



LOWCOUNTRY ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY YOUTH

Community Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2025

Live Hilton Head High School Media Center and Via Zoom

Meeting was translated live into Spanish for those in personal attendance and on Zoom

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

Approval of Minutes: March meeting minutes were approved. Motion to Accept via Francine Tobin, Seconded by Dillion Haraburd.

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government/Solicitor's office), Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant), Paster Jeff Lawson (Faith Sector/), Mary Lou Haraburd (Business), Dillion Haraburd (Business), Wendy Cummings (LCAHY Chair/Health Sector), Laura Fuller (HHI THY Co-Advisor), Aviana Stevens (Youth CIA & BLHS THY President), Claudia Barrientos (BLHS THY Member), Kyra Pasqralone (BLHS THY Member), Ashlyn Elrod (MRHS THY President, Darby Linkimer (HHIHS THY Member), Chris Knight (Business/Pulseology), Cara Varcellone (Civic/BlufftonRotary), Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector/Bluffton H.S.), April Small (BLHS THY Co-Advisor), Sarah Lawson (BLHS THY Member), Ellen Andreoletti (Parent Sector/Bluffton H.S.), Tamyra Bolden (BLHS THY member), Finnley Levensaler (HHI Prep THY member). *Staff:* Kathy Brookshire (DFC Grant Coordinator), Mckencie Guerrero (DFC Grant Coordinator) Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator). USCB Interns: Ethan Barrera and Lenora Leslie-Wright. Guest Presenter: Major Frank O'Neal, SLED.

Bylaws Amendments: Due to additional proposed edits and a lack of a quorum, the Bylaw's vote was tabled. [See link here to proposed Bylaws.](#)

GUEST PRESENTATION

Major Frank O'Neal

Narcotics, Alcohol, and Vice Services, Sled

TOPIC: THC Consumables & Public Safety

Major O'Neal's presentation included the following topics:

THC Consumables...How Did We Get Here in SC?

What is THC Consumable?

The History Behind Hemp THC Drinks in SC

SC is Currently Allowing Marijuana Beverages in SC, Not Hemp Beverages

Who is the Industry Marketing to?

SC Child Fatality Investigations 2024

Unknown Effects of THC Beverages and Medical Concerns

Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome

More Teens Who Use Marijuana are Suffering from Psychosis

Key Provisions in S.C. House Bill 392 [See link to PPT presentation.](#)

12 Month Action Plan Updates/Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

Teens for Healthy Youth:

Bluffton High THY: Avi Steven, THY member, reported that they created morning news sessions, including trivia regarding vaping, alcohol, addiction, and the developing teen brain facts. One trivia fact was shared daily on the student news morning show. Kyra Pasqualone presented that THY Bluffton is preparing for May Mental Health Awareness Month. The students are developing their posters for teens based on resources from MHA and NAMI. THY is coordinating with a teacher to bring service dogs to the school during final exam week. The THY Coping Stress Fact card was shared with all students in their grade level classroom to help students prepare for AP, EOC, and final exams. THY members are creating informational tents for MHAM to place on the tables during lunch for students to read. They will promote the theme that Mental Health Can't Wait. Claudia Barrientos reported that THY succeeded in bringing in 5 sponsors for our May Day 5k race and will have volunteer THY members on the day of the race.

Hilton Head High THY: Darby Linkner, THY member, presented that in April, students created alcohol awareness videos to share in student school news. THY Hilton Head is working on polling for new officers for next year. In March, THY HHIHS created bulletin boards to provide THY Fact cards to the school and staff, including information on alcohol, marijuana, and vapes. Informational packets are posted in the bathrooms so students can take the information privately. THY HHIHS is putting up posters promoting the May Day 5K.

May River High THY: Ashlyn Elrod, THY member, presented that THY MRHS created a video in which they interviewed the school nurse and SRO regarding the risks and dangers of teen use of drugs and alcohol. They also shared the THY Vaping fact card and put it on cafeteria tables.

Cross Schools THY: Wendy Cummings, THY Advisor, presented. THY Cross schools are promoting May Mental Health Awareness Month. THY Cross will have a "Be See in Green Day" and are giving out green stickers. THY will distribute Mental Health fact cards. After school on April 29, there will be rock painting for the 1st-4th grade with positive sayings on the back of rocks to promote a positive school culture. Everyone is working on sponsors for the May Day 5K.

Hilton Head Prep Middle School THY: THY member, Finnley Levensaler, presented. This month, the school focused on vaping. Students created a Kahoot with vaping facts. The students used a vaping awareness video to create the Kahoot! The students focused on vaping to prevent middle schoolers from vaping.

SC Smoke Free Youth Vaping Summit: Dr. Novince announced that the inaugural SC Smoke Free Youth Vaping Summit will be held in Columbia, SC April 30, 2025. THY members Ashland Elrod and Avi Stevens will present as keynote speakers. The focus is the work THY has done around vaping and cigarettes over the years.

LCAHY Environmental Scan of Vape Shops : LCAHY Board Member, Ellen Andreoletti, shared the data collected from the 18 vape store locations in Bluffton and Hilton Head. LCAHY Board members (David Martin, Dillon Haraburd, Ellen Andreoletti, Geoffrey M. Lawson, Susie Maurer, Wendy

Cummings, and Co-DFC Grant Coordinator Kathy Brookshire) surveyed the stores using Google Forms. During the scans, they answered questions about advertisements that promoted the sale of vapes, vaping paraphernalia, and edibles/drinks. They also recorded information on signage that included risks of substance use, signage about ID checks, and signage discouraging the sale to minors. The number of signs available in Spanish was also recorded. In addition, LCAHY members assessed how easy it would be for youth to access vapes from this establishment and on the business website. The data collected indicates that there needs to be more signage about ID checks to purchase vapes or vaping paraphernalia, and signs indicating the minimum age required to purchase. Data showed that there was no signage posted stating the risks of vaping or edibles. The scan also showed that signage in Spanish is needed. [See link to survey results here.](#) Ellen also reported that one store offered online purchasing, which was not secure as there was no verification to support the buyer was of age. One Bluffton Store owner said he didn't let those under 21 in the store. He believes most youth purchase online. Conducting an environmental scan is an activity in LCAHY's 12-Month Action Plan under Strategy 6: Change Physical Design under the Seven Strategies of Community Level Change.

THY E-Cigarette Environmental Scan of Gas Stations: Avi Stevens reported that THY completed a scan of vapes stores in Hilton Head and noticed that stores did not have any specific signage about checking IDs to purchase, nor did the stores have Spanish signage. She noted that there were many flashy advertisements for vapes inside and outside the stores.

Amendment to Social Host Law: Pastor Lawson presented that he and his daughter, Sarah Lawson, will continue to research an amendment to the SC Social Host Law to include all illicit substances.

Sector/Community Outreach:

123 Driving Academy Project Update: Intern Ethan Barrera presented that Doreen Haughton-James, owner of 123 Driving Academy, approved the final flyer, SC Social Host Laws: "Know the Consequences" created by Ethan Barerra, LCAHY Intern and Mackencie Guerrero, DFC Co-Grant Coordinator. This flyer will be put into the packets handed out to students and parents enrolled in the 123 Driving Academy. Approximately 150 packets will be distributed monthly. [See flyer here.](#)

Community Outreach Opportunities: Dr. Novince reported on behalf of Susie Mauer. She will staff the LCAHY information table at the Non-Profit Expo to be held at Bluffton Library on May 3 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

USCB Intern Project Presentation: USCB Leonora Leslie-Wright completed her internship with LCAHY under the preceptorship of Dr. Novince. She presented her final project, an E-News and a fact card on Talking to Your Child at Every Age about Alcohol and Drugs. [See link to E-News](#) and [fact card here.](#)

Fund Development/May Day 5K: Wendy announced that Board members can go to the Board button on our website and see who has been a sponsor in the past. You can list businesses you, as a Board member, intend to approach for sponsorship. Password for the Board Member tab on our website is lcahy2012. She noted that any sponsor who has committed should be updated on the flyers created to post. McKenzie presented a business sized card that includes information for registering for the May Day 5K and information on sponsorship levels. [See link to May Day 5K business card.](#)

Nomination to LCAHY 2025-2026 Officers: Wendy reviewed nomination procedures to be used once Bylaw's edits are approved.

DFC Grant Year 8 In-Kind Documentation: Laura presented that we all need to document our in kind hours. Advisors of THY groups should keep track of the activities within their respective groups and encourage students to document by reminding them of the events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next Meeting is Monday May 12, 2025 at Bluffton High School.

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary