Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition
11633 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212

October 8, 2026 Minutes Substance Use/Misuse Prevention Month

Call to order, Reading of mission, and Welcome to new attendees (Lara)
Call to order: 11:01am
In attendance: Stella S., Virginia S., Lara G., Nick S., Amy P., Martha S., Linda W., Madison H., Frankie B., Marge C., Shannon S., Justin M., Karra T., Mishaal M., Salwa B., Khurshida H., Megan M.

1. **Round Table Introductions**
   Lara G: Executive Director of HDFCC
   Virginia S: Piast Institute, CEO
   Madison H: Piast Institute, Finance Manager
   Amy P: Piast Institute, Outreach Specialist
   Linda W: Hamtramck School board and community member
   Nick S: Piast Institute, Development Manager
   Martha S: Wayne County Commissioner
   Stella S: Piast Institute, Board Member
   Shannon S: City of Detroit, Substance Use Prevention Educator
   Salwa B: Wayne County Healthy Communities, Communication Specialist
   Mishal M: (No announcement, no audio available)
   Khurshida H: Detroit Friendship House
   Justin M: IDS, new community member
   Malgosia T: Piast Institute, Executive Vice President

2. **Public Comment**
   Lara: We will offer a moment here for public comment. We will go into the room first.
   Virginia: I have some public comments to make. I would like for everyone to know because I actually wasn't aware of this. There was a feature on CNN this morning that really caught my attention. It's on World Mental Health Day. It's a global event I was not aware of this. What made it really interesting is that they expanded it to health and wellness. Their theme, which I loved, is "lived experiences heard, real voices, real changes". Their theme is supported by the World Health Organization. The most interesting thing I heard this morning, which is hard to believe, is that from the time a person says "I am maybe a little depressed, maybe I am not focusing, and maybe I have a problem", on average for them to seek actual help, is 11 years. On average, it takes that long for people to accept their feelings. And I think that this speaks to their theme that real voices and real change and lived experiences that they have to bring to the table in order to get help. So I don't want to go into too much, because we've got a busy meeting.

   I do have another announcement. I would just like to say to everyone in attendance today, whether online or whether you're here on site that, for our DFC grant, it was mandatory for us to have 12 sectors representing the entire community. Stella, Commissioner, and Linda you were all sectors in the past. We were discussing what does that title really mean? It's not a good name, so we can now change it. We would

like to go with the title "Ambassador" and that it's a liaison between yourself and the community, so you're taking information to your colleagues, then you're bringing us messages from your colleagues as well, so it's this exchange. If we get enough people in this cross-section from the school board and from specific organizations, this can help us get our message out more than what we can just do here. It's a different name when you get the letter but I hope you guys will still participate in your roles. Also, people new to this, if you're interested, we would love to incorporate as many people as we can into representing different organizations. Contact me, contact Lara. This is going to be something very important to us as we move forward.

I also want to wish everyone a happy new fiscal year that started on the first. I also wanted to make it public that a really good friend of ours, and a great support of ours at DWIHN, Brooke Blackwell has left DWIHN. She has been such a big supporter of us for years. Everything she has done over her career is exceptional. I am sorry to see her go but she has gone with ACC which is a similar organization and she's in the top third position. So we're so proud of her and she will also be in Wayne County, Macomb, and Oakland. It's a loss for people who did not build a relationship with her, but for us it's okay because we have another collaborator in the community that we can depend on. This brings me to Shannon Schafer, a gone but never forgotten kind of situation. We have been in contact with another collaborator, and that goes with our Ambassadors as we spread our message and spread our wealth. So I feel we've been blessed but also we've given a gift to the Detroit Health Department.

Also Happy Breast Cancer Awareness, really important to all of our community. Those are my announcements. Thank you.
Lara: Really appreciate it. Thank you. A lot of interesting and important things.
Shannon: I would like to make a public comment about a new policy that was signed in the State of Michigan from our governor this past Monday. It is fairly new, so I'm not sure what the roll out will look like. I am going to read directly from what I have here. Michigan governor signs law requiring schools to send parents warning about marijuana, high potency THC and vaping. So this was signed again this past Monday. It's Senate Bill 433, I think it's worth looking into, this is still fairly hot off the press for me as well. So I do not have details but under the new law, MDHHS, known as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, must develop an informational notice in English, Spanish, and Arabic covering the dangers associated with THC cannabis products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, and synthetic intoxicating hemp products as well. So then the materials also have to include resources for both prevention and treatment which I think is really amazing, along with information on how to recognize signs of THC poisoning and how to respond when poisoning is suspected. The department must complete the initial materials by July 1 of 2027. SO obviously this will be for next school year, not this school year. This notice then must be updated annually. This will be available for public and non-public schools. So again I think this will be for the 27/28 school year, but this will require schools to give a better notice to parents whether it be distributed electronically or by mail. It has to be noticed on the informational website that schools have as well. I just wanted to share that as new information.
Lara: Thank you, we definitely would like to add that to our follow-up or next packet. We had this conversation here before about the importance of sharing the information with parents. One of our teachers had an experience with one of her students. Where the parents did not realize as they smoked that affected their child. When she was just able to share that information, a light bulb went off for that parent and the student's

experience changed completely around as the parent stopped smoking in front of them. So it just makes me think about how many students potentially could be affected by their parents smoking. This realization of smoking around them affects how their brain is functioning.

3. **Old and Ongoing Business: (See Packet)**
    - **HPS Partnerships**
        - **i. Narcan Training Opportunities**

Lara: There has been a recent development here as we do have conversations moving forward for training staff In Narcan but we also just had a new development with being able to train the ninth graders during their health courses. So we are working with the fire department and the high school health classes to work that out. It's in the beginning stages but something is developing that we're excited about.

ii. Vape Disposal Project

Linda: Do you have an answer from the school for the vape disposal project? Where were these disposal receptacles going? Who have you met with about placement because this is a serious problem.

Lara: Yes it is, and unfortunately what's been a little bit of the end result of all the conversations we have had is a bit inconclusive. When we talked to the State of Michigan who is supposed to be the one providing directive on how to store and dispose of vapes safely, their response at this point is that "we have not received national direction and that's kind of what we're waiting on." So there's not a great protocol.

Linda: Well, we can't wait for this because what happened to us last week is that we had to send kids home because so many vapes were flushed down the toilet. We clogged our system.

Amy: Oh my god, that's why you guys had to get out early because of plumbing issues.

Virginia: We've been trying to have this conversation with anyone who is willing to listen to us, Linda. That's why people like you are here because you listen to us. We went to the fire department and we had a two hour meeting with the fire marshal to say/ask for guidelines about what is known in relation to safe disposal. We know this is a big deal because we know teachers have desks filled with these vapes. Lara and her team have done extensive research on this across the country and there have been explosive fires. We know this in our community. On 15 Mile a commercial block was blown up by illegal placement of lithium batteries. A young man was pumping gas two blocks away and was killed by the debris two blocks away. All the research of this topic is needed to understand how to handle these questions people might have. We need funding, we need meetings, and we need cooperation.

Lara: Just to answer your question, though, Linda, we have had a meeting with the Superintendent, and there's no push back. Everyone is on board and they want to do it. We just want to make sure we do it the right and safe way.

Linda: So I would like to meet with you, about a 30 miniature meeting to talk about what this would look like, and see what anybody else is doing.

Lara: There's nothing in the country right now like this. This is currently the very beginning, which is unfortunate. I mean vaping is making so much waste anyway, so there are a lot of questions about "What storage is appropriate?". **Shows off lock box that is specifically to store lithium batties*

Linda: I see that they're also in little bags.

Lara: Yeah, this was a part of our research. They go into a little bag in order to prevent sparks between vapes. So at this point, the collection would be for vapes that are specifically confiscated. To expand the program eventually, we want the students to be able to drop their vape into something if they want to get rid of it themselves.
Virginia: So that must have been a huge plumbing bill?
Linda: Oh year. But apparently, I talked to somebody from another district and they said they have the same problem. Kids take them in the bathroom and they just flush them down.
Virginia: Three boxes cost $1,000 per box.
Linda: That is if it's confiscated, it does not solve the problem of smoking in the bathroom.
Virginia: No, but I do think it is a step and I think people are more apt to listen to you about vaping and because you don't just tell part of the story you tell the full story. This is one of the many ill effects of vaping. We really appreciate you Linda and the Commissioner. We recently got some new samples of vapes.
Lara: Yes - there's some very "fun" new designs to share.
Virginia: Some kids do not have a vape but they are vaping all day long and nobody can even see it because of items like this vape bookbag they sell. Kudos to Lara and Shannonn who spent a lot of time on this, this is not new we've been talking about this for a long time.
Lara: **Showed examples of a key fob and a highlighter that are used to hide vaping cartridges**
Virginia: These kids are creative but these sellers are at fault too, but these are legal items to sell and have on the store shelves. Because who is going to police these Dollar Stores?
Martha: Wow I'm glad I came - I just didn't know any of this
Lara: So this is the great thing about coming together as a coalition. This is the purpose, so don't feel like "Oh I should have known this" or "I don't know this". That's why we're here - to bring this information. And what Virginia was talking about being an Ambassador is now we're able to take that information elsewhere. So, don't feel bad at all if you're sitting at the table thinking, "Oh, this is the first time I've heard this before" because that's exactly what we're here for.

- **Annual DWIHN Audit**
- **Common Ground National Faith and Community Based Behavioral Health Conference**

4. New Business: (See Packet)

- **Substance Use/Misuse Prevention Month**
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
- **HDFCC 20 Year Anniversary (2027)**
- **October Festivities**

Lara: I just want to highlight that October is packed. We have the community pancake breakfast this year. It will be on the 29th the Thursday before Halloween. So please come join us 10 to 1.
Virginia: Trunk and treat is the day before. Candy prices have really gone up and skyrocketed. So, if anyone doesn't have kids that come to the door, but you're at the store and you'd like to purchase a package of candy that you would like to donate, we would appreciate it. Believe it or not, for us to go to Trunk or

Treat this year it will cost us around $400 this year. We have kids and it is really fun. Megan has created an Amazon WishList for the community. We hope it will help out like it did for our cereal drive. People order off Amazon and it comes right here. As you can see outside, we have a new blessing box. We're not calling it a Little Library anymore because there is more than just books in there. So all summer we left food and anything that we could, we left. Now the community is dropping things off, leaving money for the next person to get some money. So the community is really playing a part as well. So spread the word.

i. **Prescription Take Back**
ii. **Red Ribbon Week**
iii. **Trunk or Treat**
iv. **Pancake Breakfast**

5. Coalition Discussion:

- **Annual Coalition Survey (Coalition)**
  One thing I do want to get to before we kind of wrap up with our announcements is our annual coalition survey. We do this every six months during our new year and then again in April. So I am going to share the link online, and I have surveys here in the middle of the table, with pens also. You don't need to write your name on this so please feel free to be very honest. Our goal in this is to be able to improve how the coalition functions, making sure that you know these meetings are valuable to you. So if there's ways you feel this group can perform better or that you can be more involved, please be honest.
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciB_OQBe1JchuDcdyIgh9OPQYhgbqyzhgvnChh03eW5HJZZQ/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=107850992410723015709
  Virginia: While everyone is finishing up I would like to make note of something that school got out at 11:30am today. I am watching all the kids walk by heading to Little Caesars and doing their own thing which is all very good. I just wanted to make note and highlight our star student at Hamtramck High, who immediately upon discharge/dismissal found a better place to be. I just wanted to say that we have really good students, and we have really good youth within our school district and we need to honor that behavior.
  Lara: Well, thank you all so much for your feedback. We do truly appreciate it and we do analyze those results and try to adjust and make changes as you all recommend. I am going to go ahead and table our last items that are more about some of the trending substances that we can provide an update on at our next meeting.
- **"Diphenhydramine" Benadryl Misuse**
  Tabled for next meeting
- **Trending derivatives of fentanyl**
  Tabled for next meeting
- **Recreational Nitrous**
  Tabled for next meeting

6. Round Table Announcements pertinent to HDFCC

Salwa: It's flu shot season so come get your flu shot at the clinic. We'll be more than happy to have you. *Only flu shots no Covid shots*
Linda: There is a fundraiser for the Ski Club at the PSL this Friday. It's going to be bingo. They're planning on going to Utah so they're fundraising for the outdoors and wilderness

clubs. Kids get opportunities to go places that they wouldn't normally get to go and it's a huge enrichment for them. Homecoming is October 16th. The game is at 7 and the parade is around 3. The parade goes from Gallagher to Keyworth, and its all the clubs and anyone from the high school that wants to participate. We also have Girls on Bikes that's not directly us. This is a bike training event at Veterans Park. They will have bikes for you if you sign up ahead of time. The city is having a city walk on the 17th which is this Saturday for domestic violence and breast cancer and that is the first time they're doing that.

Virgina: Frankie can speak on how important SOS was to him, Amy, and Tamsi during their time at the high school. They went places they would never have gone.
Frankie: Detroit Outdoors Alumni get five passes to ski if you volunteer five hours.
Virginia: Linda thank you for your involvement because we would't know these things, you bring the school board to this table and we appreciate that.

Karra: This week is Mental Illness Week. It is going from October 4th to the 10th, and it's raising awareness around addressing what is affecting our mind, body and spirit. To pull out a couple of our events: First is our SUD Oversight Policy Board meeting. We invite your participation in that, this is so important especially since we continuously talk about vaping and we've been hearing about pushing fentanyl prevention. I want to encourage your participation during October 24th. On Fox 2, we are doing across the state and the region on prescription take back day. The date for our SUD Oversight Policy Board meeting is always the third Monday, so our next meeting will be Oct 19th at 10:00am. It is held at our Administration Building 8726 Woodward. You are able to join it in person or virtually. On that third Wednesday is our full board meeting with our director, our CEO leading that on the 21st, A Wednesday. Those are the only few I wanted to share for the coming up announcements. I also just wanted to thank Malgosia for coming along with me and two other lovely ladies to Texas. On September the 24th and 25th, we went to Texas for the first national Common Ground Faith-based Conference. It was the very first and it was a phenomenal experience. Hoping Michigan will be the next location.
Malgosia: If I may, I just wanted to say Happy Polish Heritage Month. I know those of you that follow Piast institute, you've been seeing a lot of information right now because of Polish Heritage Month. We are showcasing Polish Americans and their contributions to the world in the US. Nick, who's in the room, had put together quite an extensive list covering all different aspects of science, sports, locations, and other things like that. I just wanted to let you know we are also celebrating Polish Heritage month on top of all the other things we're doing this month. I know it's the start of the new fiscal year. We've got a Trunk or Treat. We've got Prescription Takeback, we have Medicaid Fraud training at the high-rise coming up. So if anything brings you joy, share it. Help us spread the messages. We're supporting anyone that sends us anything that they would like shared, so if you have a flyer or anything, send it along. We want to get everyone in the community involved.
Martha: I would like to honor Polish heritage in the county if you can email me the information and I can do that.
Malgosia: That's a wonderful suggestion. Thank you. I will make sure that I send over something to you.

7. Adjournment 12:03

Next meeting: November 12, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Mission: The Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition's mission is to prevent and reduce drug and alcohol abuse by implementing effective prevention strategies for a uniquely diverse community, including youth and all protected classes enumerated in Federal Non-Discrimination, Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and American Disabilities Act (ADA) regulation.