn Glendon, HKYFS, Prevention Coordinator
18. Trooper Jeff Mazzetta, CT. State Police
19. Ann O'Mara, HKYFS, Administrative Assistant

1. **Welcome/Introductions:** All members present introduced themselves and stated the community sector they represent.

2. **Minutes approval from December 2009**

Tanja Moriarty motioned, Doug Sumner second. All in favor.

\*\*Note: Correction Frank Sparks was in attendance for November 2009. Not listed in attendance for minutes. Also, a correction, Pastor Westerholm of Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church announced that the Thanksgiving service funds that were raised for the community food bank were raised by all the churches of Haddam.

3. **Chinese Educators visit**

Ernest Nagler introduced Guan Hongli and Zhang Hongxia, educators visiting from our sister schools in China. Members of the coalition asked questions regarding the population and size per school. The teachers informed the coalition that the population in Shandong Province is three million in four districts. There are three thousand students in the middle school. The school has fifty classes. In Shandong Province also known as the Sunshine City, also has a population of three million people. One school has classes for pre-school to middle school. There are 80 classes and five thousand students. Ernest Nagler asked the teachers what some of the challenges are with teenagers in China. They answered the most severe are that the teens are addicted to computer games and the internet. Also, there are individual learning problems such as the students are not concentrating on the studies or are not interested. Ernest asked is English taught and if so at what grade level do students start to learn English? The response from the educators was yes, all students are taught English starting in grade 3. Richard Cabral introduced himself. Catherine Iino thanked the visitors for attending the meeting. Ernest Nagler announced that as part of the sister school program they would like to plan a trip to take 25-30 Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids coalition members to Shang dong province in 2012.

4. **Reports**

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

Cheryl Chandler informed the coalition that the SPF/SIG underage drinking grant was currently in its third year going into its fourth. She explained to the Chinese visitors that the grant allows for Youth & Family Services along with HC-HK to educate parents on the subject of underage drinking and the harm that can come from it. The average age that youth begin drinking in the U.S. is 13 years old. The average age in Connecticut is 11 years old. There has been an increase with law enforcement under this grant. Trooper James Connelly is the Haddam

resident trooper. The population for Haddam-Killingworth is 13,000. Cheryl explained that one problem is that kids think they will not get caught drinking because there are not enough police. HC-HK would like to increase awareness in the communities. Troopers Connelly and Mazetta attended today's HCHK meeting. Poster presentations are in the process of being made. They include all the activities being done by Together We Can, a coalition to educate on the subject of the dangers of underage drinking. The posters will be presented at the CADCA conference that is being held in Maryland February 8<sup>th</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. Cheryl plans to have smaller versions of the posters made to share with other coalitions along with DHMAS. Cheryl passed out the party line agreement brochure to all. Cheryl explained what the party line agreement is. Carol asked if the party line agreement is being distributed to all students of the middle and high school. Cheryl explained that permission needs to be given to YFS and she will be looking into this.

- **Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD HKHS)**  
Catherine McGuire reported that SADD will be doing a fundraiser to purchase a Wii system for senior citizens. A Valentine dance is being planned by the group.
- **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Students (GLASS)**  
Cheryl Chandler is working with Dave Matthews on the Names Can Really Hurt program. It will be held at H-K High School on 03/31/10. The Anti-Defamation League presents this program for students. Cheryl said that they are looking for volunteers for teams to meet before the presentations. This will be a full day of focusing on how people speak to each other and what they say. All will be sharing experiences. The presentation is paid for by a grant received for the Middlesex United Way. The cost of the presentation is \$4000.00.
- **Youth in Action (YIA)**  
No report
- **Great Initiatives Volunteering Everywhere (G.I.V.E.)**  
Neil English reported that G.I.V.E. will have a wear Red day to raise awareness and collecting money for the earthquake victims of Haiti on Friday, January 29, 2010.
- **Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC)**  
Betsy Chadwick introduced herself to the visitors and was happen to attend the special meeting to welcome the Chinese educators. No report this month from MCSAAC.
- **Killingworth Women's Organization (KWO)**

No report

- **Haddam-Killingworth Lions Club**

No report

- **School Resource Officer (SRO)**

Trooper Connelly reported that at the last HCHK meeting the discussion was that the DARE program may be discontinued due to budget cuts within the state. Trooper Connelly explained that the DARE program taught students the harmful effects of drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana and cigarette smoking to the Chinese educators. He informed the coalition that the DARE program will be continued for the sixth grade students. Each class will have 30 plus students attending. Cheryl Chandler announced that she, Kate Glendon and two other youth service bureaus directors met with Lt. Eckersley and also Sgt. Gilman about concerns with the lack of services that that organizations will be affected by with the budget cuts to the troopers programs in the future. Also discussed was the directors of Youth Service Bureaus would like to write letters of concerns to legislators regarding the police overtime cuts and how it will affect the programs that schools and Youth Service Bureaus run.

- **Habitat for Humanity**

No report

- **Haddam–Killingworth Recreation Department**

Frank Sparks passed out the first six month report of services and programs that the Recreation Department is running. The report was for the first half of the fiscal year 07/01/09 through December 31, 2009. There are in addition to camps and childcare every day there are fair amount of sport programs. Currently the Recreation Department has 24 basketball games every week for participants from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to adults with an additional 24 practices each week. Swim lessons are almost full thru June 2010. Fitness yoga had over 121 registered this season. H-K Recreation has programs in every school and also St. Lawrence church in Killingworth where a fitness class and a senior exercise class are held.

- **Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.**

See SPF/SIG and GLASS

- **School (s) Update**

No Report

- **Community Updates**

Pastor John Westerholm reported that Valley Bible Evangelical Free church handed out money to church members so that the members could multiply the money and give it away to a local charity within a 90 day period. This end date would be the end of January. Pastor Westerholm said that photography was a main interest of his and he wanted to find a picture that would be symbolic of young people. He chose the rock at H-K High School to photograph and sell to raise funds. Pastor Westerholm told the coalition that if that would like a copy of the photo to please make a donation to Youth & Family Services of H-K, Inc. Also, Pastor Westerholm offered each of the Chinese educators a copy of the photograph as a gift.

Pastor John Westerholm reported that Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church had hosted the community Thanksgiving service and raised \$1075.00 from all the churches of Haddam for the community food bank.

- Divinna Schmitt announced her support group Explosive Children is every third Wednesday at the Killingworth Library from 6:30 – 8:30pm.

## **5. Questions for Chinese educators**

Betsey Chadwick of MCSAAC asked the educators if marijuana is a problem in China and if so where do youngsters obtain it. The teachers replied No, it is not a problem. There are not a lot of drug, alcohol or smoking problems there. There is more like a curiosity. Tanja Moriarty asked, what are you doing to keep kids off marijuana and alcohol? They replied children learned that drinking and smoking are only for adults. Parents are in control. There is no legal drinking age. Eighteen years old is considered adult and is up to the individual. Most kids probably smoke and drink in the college years but more will begin when they start to work. Eileen Lawrence asked what do students do in free time after school. The reply was most families have only one child it is the policy in China. There is not a lot of time after school. School is from 8am – 5pm. Parents or Grandparents are home and students do homework. On weekends children will enjoy maybe a game or activity with family members. There is no community support. The support comes from parents and the school. Divinna Schmitt asked about emotional health in the schools. It is discussed and the teacher has to be a counselor and address any issues with a student on a one on one basis. There is a department within the school that will help students with emotional problems and also have activities to help them through.

Ernie gave a schedule to the coalition of the Chinese educators visit here in Haddam-Killingworth for the next two weeks.

**6. HCHK**

Kate Glendon announced that she had created several committees for HCHK coalition. The members would join the committees and this would make the coalition more active. This will change the style of the coalition for more activity and less reporting. Kate passed around a sheet with the committees on it and asked all to sign up for at least one committee and she will contact them.

**Next Meeting and adjournment**

Meeting officially adjourned: 9:10 am

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
HKHS lower Media Center at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann O'Mara