



**LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth
MEETING MINUTES-March 15, 2021
ZOOM MEETING**

Meeting called to order 6:02 pm by Chair Wendy Cummings.
Minutes: February 8, 2021 meeting minutes approved.

Attendance: *Board:* Wendy Cummings (Chair/Cross Schools THY Co-Advisor), Jim Berl (Youth Serving Organization/Rec Center) Francine Norz Tobin (Government Organization/Solicitor's Office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant), Galen Sturup-Comeau (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD), Sydney Wood (Schools/THY HHP Advisor), Wade Bishop (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD), Bonifacio Perez (Law Enforcement/Bluffton PD), Pamela Maddox (Schools/Asst. Principal McCracken), Craig Washington (Law Enforcement/BC Sheriff's Department), Cheryl George (Health Professional/THY Co-Advisor Bluffton), Pastor Lisa Schrott (Faith/First Presbyterian), Jennifer Weidner (Parent/Bluffton High School), Audrey Weidner (Youth/THY Bluffton High), Evelyn Cartmel (Youth/THY Bluffton High) *Staff:* Tia Bowers (DFC Grant Project Coordinator), Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Project Director/THY Youth Coordinator)

CDC/DFC GRANT UPDATES: Dr. Novince presented that it has been a challenge to collect data during COVID. She asked the Board to participate in a Poll during the Zoom meeting, which will provide perceptions on youth risk factors for substance use in the domains of self, family, school, and community. Data collected will be compared to data collected in 2014. Those not in attendance will be asked to complete the Poll at a later date.

Update on the Seven Strategies of Change (Interventions) to Reduce Youth Access/Availability to E-Cigarettes During COVID

Dr. Novince asked the Board to examine the Seven Strategies of Change created on 1/27/20 and to provide challenges due to COVID. A summary of Board input includes but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Provide Information: LCAHY E-News educated youth and adults about the consequences of providing tobacco products to minors. Face-to face education was restricted due to COVID.
- 2) Enhance Skills: Wade announced that training for store employees about the law/ID checks was tabled due to COVID. Sgt. Perez reported that under S.C. Code Section 1617500 employers must train employees about alcohol and tobacco product sale laws.
- 3) He also reported that legislation is pending which will determine the required training time/hours and if the training will be free. Officer Perez and Sgt. Washington conduct trainings for students and school personnel. However, due to COVID restrictions, trainings were tabled. Sgt. Perez said that he is receiving reports that students are vaping marijuana.
- 4) Provide Support: Wade reported that due to COVID his agency has not received referrals from the schools to provide education on tobacco.
- 5) Enhance Access/Reduce Barriers: Translation of smoking/e-cigarette laws from English to Spanish is needed. Environmental Scans were cancelled due to COVID. Galen reported that environmental scans show that e-cigarettes are not always placed in locked cases in stores.
- 6) Change Incentives/Disincentives: This is something we need to look at. SLED may be able to give us information as to stores that are in compliance so we can recognize stores in compliance.
- 7) Change Physical Design: Signage about laws is needed.
- 8) Modify/Change Policies: Wendy submitted a request to HH Town Council to amend the Smoking Ordinance to include vaping, which would include language similar to the Town of Bluffton's

amendment to their Smoking Ordinance passed in August 2019. Due to a Bill in legislation, she reported that it is not certain if HH Town Council will have the ability to amend their Smoking Ordinance.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS1 :2 MONTH ACTION PLAN UPDATES

Teens for Healthy Youth:

THY Bluffton - Evelyn Cartmel, THY member, announced that during National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (March 22 to March 28th) THY will encourage all BLHS students to participate in "Shatter the Myths" drug fact trivia provided by National Institute on Drug Abuse during their lunch time. Students who complete the trivia challenge will receive a certificate of completion. Two students who submit their completed certificate to Mrs. Pirkey will win a gift card for participating. This story will be featured in Bluffton High School student news, "No Cap News"

Audrey Weidner, THY member, presented on THY's efforts to encourage Beaufort County Schools to update signage. This project is in collaboration with Dr. Frank Rodriguez Beaufort County School District Superintendent. THY wants tobacco free campus and no smoking signage amended to include no vaping or use of electronic device. The signage will be posted in the parking lots and near athletic fields. The school district is looking for possible funding to get signage changed throughout the schools. BCSD grant specialist, Terre Bennet, and Candance Bruder, Director of Communications, will support this effort and be in contact with Laura Pirkey, Youth Coordinator for THY. THY Bluffton plans to put up posters they will develop that educate their peers on the dangers of vaping. They intend to target athletes by focusing on how vaping affects athletes. This signage will be posted in the locker rooms and near athletic fields.

Laura reported that THY Bluffton also plans to use the Prevention Plus Wellness SPORTS Training to do peer to peer education with students at McCracken Middle School. Mrs. Maddox, assistant principal and LCAHY Education CIA, will reach out to the lead teachers to set up a virtual peer to peer training.

THY Cross Schools - Wendy Cummings, THY Co-advisor reported that Cross Schools is working on May Day 5K tee shirt design competition and on a project for National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. THY members also made a banner to support Bluffton High Students to show support for peers at Bluffton High grieving the loss of a high school football player shot last week while driving himself and several other students. Another student athlete was seriously injured.

Sustainability/Fundraising

5K Run/Walk- Intern, Grey Anne Cummings, submitted a written update to the Board, which included the following: We have a title sponsor – Beaufort Memorial Hospital. The Bluffton Sun/Hilton Head Sun will donate advertising space in the April and May issues. We are in need of a Finish Line sponsor. We can have multiple sponsorships for Gold, Silver, and Friends of LCAHY. Joy drafted a press release and race description for magazine calendars will be submitted by Tia. Wendy reviewed the sponsorship site and encouraged everyone to solicit sponsors and race participants. She also announced that the deadline for t-shirt competition was extended.

Piggly Wiggly Fund Raiser - Laura Pirkey announced that LCAHY Board Member & Business CIA, David Martin, has an opportunity for Teens for Healthy Youth to bag groceries at his grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, to earn tips as donation for Teens for Healthy Youth. Heritage Foundation will also donate 10% of the tips earned. Laura wants to get THY members & Advisors from each school to cover the shifts and bag groceries.

Belk Charity Event - Laura reported that she will reach out to Belk to see if they will be doing their annual spring Charity Event.

Action Points (Rx Fact Card Social Shares and E-News Social Shares)

Rx Fact Card Social Shares – Wendy encouraged everyone to continue documenting Rx Fact Card Shares
Rx Take Back Day- Wade reported Take Back Day is April 24, 2021. Teens for Healthy Youth will be in attendance to distribute Rx fact cards and Medication Safety fact cards. Laura will coordinate times for THY groups to sign-up. The Take Back events will take place at the Beaufort County Government Buildings in Beaufort and Bluffton. Wendy asked if the 5K run/walk flyer could be distributed. Wade responded, yes.

Facebook Shares - Galen reported that the Beaufort Drug and Alcohol Dept has its own Facebook page and can share LCAHY info. Tia is to follow-up with Galen and provide info regarding 5K race and any other LCAHY events for posting on Facebook.

Underage Drinking Signage During Covid- Wade reported that he met with David and had 30 “Make Them Show their Face” signs laminated, which were given to the Town of Port Royal Police Dept. The signage is a collaborative effort of the Alcohol Enforcement Team and LCAHY. The Port Royal Police Department is conducting compliance checks and will encourage businesses to post the signage, which encourages businesses to ID by making those purchasing alcohol to show their face and remove their mask to verify ID.

Community Outreach- USCB Career Volunteer Fair- David Martin staffed a LCAHY table at the University of S.C. Beaufort (USCB) career/volunteer fair to recruit students to volunteer with LCAHY. He distributed 30 5K flyers.

Virtual Trainings- Dr. Novince has been in contact with MUSC, and they are interested in collaborating with us on trainings. She will provide updates. She also noted that LCAHY was the recipient of a \$750.00 “Communities That Talk” stipend awarded by SAMHSA, which is to support a project to prevent youth alcohol use and other drugs by December 31, 2021. In the past, the stipend was used to support funding a community forum.

Other

Curbside Narcan Training- Galen announced that the Beaufort Drug and Alcohol Dept is providing 5 min training and will give Narcan to individuals trained on April 10. Galen will send the flyer to Tia to distribute. Wendy presented that a DFC coalition had partnered with their health department to train individuals and distribute Narcan. The cost of the Narcan met their in-kind match during COVID. She asked if Wade would contact the individual who worked with this coalition to determine if LCAHY could partner on such an initiative locally.

Synar Survey- Galen presented that THY may want to participate in assisting with data collections from establishments that sell tobacco. Teens to go to stores and attempt to purchase tobacco and record results. Wade stated that his agency has not received an update on the logistics and if students will be paid a fee. Laura said that THY members may be interested in working with the project. Wade also announced that Nicole Smith, SC Alcohol Enforcement Team, and Chandler Horney, SLED, are in need of youth support when conducting compliance checks.

In-Kind Support Documentation

Wendy encouraged everyone to document in-kind support.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Next ZOOM Meeting is Monday April 19, 2021 at 6 pm.

