



Wamogo Task Force on Prevention Ideas and Information

HVCASA – Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse

A regional action council in northwest Connecticut dedicated to reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug use in its service area (22 towns in CT).

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Wamogo Task Force on Prevention (Wamogo Prevention Council) – A local Prevention Council (LPC) consisting of three communities Warren, Morris and Goshen.

- Wamogo Task Force on Prevention is focused on providing drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention and education to our local school and communities that consist of Warren, Morris and Goshen. It should include representation from all sectors of the community (teachers, parents, youth, teachers, administrators, town officials, clergy, police, etc.) to support and educate the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco within the communities.

Grant/Funding – Each year HVCASA provides grant funding to assist with community prevention programs. This grant is funded through the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

- **Past funding** has provided funding toward Project Graduation, school speakers in both the Middle and High Schools, positive drug free family nights and community awareness and education programs. We look to incorporate programs at the elementary level in the future as well as incorporate additional prevention education for the communities.

Wamogo Task Force on Prevention will come together to assess and identify the needs in the community and schools and use the funding to develop short and long-term plans.

Potential Goals of Wamogo Task Force on Prevention Committee:

- Establish a well-rounded committee (Council) for the three towns including representatives from each sector (school, youth, town official, parents, clergy, law enforcement, etc.)
- Assess and decide as a committee where the funding would be best spent based on school and community needs. This may include parent and youth prevention education, possible survey and developing positive outlets for youth and community.

- Establish regular meeting to discuss fundraising, prevention awareness, education and long term plans.
- Organize a youth (teen) prevention council at Wamogo as part of school prevention, educating peers, acting as leaders in the school, fundraising toward positive drug/alcohol/tobacco free events and to discuss where funding is most important.
- Continue communications in communities through school eblasts and town websites
- Share ideas and costs with area schools for speakers/projects/education
- Involve athletic coaches, teachers and parents to share prevention support with youth and the consequences of using/attending parties, decision making strategies, review handbook agreement.
- Project Purple – Chris Herren Project - join in with surrounding communities and schools to create greater awareness and support.
- Town Hall presentations/parent and student education regarding negative trends and how to create positive influences in our community
- Provide information to communities on where to turn if intervention is needed