



Substance Use & Mental Well-Being Coalition

1225 Langlade Road, Antigo, Wisconsin 54409-2795

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Email: health@co.langlade.wi.us

www.langladecountyhealth.org



Coalition Meeting Summary

Merged Coalition Meeting Introduction

Donna and Karen welcomed attendees to the first official merged coalition meeting between the substance use and mental well-being coalitions. The meeting focused on discussing the history of the two coalitions and the purpose behind their merger.

At-Risk Youth Housing Services

Heather Chillemi introduced her work helping at-risk youth under 25 who are facing homelessness or housing instability in Langlade County. She explained that her organization provides services including temporary housing, apartment assistance, and support with security deposits and utilities. Heather shared her contact information in the chat and mentioned having an immediate need to help someone getting out of rehab, which prompted Heather Gryboski to reach out about a student she needs to connect with her services.

Coalition Merger Celebration

The meeting celebrated the merger of two coalitions: the Substance Use Prevention Coalition and the Mental Well-being Coalition. Donna and Karen presented on the history and recent activities of both coalitions, highlighting past successes including billboard campaigns, community health fairs, and social media initiatives. They explained that merging the coalitions made sense because substance use and mental well-being often co-occur and share similar strategies, allowing for more efficient use of resources and fewer duplicate meetings in the small community.

Mental Health Outreach Initiatives

Mental health initiatives were highlighted including Credible Mind, a mental health platform available on school Chromebooks, and mentioned promoting 988 resources in the community including at Fleet Farm. The discussion highlighted suicide prevention statistics showing 80% of deaths are male, leading to discussions about refocusing outreach efforts toward men, and mentioned upcoming events including a Drug Take Back Day and Unity in the Community event.

Substance Prevention Updates

Donna presented updates on substance use prevention efforts in Langlade County, including the launch of a resource map and stigma reduction initiatives. The Opioid Task Force is currently accepting grant applications for opioid settlement dollars until October 1st, with funds available for organizations working on eligible projects. Looking forward, the team plans to increase student



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leadership opportunities in prevention messaging and seek involvement from youth in future initiatives, including potential participation in coalition meetings.

Youth Mental Health Initiatives

Discussion held on strategies for involving youth in mental health initiatives, including working with the Boys and Girls Club and potentially holding meetings at schools where counselors could participate. The team plans to promote mental health literacy, reduce stigma, and increase awareness of available resources while supporting trauma-informed approaches like youth mental first aid. Amanda provided updates from her school, noting that Raise Your Voice program has been discontinued and suggesting student council absorb it, while highlighting the need for therapists in elementary buildings and mentioning ongoing efforts to connect with Health First.

Handle with Care Program Discussion

Officer Orlin Foat gave an overview of this program and will include Heather Gryboski and Heather Chillemi in information on the program. The group discussed community awareness efforts and strengthening partnerships with healthcare, law enforcement, faith-based communities, and local employers. They clarified that the Handle with Care program is intended for **school personnel** to receive general information about students who may be experiencing difficulties at home, rather than sharing specific details.

Mental Health Coalition Planning Meeting

The coalition meeting focused on mental health and substance use prevention initiatives in Langlade County. Heather Gryboski shared YRBS results highlighting critical mental health needs and requested inclusion in future outreach efforts, particularly noting transportation challenges for families in the Antigo area. The group discussed implementing a shared Google Drive calendar for tracking mental health and substance use events, with plans to include this information in monthly newsletters starting in October. Megan Mattek from Aspirus announced she applied for a \$10,000 mental health and substance use planning grant and suggested establishing clearer data collection protocols between hospitals and the coalition.

Attendees: Donna Wiegert RN, Karen Marten RN, and Meghan Williams, Health Officer – Langlade County Health Department, Elizabeth Walters and Felicia Blunt – Three Bridges Recovery, Meghan Mattek - Aspirus Health, Holly Micke – Community Advocacy and Outreach, Tracy Schlegel - NAMI Northwoods, Jennifer May – Department of Corrections, Doug Curler - Langlade County Board Supervisor, Heather Chillemi – We Are Foundations, Heather Gryboski – White Lake School District, Officer Orlin Foat – Antigo Schools Resource Officer - Antigo Police Department, Darlaen Jansen,



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RN - Antigo School District, Amanda Mohr - Antigo School District, Nakita Littleton- Bridges of Hope, Charlene Fleischman - Senior Center, Stephanie Heiney – Child Protective Services, and Alli Henkelman, Program Operations Coordinator – Boys and Girls Club.