



## Youth & Community Alliance of Smithtown

### Bullying/Cyberbullying Committee Meeting

July 10, 2017

Horizons Center Community Room

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

#### Meeting highlights:

- Roundtable introductions made.
- An overview was given of both the Youth and Community Alliance and the previous Bullying/Cyber-bullying committee meeting, which was held in April.
- Cynthia G. from the Youth Bureau gave the group a virtual tour of the new website and showed the “P.S. I Love You Day” video created by the Leadership Club at Smithtown East HS. It was suggested that the video be put on goggle classroom and/or highlight P.S. I Love You Day during Spirit Week. Kings Park School District is also creating a bullying video. Some website suggestions included: a direct website address for the Alliance page and making a Facebook and Instagram pages as well.
- The group had a discussion on various bullying initiatives such as:
  - Developing a peer mentoring curriculum that school districts can use, and having high school students work with elementary students, since bullying begins in the younger grades.
  - Have a common theme throughout school year and kick-off during the summer.
  - It was suggested to hold trainings for a peer leadership program at the various schools so that more students could get involved. Transportation issues are a concern for trainings outside of school.
  - Alliance member, Laura C. suggested that the Town Youth Advisory Board develop a PSA. It was also suggested that a good PSA idea would be to have Alliance members interview students and parents about bullying/cyberbullying at mall. People can answer the question “what would help?”
  - A Dear Abby column was also recommended so that students can write in their problems. However, we do not have the man power to run this project and liability could be an issue.
  - Other ideas included: resiliency training, overcoming loneliness (you are not alone), recognizing what is hurtful behavior.

Examples of activities already taking place in communities were discussed; a school Buddy Bench, which is a bench that students who don't have someone to play with, can sit and others will invite them take part in their activities; and the Stompbullyng website highlights a program for young people ages 13-24, who can be Child Ambassadors.

- There is a new component to Snapchat that allows location to be shown. Parents need to be educated on this and other dangers of social media.
- A newspaper article clipping was sent around. Alliance member, Monica M. mentioned that she is aware of a new app that was developed which monitors bullying language, called Digital Fly. The maker of the app is in Setauket. She will find out more information and get back to the group.
- **Next Steps:**
  - The group will come up with more ideas for the website, Alliance member, Mary Ellen M. Will look into an emotional health assessment tool that pediatricians use during well visits with children and teenagers. It might be helpful if it doesn't have a diagnosis key listed on it.
  - Horizons/YB will see if there is curriculum available that focuses on peer mentoring/bullying.
  - Bullying/Cyberbullying Committee members are encouraged to attend the upcoming Alliance General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM at the Smithtown Library Main Branch, to advise other members about this committee's suggestions and progress on initiatives.



## **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"*