



**Community Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025
Live Hilton Head High School Media Center and Via Zoom**

Entire meeting presentations translated live into Spanish for those in personal attendance and on Zoom.

Meeting called order 6:00 pm by Chair, Wendy Cummings.

Approval of Minutes: January meeting minutes were approved. Motion to Accept via Francine Tobin, Seconded by David Martin.

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), Leslie Vargas Prada (Community Foundation of the Low Country), David Martin, (Business/Piggly Wiggly), Susie Mauer (Health Professionals), Cara Vercellone (Civic/Bluffton Rotary), Pastor Lawson (Faith Based Sector/Grace Bible Church), Kaci Schutz (Youth/HHCA THY), Lillian Dowler (Youth/HHCA THY), Jill Lutz (Schools/THY Advisor, HHCA), Erin Pawlak (Health Sector/Behavioral Wellness Group), Kyra Pasqualone (Youth/THY Bluffton H.S.), Aviana Stevens (Youth/THY Bluffton H.S.), Claudia Barrientos (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY), Sarah Lawson (Youth/Bluffton H.S. THY), Ellen Andreoletti (Parent/ H.S. PTO President), Laura Fuller (Schools/THY Co-Advisor, HHIHS), Yomaira de Jesus (Youth/THY HHIHS), Jack Keller (Youth HHIHS), Anneliese Germany (Youth/May River HS THY), Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector/Bluffton H.S.), Staff: Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator); Kathy Brookshire (DFC Co-Coordinator), Ethan Barrera (Annual College Student Intern); Lenora Leslie-Wright (USCB Student Intern), Guests: Frank Soule (Executive Director, Island Rec Center, HHI), Dillon Haraburd (Island Security/HHI).

ANNOUNCEMENT: John Paul II Requests to Join THY: Dr. Novince announced that over the holidays two John Paul II High School students sent an email to the office stating that they were interested in having a THY group at their school. She and Laura, THY Coordinator, reached out to our CDC Project Officer to inquire if John Paul II High School, which is in Jasper County and outside of LCAHY's zip codes, could be included as a THY group and/or supported with DFC funds. Our CDC Project Office asked that we discuss this request with the LCAHY Board. Following the call with the

DFC/CDC officials, Dr. Novince informed the Executive Committee and our fiscal agent, the Community Foundation, of the lead DFC/CDC's recommendation. Dr. Novince also noted that following her and Laura's conversation with the CDC lead project director, Laura spoke with the JPII counselor who shared that they are interested in the work being done around prevention and mental health and wellness. She also noted that 65% of John Paul High School students reside in zip codes within the LCAHY service area. After a Board discussion, it was decided to support the development of a THY chapter at John Paul II.

DFC SUPPORT PROGRAM GRANT REQUIREMENTS/UPDATES

DFC Support Program Grant Requirements/Strategic Prevention Framework/Board Roles: Dr. Novince presented a brief PowerPoint on the following DFC Support Program Grant requirement of using the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPS) and then reviewed Board roles. She emphasized that the Board is responsible for implementing the 12 Month Action Plans and that staff provide a supportive role. She further explained that in the progress report submitted to DFC officials all grantees are required to identify Board involvement in activities under the 12 Month Action Plans. During the summer we will work on activities to complete by September 29, 2025, the end of DFC Grant Year 8.

She further stated that the 12 Month Action Plans and the budget will be submitted on March 11 to CDC/DFC officials for review and approval for DFC Grant Year 9 (September 29, 2025 - September 30, 2026). Dr. Novince then briefly explained the role of the fiscal agent, the Community Foundation of the Low Country, who has financial oversight and sole authority for drawing down DFC Grant funds.

She further stated that, due to not having CTC data, she will contact DAODAS and request the 2024 state data along with contacting Beaufort County District officials concerning future collection of data, which is a grant requirement.

DFC Goal 1: Building the Capacity of the Coalition

Dr. Novince presented a PPT of DFC Grant Year 8's 12 Month Action Plan, which addresses DFC Grant Goal 1, Building the Capacity of the Coalitions. The Board reviewed and provided remarks and recommendations for DFC Grant Year 9's 12 Month Action Plan. [See link here.](#)

12 MONTH ACTION PLAN UPDATES/AD-HOC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

TEENS FOR HEALTHY YOUTH (THY)

Laura Pirkey, LCAHY's Youth Coalition Coordinator, reported that the Teens for Healthy Youth (THY) recognition ceremony will take place at HH Christian Academy Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, from 6 PM- 7 PM. All board members are welcome to attend. Laura will reach out to board members to support the evening. She stated that Teens for Healthy Youth is working on the following national initiatives this month: February National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, American Heart Month, and Random Acts of Kindness Week.

Hilton Head High School THY: THY Leaders from HHIHS, Yomaira De Jesus & Ashley Louis presented programs THY HHIHS have worked on this year. Including a recent project in which THY HHIHS walked around the Hilton Head middle school during parent night to present information about LCAHY and THY. Yomaira added that Dr. Novice and Mrs. Pirkey addressed the interest of John Paul II and several middle schools show the awareness THY is getting for their work to promote positive teen health in the school and communities is working. They are working to expand THY within the Hispanic population. HHI THY hung posters in the school in both English and Spanish. THY HH is looking ahead to prom season in March to develop a project to discourage drunk, drugged, and distracted driving. Ashley expressed that as a new member, she is very impressed with the work of THY.

Hilton Head Christian Academy THY: THY members, Kaci Schutz and Lillian Dowler presented that they will address the fentanyl crisis by creating an awareness of the dangers of fentanyl through school social media and making bracelets for their peers that say “just know” to discourage use based on awareness of the dangers of fentanyl. Also, THY HHCA is working to plan its annual blood drive.

May River High School THY: Anneliese Germany, May River High School THY leader, presented that for January they addressed stress. THY members attached positive messages to stress balls to give to May River High students as they entered school. Anneliese reported this was very well received by her peers.

Cross Schools THY: Wendy Cummings, THY Advisor at Cross Schools, presented that THY members are working on a skit for a video. THY Cross is also making posters to create awareness for Random Acts of Kindness Week. THY is also planning to make bracelets for National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week in March.

Bluffton High School THY: Teens for Healthy Youth (THY) leaders at Bluffton High School, Kyra Pasqualone and Aviana Stevens presented a video made by THY to promote January Wellness Awareness Month. THY provided tips on how to develop one’s wellness and challenged their peers to start the new year off by making these recommendations part of their routine. Some tips include but are not limited to eating right, getting enough sleep, focusing on a positive outlook, and reaching out to loved ones. They put together a slide show of students holding up a paper in which they wrote their goals. THY made a video for the morning student morning news for the entire school that provided an awareness of January Wellness Awareness Month, tips for improving wellness, and all the pictures of kids who participated in this event. THY Bluffton also participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week by handing out pencils with positive messages with the THY logo to students as they entered school in the morning on Feb. 14th, 2025. They proudly displayed their banner that reads, “Make kindness the norm every day”. THY members also reported that they are creating a skit on teen dating violence and how to know if you are in an unhealthy relationship for February Teen Dating Violence (TDV) Awareness Month. They plan to share the THY TDV fact card with their peers and then take a quiz on the information for a chance to win a gift basket put together through their donations.

14th Circuit Victims Services Center Promotes THY’s Teen Dating Violence Prevention Efforts:

Dr. Novince announced that in support of THY’s efforts to educate about teen dating violence prevention, Michele Fraser, 14th Circuit Victims Services Center director, posted THY’s teen dating violence fact card on the 14th Circuit Solicitor’s Public Announcement Digital Board. Francine noted that this display is seen by all people coming in and out of the Victim Services Center or Solicitor’s office building where the LCAHY office is located.

Community Business Compliance Recognition: Kyra and Claudia, Bluffton High THY, presented a draft of a poster/sticker they designed for businesses to post recognizing and thanking them for NOT selling e-cigarettes or vapes. Businesses who were in compliance with LCAHY recommendations and NOT selling to Youth will be provided with a sticker. There is a QR code on the sticker to allow people to scan for more information about LCAHY.

Social Host Law Amendment: Pastor Lawson and Sara Lawson presented on an activity in the 12 Month Action Plan to Prevent youth marijuana use under Strategy 7, Changing Policies. to amend Social Host Law in South Carolina to include marijuana. They presented the Connecticut Social Host Law as an example. [See link](#)

Sector/Community Outreach

Parent Sector: Cheryl Rodriguez presented that 1-2-3 Driving School may be a good place to provide LCAHY information for teens and parents that could be included in a packet that they give to students. The owner of 1-2-3 Drive, Doreen Haughton-James, is open to the idea. She further reported that she and Dr. Novince will be meeting with Doreen this week. Cheryl also met with the counselors and social workers at River Ridge Academy. They have concerns about vaping among middle school students. The social worker also expressed her concern around her work at a rehab facility on the weekends where she sees psychotic effects of marijuana use. Cheryl noted that River Ridge Academy is interested in having a THY chapter at their middle school. They suggested that they would like a proposal of what a middle school THY program would look like. Cheryl stated that she and Dr. Novince spoke about getting a committee together to look at what a middle school THY would look like. Wendy noted that 1-2-3 Driving School has been a May Day 5K donor. and to thank Doreen for their past sponsorship.

Faith Based Sector: Pastor Lawson said he plans to look into messaging during Spring/Lent.

Community Outreach Opportunities: Susie Mauer reported that Latitude Margaritaville, which has 2000 homes, will host a non-profit/volunteer fair in March. The 2025 Non-Profit expo at Bluffton Library will take place on May 3 from 11-1. Susie encouraged Board members to volunteer to staff the LCAHY exhibit tables.

USCB Intern Project Update: Dr. Novince, LCAHY/USCB intern preceptor, introduced Lynora Leslie-Wright, USCB senior majoring in public health, who will intern with LCAHY during the Spring semester. Lynora gave a brief introduction to her projects. Recently, she created an E-News for Black History Month that highlighted black pioneers in public health. [See link here](#). Due to an interest in tips on having conversations with children from preschool through adolescence about the dangers of alcohol and drugs, she will create an E-News with resources and an informational fact card.

LCAHY Website: Ethan Barrera (LCAHY Annual Intern) presented changes to the Board Member button on the website, which will include information about the May Day 5K solicitation. The password for the Board members is “lcahy2012”.

New Business: THY Invited to Serve as SC Smoke Free Youth Summit’s Keynote Speakers

Dr. Novince, who serves on the Advisory Board of the state agency, SC Smoke Free, announced that Teens for Healthy Youth representatives have been invited to serve as the keynote speakers at SC Smoke Free’s inaugural Youth Vaping summit to be held on April 30, 2025 in Columbia. THY representatives will present on the Ordinance changes they have influenced in Bluffton and Hilton Head. The amendment includes adding e-cigarettes to their Smoking Ordinance. Teens will also present on the activities implemented/proposed educating about the health dangers of vaping and quitting.

May Day 5K: Wendy presented that all Board members can go to the Board member button on the website and view May Day 5K solicitation documents that include a spreadsheet identifying who has solicited a sponsor in the past. You can also list the businesses you, as Board members, intend to solicit for sponsorship.

Birdies for Charity: Wendy announced that we missed the application deadline for Birdies for Charity 2025 but we will apply May 1 to meet the deadline for 2026. This is another opportunity for charitable donations. Tuesday, Dec 2nd, is Giving Tuesday. Wendy proposed that we look into how to set up a campaign to participate.

Environmental Scan: Laura presented that an environmental scan of vape stores by Board members is planned for March. This activity is included in the 12 Month Action Plan to prevent/reduce youth use of e-cigarettes. Wendy Cummings, Jill Lutz, David Martin, and Ellen Andreoletti volunteered to conduct the scans, which will take place in Bluffton and Hilton Head.

WHHI/LCAHY Basketball PSA: Dr. Novince presented on the Basketball PSA created by WHHI for LCAHY that addresses the effects of drugs on athletic performance. [See link to PSA here.](#)

In kind support documentation – Laura reminded everyone to report in kind hours. We are in year 8. Documentation is done through LCAHY website, look for clock icon on home page. Password is positivechoices.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Next meeting March 17, 2025, 6 pm at Bluffton High.

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary