



Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

General Membership Meeting
November 3, 2016 – 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Smithtown Library, Main Branch

*Keeping Our Youth & Families Safe...
Physically & Emotionally Healthy & Free of Substance Abuse*

Meeting Focus: Committee Goals & Strategies

A. Substance Abuse Committee

Brainstorming Group Members:

Claire Larkin, Maureen Glover, Lewis Glover, Janine Simpson, Kim Revere, Mary Ellen Adams and Carol Nucci

Goals/Objectives: Committee Focus: Community Education

Long-term: Educate the Smithtown community and residents of the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse by youth in an attempt to reduce abuse incidences.

Short-term:

- Committee members will meet with Lindenhurst schools to discuss and bring in the “*Eyes Wide Open*” program –Conduct educational youth programming - Contact person: Judy Ramondi, to coordinate the program.
- Members would like to bring young people who are in recovery, into the schools, to meet with students and discuss the reality and consequences of substance abuse. Jordan Stirle from Just Inc. is a possible connection to set this up.

Strategies:

Immediate:

- Contact local pharmacies and drugstores in the Smithtown communities to encourage them to post signs by their alcohol beverage areas informing adults about the laws, regulations and policies in regards to underage drinking.
- Educate employees in Smithtown businesses about these laws.
- Encourage schools and community resources to post alcohol/substance abuse prevention videos on their websites.
- Encourage school and community groups to have prevention and intervention programs available for students. Exposure whenever/wherever possible.
- Strongly involve youth in community education activities.

Future:

- Videotape speakers at events and privately and post wherever possible to increase exposure to this information.
- Have schools and community resources post these substance abuse prevention videos of presentations on their websites. Make videos available for them.
- Film screening of “Underwater” (Bryan Fitzgerald)

B. Healthy Relationships Committee

Group Members:

Sarah Adamo, Kim Palmieri, Ciara Burke, John Palmieri, Pat Thomas, Woodruff Crumbley and Pat Westlake

Goals/Objectives: Committee Focus: *Parent Engagement, Support and Education*

Long-term:

- Focus on increasing parental accountability and personal responsibility. Offer education, assistance and support for improving their relationships with their children.
- Reduce the time that both parents and children spend on technology and focus on more genuine communication and relationship building.
- Create opportunities for quality family time.
- Increase the amount of direct interpersonal communication and listening to the needs of our children.

Short-term:

- Educate about and promote the need for parents to focus on spending more quality time with their children – spend meal times together, show genuine care for their children, reduce the amount of time communicating using text messages, etc.
- Parents need to focus more on their children’s academic performance measures – checking class grades.
- Engage and communicate with parents in Smithtown Township about becoming more involved with their children.
- Create a logo/slogan and community education campaign in the Township to promote quality parent-child relationships (effective parenting).

Strategies:

Immediate:

- Reach out to parents in the Township to address the gaps in “parent-child” communication and benefits of effective communication.
- Educate the community with PSAs. Reach out to media to promote ***“Have you really spoken with your child today?”***
- Have schools provide parents with more direct access online to their children’s performance and school happenings.
- Contact all local schools in Smithtown to have them provide regular reminders to parents about spending quality time with their children.
- Parent education: Educate parents about the need for them to focus on spending more quality time with their children – spend meal times together, show genuine care for their children, reduce the amount of time communicating using text messages, etc.
- Parent education: Educate parents about the importance of spending quality time with their children starting at a young age to foster *strong ties* and *effective communication* (Parenting Skills Education).

Future:

- Implement programs in to help parents and children foster greater levels of trust in families.
- Enhance parent-teacher communication and cooperation

C. Bullying/Cyberbullying Committee

Group Members:

Laura Campanelli, Gabriel Manzuek, Claire Dispirito, Sondra Irvine and Joy Ferrera

Goals/Objectives: Committee Focus: *Student AND Parent Education and support*

Long-term:

- Provide parents education on bullying to help them become more aware of signs/symptoms to prevent and support their children dealing with bullying.
- Teach children at a young age on how to build resiliency in order to better manage conflict and stress rather than resorting to bullying.

Short-term:

- Develop a resiliency building/anti-bullying presentation to present/promote to the local schools in order to have schools collaborate on the movement and convey a consistent message the consequences of bullying.
- Increase capacity of students to communicate about observed bullying behavior to parents/teachers/adults.

Strategies:

Immediate:

- As part of the Resiliency building/anti-bullying presentation/program, committee members support the idea of using role play scenarios amongst students to foster healthy strategies (*tools*) of dealing with bullies.
- Educate about the importance of the “Bystander” role in bullying (they can make a difference), as well as personal resilience and confidence.
- Bystanderresolution.org is a good resource to provide greater information about bullying prevention for parents, teachers and schools.
- Community education campaigns to reach parents and students, providing them with very specific “tools” to deal with various bullying situations.

Future:

- Create an Anti-Bullying Guide - Put together a listing of website links and resources for students and parents about bullying prevention and building resiliency. Post and promote this resource list wherever possible.



Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

“To promote the health and wellness of our young people; mobilize schools and communities; and utilize resources to create and sustain an environment where destructive decisions and substance abuse are reduced”