

**LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth
Community Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023
Live Hilton Head High School Media Center and Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order 6:05 pm by Wendy Cummings, Chair

Approval of Minutes: October 2023 meeting minutes were approved. Motion made by Francine Tobin and seconded by Sgt. Washington.

Attendance: Francine Norz Tobin (Government Agency/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 Organization/Island Rec Center), Ben Vaught (Youth/THY Bluffton H.S.), Sgt. Craig Washington (Law enforcement/Beaufort County Sheriff Dept, SRO at Hilton Head High School), Sgt. Terry Hardin (Law enforcement/Bluffton Police Dept./SRO at Bluffton High School), Peyton Dobbs (THY Youth, Hilton Head Christian Academy), Caroline Thomas (THY Youth, Hilton Head Christian Academy), Galen Sturup Cameau (Substance Abuse Agency/BCADAD), David Martin (Business/Piggly Wiggly), Jill DelGuercio (Schools/THY Advisor, Hilton Head Christian Academy), George Hussey (Youth/THY Hilton Head H.S.), Vanessa Silverlo (Youth/THY Hilton Head H.S.), Yomaira DeJesus (Youth/Hilton Head H.S.), Florentina Hartley (Schools/THY Hilton Head H.S. Advisor), Katherine Armstrong (Schools/Bluffton THY Co-Advisor), Jillian Campanella (Youth/THY Hilton Head Christian Academy), Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector). *Staff:* Kathy Brookshire (DFC Grant Coordinator). Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director /Youth Coalition Coordinator). *Intern:* Jaci Coleman/USCB. *Guest:* Dr. Susan Williams/Health Professional.

DFC Support Program Grant Updates/Requirements:

Dr. Novince noted that this is the 25th Anniversary of the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, and that she collaborated with Congressman Portman in 1998 when Congress enacted the DFC. She then reviewed several grant requirements/restrictions. See presentation: [Board PPT 11.12.2023 \(2\).pptx](#)

12 MONTH ACTION PLAN UPDATES/AD-HOC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Teens for Healthy Youth (THY)

Laura Pirkey, LCAHY’s Youth Coalition Coordinator, called up THY representatives to present. THY Bluffton H.S.: Ben Vaught, Co-President, presented. THY at Bluffton High have been hanging up “6 Reasons to Quit Vaping” posters created by LCAHY’s summer interns for November Vape-free/Smoke-free month. Wrist bands will be given to students who make a pledge to remain smoke/vape free. The wrist bands say, “Be Kind to Your Mind” and “The best Me, is Drug Free”. They plan to create a collage of vape-free/smoke-free pledge cards collected. THY members are also reading morning announcements about the dangers and risks of vaping throughout the month of November. A group of THY members will be presenting Prevention Plus Wellness Vaping Program to Bluffton Boys and Girls Club near the end of the month.

Bluffton PD Safety Spooktacular

THY Hilton Head Christian Academy: Peyton Dobbs and Caroline Thomas presented. Members staffed the THY table at the Town of Bluffton’s Safety Spooktacular Event by facepainting youth and passing out THY’s Medicine Safety Tips to parents to create an awareness for Medicine Safety during October Medicine Abuse Awareness Month.

THY Hilton Head H.S.: George Hussey reported that they also staffed the THY information table at the Town of Bluffton's Safety Spooktacular night.

Laura stated that THY passed out over 500 coloring flyers that read "Say Boo to Drugs" and "Say Boo to Bullying". All five high school THY groups (Bluffton H.S., Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, Cross Schools, Hilton Head H.S., and May River H.S.) were represented at this community event.

THY/Bluffton Christmas Parade: Laura noted that Teens for Healthy Youth will participate in the Bluffton Christmas parade and distribute LCAHY's 3D Holiday Driving Campaign message and candy to discourage drunk, drugged, and distracted driving. In 2019, Mayor Sulka chose THY as the parade grand co-marshals for their support and involvement in the Town of Bluffton's Distracted Driving Campaign.

November Smoke Free/Vape Free Month Proclamation: Both the Towns of Bluffton and Hilton Head will issue Proclamations in support of Smoke Free/Vape Free Month.

Capacity Building/Community Outreach:

LCAHY Staffed an Information Table at Safety Spooktacular: Community board members, Erin Pawlak, Tiffanie Elrod, and Dr. Novince along with THY members, Payton Ward and Ashlyn Elrod distributed Halloween bags that included LCAHY's informational brochure and LCAHY's Proper Medication Disposal Fact card, along with other prevention resources, and a fact card for parents/caregivers, Talk Early and often to your Children about their Health and Wellness

Civic Organization Presentation: Dr. Novince and Amber Van Horn presented to the Bluffton Kiwanis to educate them about LCAHY's and THY's initiatives. An interest in the "We ID the LCAHY Way" training was expressed.

"We ID the LCAHY WAY" Training: David Martin presented that he will be coordinating a "We ID the LCAHY" training for those serving alcohol at festivals and the Heritage Golf Tournament. Galen will be updating the training program regarding fake ID's.

OTHER/DFC 12 MONTH ACTION PLAN UPDATES

LCAHY Rx Campaign Outreach: David announced that he serves on the water board (South end of Hilton Head) and presented about LCAHY's Rx disposal campaign, which addresses the environment/keeping our water safe. They will promote LCAHY's campaign message including locations as to where to drop off unused meds year-round. Dr. Novince reported that she spoke to the president of the water board (North end of Hilton Head) about distributing the LCAHY Rx fact card in their mailings.

SC Opioid Settlement Fund: David met with the Town Manager of Hilton Head about funding THE Town received from the Opioid Settlement fund. The Town of Hilton Head has not yet decided how the Town will use these funds. He also noted that Bluffton received funding and that funds were distributed to all counties and towns in SC. Dr. Novince announced that she met with the Town administrator of Bluffton to discuss their intent. She also noted that LCAHY plans to apply for funding.

DEA Rx Take Back Day: Approximately 18 cars dropped off meds this year. Galen presented that the sheriff officers collected 43 pounds of medication at the RX Take Back Day. This is the least amount dropped off on a Take Back Day. It appears that the year round drop box locations are effective.

Update on SC Student Community that Cares Survey: Galen presented that the Beaufort County School District is submitting the Survey to their legal department for review. Wendy said that Cross Schools will not participate. Jill DelGuercio, THY Advisor Head Christian School, reported that they will participate in the survey.

USCB Intern Presentation. Jaci Coleman is currently a senior and a public health major. She gave a brief presentation on her internship projects under Dr. Novince who served as her preceptor. She has been working on E-News alerts. She created a fact card for parents/caregivers, Talk Early and Often to Your Children About Their Health and Wellness. Jaci is also working on an E-News alert about National Communicate with your Kids Day. See [Intern Project Summary.pptx](#).

New DFC Staff Introduction: Dr. Novince introduced Kathy Brookshire has been hired as DFC Grant Coordinator on part time basis. Kathy has a master's in public health.

2023-2024 12 MONTH ACTION PLAN ADDRESSING YOUTH E-CIGARETTE USE

Dr. Novince presented the 2022 CTC student vaping data. See slides 4 and 5 [Board PPT 11.12.2023 \(2\).pptx](#)

Dr. Novince introduced DFC Goal II, Prevent and Reduce Youth Substance Use. She asked Board members to refer to the Seven Strategies of Community Level Change used by the Board to create the DFC Grant Year 7, 12 Month Action Plan, which was approved by DFC/CDC officials. Selected activities identified by the Board, which targeted youth use of e-cigarettes were reviewed and Board input was given. [2023-2024 E-Cig. 12 Month Action Plan \(1\).docx](#)

During the review of the strategies/activities to prevent/reduce youth e-cigarette use, Sgt. Washington and Sgt. Harden: expressed their frustration that the consequences in schools for use of E-Cigarettes (whether nicotine or THC) are not strong enough to discourage student use and that the use of E-Cigarettes is very high among students. Francine noted that the LCAHY coalition works to create strategies that promote positive youth development through education about the risks of e-cigarette use.

When the activity of environmental scans, under Strategy 4 (Reduce Access) was presented, Laura announced that in 2024 THY will conduct an environmental scan of local sellers of E-Cigarettes/vaping paraphernalia. Dr. Novince noted that THY received a grant to promote education regarding the prevention of E-Cigarette use by youth, including educating about cessation strategies.

New Business: Galen presented that the SC State Synar Study will take place in 2024. The Beaufort County Drug and Alcohol Agency has been asked to recruit volunteers, ages 18-20 for the Synar Study. The volunteers will attempt to purchase vapes and cigarettes to see if the establishments will sell to underage volunteers. Data collected South of the Broad will be used by the LCAHY Board to address strategies/activities around youth access.

In kind support documentation – Laura reminded everyone to report in-kind hours as we are in grant year 7. However, she encouraged everyone to also complete documenting in-kind hours for grant year 6. The password is positivechoices for documenting hours.

At the next meeting, we will continue working on the 12 Month Action Plan.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

The schedule for meetings is as follows:
December 18, 2023 -Bluffton High School Media Center
January 22, 2024 -Hilton Head High School Media Center
February 26, 2024 -Bluffton High School Media Center
March 18, 2024 -Hilton Head High School Media Center

April 22, 2024- Bluffton High School Media Center
May 20, 2024- Hilton Head High School Media Center
June 17, 2024 -Bluffton High School Media Center
July 2024- no meeting

Respectfully submitted, -- Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary