



**Community Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025
Live Bluffton High School Media Center and Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order 6:03 pm by Wendy Cummings, Chair

Approval of Minutes: approval of minutes November 2024 meeting, motioned by Jim Berl and seconded by Ms. Weitekamper

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government Agency/14th Solicitor's Office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant/DFC Grant Principal Investigator), Wendy Cummings (Schools/Co-Advisor Cross THY), Jim Berl (Youth Serving Organizations Sector/Island Rec Center), Master Sgt Craig Washington (Law Enforcement/Beaufort County Sheriff), Jennifer Weitekamper (Schools/THY Advisor, Hilton Head High), Pastor Lawson (Faith Based Sector/Grace Bible Church), Blake Burke (Youth/THY Cross Schools), Natalie Barnett (USCB Intern/ Fall 2024), Rachel Borack (Youth/HHCA THY), Maddie Lefen (Youth/HHCA THY), Blaire Blomeke (Youth/ HHCA THY, Erin Pawlak (Health Sector/Behavioral Wellness Group), Alayne Lawson (Schools/ Education Dept. USCB), Kyra Pasqualone (Youth/THY Bluffton H.S.), Aviana Stevens (Youth/THY Bluffton H.S.), Claudia Barrientos (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY), Sgt. Lancaster (Law Enforcement/Bluffton Police), Ellen Amdrea Andreoletti (Parent/ H.S. PTO President), April Small (Schools/THY Co-Advisor, Bluffton H.S.), Carrie Reeves (Youth/THY Cross Schools) , Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector/Bluffton H.S.). Staff: Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator); Mckencie Guerrero (DFC Co-Grant Coordinator, Kathy Bookshire (DFC Co-Coordinator), Ethan Barrera (Annual College Student Intern)

DFC Support Program Support Program Grant Update

Dr. Novince reported that ONDCP/CDC require a yearly continuation application for the DFC Support Program Grant, which will be submitted March 11, 2025. The application requires measurable Objectives be written, e.g. Reduce 30-day marijuana use by 3% by 9/29/2025 as measured by the Communities That Care (CTC) survey (grades 7, 9, & 11). She further noted that the CTC was not administered in grades 7, 9, & 11 in 2024. The DFC Evaluators and the CDC Project Officer have been informed of this challenge.

2024-2025 12 Month Action Plan to Prevent/Reduce Youth Marijuana Use.

Dr Novince introduced the 7 Strategies of Change and presented the 2024-2025 12 Month Action Plan to Prevent/Reduce Youth Marijuana Use (Grant Year 8, September 29, 2024 - September 30, 2025) for Board review. She asked for Board input. [See link here.](#)

12-Month Action Plan Updates/Ad-Hoc Committee Assignments

Teens for Healthy Youth

Laura Pirkey, LCAHY's Youth Coalition Coordinator, announced that all Teens for Healthy Youth groups will be working on January National Mental Health Awareness Month projects and preparing for February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Random Acts of Kindness Week. She called on representatives from each school in attendance to share THY initiatives at their schools.

Cross Schools THY Representatives Blake Burke and Caroline Reeves presented their THY Stress Awareness Project called Paws on Stress. Cross THY representatives did classroom presentations on how to deal with stress. THY Cross distributed the THY fact cards to students. In the morning, they had dogs and puppies come to school that kids had the opportunity to pet as a method to reduce stress. THY also promoted Charlie Brown movies and hot chocolate during lunch to foster a sense of community. Also, THY made Instagram posts about the dangers of energy drinks and created a humorous/light hearted video on energy drink awareness posted on Instagram. Cross also created a fact card to educate peers on the risks of energy drinks.

Bluffton High School THY Claudia Barrientos, Kyra Pasqualone, and Aviana Stevens from Bluffton High THY shared about doing the Angel Tree Project to benefit the Children's Abuse Prevention Agency (CAPA). THY at each school received a wish list for kids in need, collected donations, and purchased and wrapped gifts for youth in need. David Martin, Business Sector CIA, also donated to support this project. They also shared that THY participated in the annual Bluffton Christmas Day parade and handed out THY/LCAHY 3D Holiday campaign message with candy canes to discourage drunk, drugged, or distracted driving during the holiday season.. [See link to message here.](#) Over 2,500 messages were distributed to parade-goers. Laura Pirkey gave a thank you to April Small, THY advisor from Bluffton High, and Cara Vercellone, Civic Sector CIA, for walking in the parade with THY.

Hilton Head Christian THY Rachel Borack and Blair Blomeke, & Maddie LeFew from THY Hilton Head Christian Academy THY presented their school-wide stress project. THY provided a hot chocolate bar during midterms and handed out the THY Stress Fact Cards to their peers. THY HHCA also participated in the THY Angel Tree Project in December 2024.

Hilton Head High School THY HHIHS THY Advisor Jennifer Weitekamper shared that THY HHIHS handed out 1300 THY Stress Fact Cards and also created short stress videos for 5 days of school morning announcements. THY HHIHS also created a huge 3D Holiday Campaign Poster to discourage drunk, drugged, or distracted driving and posted it where the students exited the school to get on the bus.

Hilton Head Prep Middle School THY Laura Pirkey shared that Hilton Head Prep School is creating a middle school THY Club under the leadership of Jessica Hunt.

December Impaired/Distracted Driving Proclamation

Bluffton High School- THY Youth, Avi and Claudia accepted the proclamation on Distracted Driving issued by the mayor of Bluffton. After accepting the proclamation, they gave a short speech before the Town Council. Jennifer noted that Council meetings are broadcasted on the County TV channel,

Parent Sector Outreach: Cheryl Rodriguez presented that a Parent Survey was distributed electronically at the THY Induction Ceremony to parents in attendance. In addition, THY Advisors distributed this survey. Nineteen responses were received on what parents viewed as the health threats to teens today. ([Click here.](#)) Cheryl reported that through a parent meeting it was suggested that resources be given to parents through booster clubs and PTAs. Jennifer Weitekamper suggested the School Improvement Council as well as the Booster and PTA be contacted.. She also stated that every Class has a google page and sometimes the principals allow postings/resources on these pages. Additionally, Jennifer noted that she is not sure if there is any way to track how students are looking at the resources because this data would help in future planning.

Faith Based Sector: Pastor Lawson presented that the Advent Calendar ([see link](#)) created by his daughter, Sarah, a member of THY, was sent through the LCAHY offices to the Board, churches, and posted on social media. Each day had a Bible verse that addressed mental health and/or substance use was included. Pastor Lawson noted there is a Recovery Church on Hilton Head and in Bluffton. He has launched the Recovery Church in Bluffton. Each has a 12-Step Program and ministers to the entire family.

Community Business Compliance Recognition: Recognizing Businesses that did NOT serve alcohol, tobacco or vaping products is a priority. Dr. Novice introduced THY representatives, Claudia and Kyra who will draft a window decal for those businesses to place in their window(s) that will be presented to the Board. Wendy stated that she would like our towns to collaborate with LCAHY in recognizing these businesses as well.

USCB Intern Project Update: Natalie Barnett (USCB Student Intern) presented an update on her projects. She created a Fact Card for distribution to realtors and home sellers on removing prescription drugs from homes for sale. [See link](#). Natallie stated that the goal is to educate realtors and sellers on preventing opioids and other prescription drugs from being accessible to potential buyers when touring these homes. Natalie also created an information card on how to create Positive Childhood Experiences to prevent Childhood Adverse Experiences (ACES). [See link](#). Both cards are translated into Spanish and include QR code for additional resources.

Fund Development: May Day 5 K: Wendy presented that May Day 5K is one of our biggest fundraisers. She emphasized that everyone's participation is needed.. Wendy asked that everyone obtain one sponsor. **Heritage Birdies for Charity and Giving Tuesdays** are opportunities now that LCAHY is a 501(c)(3). Wendy asked for volunteers to look into how we can participate in these fund raising activities. Jim Berl volunteered to look into this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mentoring : Dr. Novince reported that we continue to identify mentoring programs to post on the LCAHY website. Pastor Lawson presented the Guide Right Program, which is designed for young men of elementary, middle, and highschool ages to grow and develop their leadership talents. Kathy Brookshire noted the Real Champions mentoring program targets vulnerable youth, K-12. Kathy also shared that the national office of Big Brothers/Big Sisters will discuss serving the LowCountry at their next meeting. Wendy also identified Low Country Crusaders.

Website:: Ethan Barrera presented that LCAHY's Board Member Button on the website will be activated. Information specific for Board members, such as the May Day 5K will be posted.

USCB Intern: Dr Novince announced that Lenora Leslie-Wright will serve as the USCB intern during the Spring semester.. Lenora is currently a senior in USCB's Public Health Program.

In-Kind Hours: Laura Pirkey reminded everyone to document their in-kind hours on the LCAHY website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next meeting is Monday February 10, 2025, Hilton Head High School Media Center

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary