



**LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth  
Community Board Meeting  
November 18, 2024  
Hilton Head High School Media Center and Via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Wendy Cummings, Chair (Schools/Co-Advisor Cross Schools THY); Jim Berl (Youth Serving Organizations Sector/Island Rec Center); Dr. Loretta Novince (LCAHY/DFC Grant Consultant/DFC Grant Principal Investigator); David Martin (Business Sector/Piggly Wiggly); Dr Ronda Ayler (Health Care Professionals/Wright Directions Family Services); Erin Pawlak (Health Professional/Behavioral Wellness Group); Ellen Andreoletti (Parent Sector/Bluffton HS), Pastor Geoffrey Lawson (Faith-Based Sector/Grace Bible Church); Sarah Lawson (Youth/THY Bluffton HS); Cheryl Rodriguez (Parent Sector/Bluffton HS); Dr. Avilda Graham (School Sector/Beaufort County); Jill Lutz (Schools/THY Advisor HHCA); April Small (Schools/THY Advisor Bluffton HS); Aviana Stevens (Youth/THY Bluffton HS), Claudia Barrientos (Youth/THY Bluffton HS), Kyra Pasqualone (Youth/THY Bluffton HS); Master Sgt Craig Washington (Law Enforcement/Beaufort County Sheriff's Office); Sgt Cecil Lancaster (Law Enforcement/Bluffton PD), Susie Mauer (Healthcare Professional/Nurse); Laura Fuller (Schools/THY Advisor HHIHS); Jessica Hunt (Schools/THY Advisor HH Prep); Danielle Ryan (Youth/THY HHIHS); Derek Skaggs, Ph.D. (Schools/Director of Student Success, Beaufort County School District). *Staff:* Mckencie Guerrero (DFC Co-Grant Coordinator), Kathy Brookshire (DFC Co-Grant Coordinator Ethan Barrera (Annual College Student Intern), Laura Pirkey (DFC Grant Program Director and Youth Coalition Coordinator), Featured Speaker: Natalie Barnett (USCB Student Intern).

**Welcome:** Wendy welcomed everyone to the meeting by starting with introductions with name of sector represented. A thank you was extended to Soleil Vicaro of Bluffton THY for the cookies.

**Approval of Minutes:** The October meeting minutes were approved. Motion to approve by Jim Berl. A second motion was given by Erin Pollack.

**Featured Presenter/Natalie Barnett, USCB Intern**

Dr Novince introduced Natalie Barnett, featured presenter for the board meeting. Natalie is a public health student at USCB interning with LCAHY during the Fall Semester. Dr. Novince serves as her preceptor. Natalie completed two projects, which support activities in LCAHY's 12 Month Action Plan. Natalie explained that the first project falls under Strategy 4, Reducing Barriers to Misuse Prescription Drugs, in the 7 Strategies of Change under reducing misuse of prescription drugs. She further noted that her objective to support LCAHY's activity in strategy 4 was to create and provide information for realtors and sellers on increasing barriers to reducing access to prescription medications in their homes and rental properties was to create a fact card that can be distributed to sellers by realtors. [See link to fact card.](#) She further reported that she presented the information card to a representative of the Hilton Head Realtor's Association for review. Follow-ups include outreach to individual realtor agencies to secure support for launching the pilot project. Wendy asked Natalie to explain the medication log and noted that that sellers would not want to share the information on their personal medications. Natalie said this is for inventory purposes only and that she would revisit the log description. Jim Berl introduced his question on the Fact Card and would like copies of this information for his work with realtors as an attorney. With no further questions, Natalie introduced her second student project.

The second project is focused on the creation of an E-News titled, Child and Adolescent Trauma and Parental Substance Use. [See link to E-News.](#) Natalie explained ACES, adverse childhood experiences. Natalie is particularly interested in ACES because she grew up in a household with a parent with a substance use addiction. Research supports exposure to substances use can influence adverse childhood experiences. Dr. Skaggs would like these resources. Jill Lutz asked who is the intended audience? Erin

Pollock mentioned this is a great resource for kids and adults. Wendy asked that the information be parsed by the audience. Dr Novince reported that the E-News will be launched in December 2024.

## **DFC Support Program Grant: 2024-2025 12 Month Underage Drinking 12-Month Action Plan**

Dr Novince introduced the 7 strategies of change and presented the 2024-2025 12 Month Action Plan to Prevent/Reduce Underage Drinking created by the Board for Grant Year 8. She asked the Board to give input. See the link to the Action Plan, which includes Board feedback [here](#).

## **12-Month Action Plan Updates/Ad-Hoc Committee Reports**

### **Teens for Healthy Youth:**

#### ***Overview of November and December THY Activities:***

*THY Induction*...Laura Pirkey, THY Coordinator, thanked LCAHY board members for their support of the Teens for Healthy Youth Induction Ceremony. She thanked Jim Berl for doing the welcome, Dr. Novince for introducing the mission/vision of LCAHY, Pastor Lawson for doing the invocation, Cheryl Rodriguez for doing the parent address, and David Martin for doing the closing remarks. delivered at Induction Night for all registered members and the THY Advisors. [See link to THY Induction](#)

*Parent Interest Survey*...Laura stated that the THY advisors have been forwarded a survey by Cheryl Rodriguez for the parents to share with all their THY members' parents. Laura suggested offering students one hour of service if they got their parent(s) to do the survey.

*November: Smoke Free/Vape Free Month*...She then reported that November is National Smoke-free & Vape-free month so THY groups are working on educating their peers about the dangers of e-cigarettes, vapes, etc. Laura said posters have been distributed to all THY, including "6 Reasons to Quit Vaping" a poster made by LCAHY Summer Interns for their peers.

*Bluffton Christmas Parade*... THY will participate in the Bluffton Christmas Day Parade on Sat. December 7th from 10 AM- 12 PM. LCAHY's 3-D Holiday Campaign message will be attached to candy and distributed to parade goers to discourage drunk, drugged, and distracted driving during the holiday. Laura noted that April Small will Chaperone THY, but one more adult volunteer was needed. She also asked for candy donations.

*THY Christmas Project*...THY is collaborating with CAPA via David Martin on the Angel Project. Each THY group will receive a wish list for the holidays for a child in need.

*Exam/Holiday Stress*... In December, stress will be the focus of THY, including final exam and holiday stress.

*Cross Schools THY*: Wendy Cumming, THY Advisor, provided an update from Cross. The students did a bullying skit and social media posts. In November, Cross will address energy drinks among students. This week the fact card on energy drinks will be delivered to 7 to 12 grade students. Plans are underway for stress, typically "Paws on Stress" along with hot chocolate and a movie at lunch. Lastly, happiness rocks are being crafted.

*Hilton Head Island High School THY*: Danielle presented for HHIHS THY. HHIHS will be distributing posters for smoke free, vape free along with a toy drive.

*Hilton Head Christian THY*: Jill Lutz, Hilton Head Christian THY Advisor, presented on the Out of Darkness Walk and reported great representation from HHCA, Bluffton, and May River. The walk is a message of hope and support. Resources were distributed in English and Spanish. Lapel pins were purchased. QR codes were distributed for information. These moments provided many opportunities for conversation. Jill also mentioned HHCA participation in Vape Free Smoke Free Month with social media campaign. HHCA provides hot chocolate and "chill out zones" during testing for stress management.

*Bluffton High School THY*: Kyra Pasqualone presented from Bluffton HS THY. Kyra updated the meeting attendees on Trunk or Treat at school; Red Ribbon Week including THY info and pamphlets; and assembly. The assembly included a panel of speakers including a victim of drunk driving, a highway patrol officer, a local attorney, and Bluffton High SRO. The students signed Bluffton's Safe Driving Pledge. Laura received great feedback from students. Kyra added that members of her class found the assembly very affirming and eye opening. Laura said these speakers are willing to present at any school. "Life is a movie. . Stay Drug Free" was the theme that created wonderful moments. Kyra found the suicide prevention walk

amazing. Kyra reviewed the Induction Ceremony as well. Currently, Bluffton HS THY is working on the Bluffton Christmas Parade.

Following the THY reports, Dr. Novince asked Mckencie to show her draft of a stress card focused on final exams. Mckencie asked for ideas from THY, including the effects of energy drinks. If anyone has suggestions or recommendations, please reach out to Mckencie.

**Proclamations:** Vape Free Smoke Free Month Proclamations (Avi Stevens/Youth CIA) Avi shared that both Town of Bluffton and Town of Hilton Head have issued proclamations for smoking and vaping. Wendy noted that the nicotine patches are very popular among mostly college athletes, but time will create a trickle-down effect to high school

**DEA Take Back:** Laura presented for Claudia Barrientos/Bluffton THY, in her absence, who said it was a slow day, but this may be because residents are dropping these medications to the drop off boxes. Master Sgt Washington said they are clearing the drop off boxes at least once a week at the Hilton Head magistrate court.

**Sector/Community Outreach:**

**Parent Sector:** Tabled until the January meeting.

**Faith-Based Sector:** Pastor Lawson, Faith-Based, CIA recommended an Advent Calendar with scripture verses be created and distributed to the Faith-Based Sector and the LCAHY Board. Sara Lawson, Pastor Lawson's daughter and Bluffton THY member, presented on the Advent Calendar she created. Dr. Novince mentioned that everyone will be receiving a copy of this Advent Calendar. [See link to Advent Calendar.](#)

**Community Outreach/Bluffton PD Spooky Spectacular:** Erin Pawlak who staffed the LCAHY resource table along with Ellen Andreoletti, Dr. Novince, Mckencie Guerro, and Ethan Barrera reported that they distributed information bags that included the Rx Campaign fact card, which educates about drop off locations along with Deterra Bags. She reported that the event was a success. [See link to Spooky Spectacular.](#)

**Other Year 8 DFC 12-Month Action Plan Updates:** There were no updates.

**LCAHY New Business:** Laura said she had an observation that we had not had officer elections in a number of years and referenced being in compliance with the By Laws. She then asked if the Executive Committee would review this section, which addresses the election of officers.

**DFC Grant Year 8 In-kind Support Documentation (September 30, 2023– September 29, 2025, Match = \$156,250)** Laura reminded the meeting attendees to record in-kind support for grant year 8. THY Advisors are responsible for having THY students record their support. With no meeting in December, this may be a good time to get caught up on this record keeping. Wendy emphasized the importance of this documentation and promoting LCAHY. Jim Berl mentioned that his daughter worked with Dr Batson on LCAHY displays in his office.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. by Wendy Cummings.

**Respectfully submitted on behalf of Francine Norz Tobin, Recording Secretary,**

**Kathy Brookshire, Co-DFC Grant Coordinator**