

DIRECTIONS

COMPASS UNITY'S SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

ABOUT US

COMPASS Unity is Bellport/South Country School District's drug and alcohol prevention coalition since 2009. Our mission is to address and revitalize the negative social and environmental conditions, which expose youth to drug and alcohol use. We strive to help keep the youth of South Country schools and community safe and drug-free. COMPASS Unity's target area includes Bellport, Brookhaven, and parts of E. Patchogue, Yaphank and Medford.

COMPASS Unity has representation from 12 sectors including: youth, parents, business, media, schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement agencies, religious/fraternal organizations, civic/volunteer groups, healthcare professionals, state, local and tribal agencies with expertise in the field of substance abuse, and other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse.

COMPASS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AS A COALITION



COMPASS Unity is celebrating its 10th year as a drug and alcohol prevention coalition. The Coalition formally celebrated this milestone by hosting a luncheon, where it honored its community heroes and members that have contributed towards the success of the Coalition over the past 10 years.

COMPASS Unity had members from each of its sectors present at the luncheon, including elected officials, school district representatives, staff from local organizations, local business owners, community members and Bellport High School students and alumni.

Pictured above: Coalition staff and members (left to right); Phyllis Virno, Pamela Mizzi, Georgianna Dolan-Reilly, Sgt. Carissa Siry, Cierra Corbett, Lynette Murphy, MaryEllen Adams, Lacey Donlon, and Youth Coordinator Katheryn G.

Pictured to the right: COMPASS Unity hosted its 10th Anniversary Luncheon at Hagerman Fire Department.



YEAR ONE AS A DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES (DFC) SUPPORT PROGRAM GRANTEE

The past year has proved to be a success for COMPASS Unity as it strives toward making community level change, the Coalition continues to be supported by Family Service League's Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative (funded by Suffolk Care Collaborative) and its federal grant from the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. Since inception of the DFC grant, COMPASS Unity has engaged in multiple events and activities that have taken place within the South Country Central School District and surrounding community, including;

Providing training to South Country Central School District's support staff (social workers, psychologists, and school counselors) in Teen Intervene. Teen Intervene is an early intervention program for youth that are experimenting with substances;

Hiring Epiphany Community Services (ECS) for evaluation services. ECS is a practical evaluation and technical assistance firm that specializes in working with community coalitions;

Launching a social media marketing campaign by way of hashtags, graphic artwork, branded photos and informative promotional videos, hosted on the Coalition's website and social media platforms;

Hosting environmental strategies such as Operation Pizza Box and Sticker Shock, which are initiatives that aim to raise awareness about underage drinking by way of placing stickers with positive messaging on pizza boxes and alcoholic beverage packaging;

Increasing the capacity of the Coalition by engaging in activities such as: networking, obtaining membership in the Bellport Chamber of Commerce, and through the formation of COMPASS Youth Coalition. The Coalition also hired its first employee for clerical duties and secured an intern from Stony Brook University to assist with daily planning and implementation;

Providing support for four Bellport Middle School students to attend Long Island Teen Institute (LITI) Middle School Conference. LITI is hosted by HUGS, Inc., a not-for-profit agency that provides prevention education strategies aimed at reducing high risk behaviors among youth while fostering positive attitudes to improve all areas of life;

Attending CADCA's Annual National Leadership Forum, a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies and hear from prevention experts, federal administrators, and policymakers

Hosting COMPASS Unity's 6th Annual Youth Summit at Bellport Middle School, an all-day summit that teaches 8th graders about making healthy decisions;

Attending The National Coalitions Academy (NCA), a year-long comprehensive training program developed by Communities Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), which teaches coalition leaders and members what they need to know and do to establish and maintain a highly effective anti-drug coalition;

Hosting informational tables at community events such as: Bellport Day, National Night Out, Bellport High School's 9th grade orientation, and Senator's Monica Martinez Back-to-School Block Party event;

Hosting a 1st Annual Awareness Day during Bellport High School's 9th grade student orientation. The Coalition hired two public speakers to speak to parents and students about substance use prevention topics;

and collaborating with the Long Island Prevention Resource Center on trainings for the Coalition and its sectors. The focus included prevention topics from SAMSHA's Strategic Prevention Framework

VAPING DETECTORS

The South Country Central School District was featured on NBC's *Today Show* for its efforts to combat vaping by students in school, by installing *FlySense* Detectors.

The *FlySense* devices were installed in bathrooms within Bellport Middle School and Bellport High School to deter vaping within the school's bathrooms. The detectors have the ability to alert administration when vaping is occurring through real-time vape detection.

To view the the school district's feature on NBC's *Today Show*, visit COMPASS Unity's YouTube Channel, called *COMPASS Unity TV*.

CADCA'S NCA GRADUATION

In February 2020, COMPASS Unity graduated from CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA) for the second time, during CADCA's 30th National Leadership Forum.

The National Coalition Academy, developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute, is a comprehensive training program that teaches leaders the core competencies and the essential processes to establish or maintain a highly effective anti-drug coalition.

In order to graduate from the NCA, COMPASS Unity had to develop five essential products; (1) a community assessment, (2) a logic model, (3) a strategic action plan, (4) an evaluation plan and (5) a sustainability plan.

RED RIBBON WEEK

COMPASS Unity celebrated Red Ribbon Week by hosting prevention-based activities within the South Country Central School District and community. Red Ribbon Week is a national alcohol and other drug prevention awareness campaign that is observed annually in October. Red Ribbon Week serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities, educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

The Coalition recognized the week by providing Red Watch Band training to Bellport High School seniors. Red Watch Band training, an initiative created by Stony Brook University, is a comprehensive bystander intervention program designed to provide college and high school students with the knowledge, skills and awareness to prevent death by toxic drinking. Through education and elaborate role plays, students learn to recognize the signs of alcohol overdose and when and how to call for help. This year is the third year in a row that COMPASS Unity provided this life-saving training to High School seniors.

COMPASS Unity also hosted a Red Ribbon Week parent presentation called "The Truth about Vaping and E-Cigarettes" at Bellport High School. The presentation was given by John T. Martin, Senior Public Health Educator of Suffolk County Department of Health Services. The event also included Narcan training, presented by Sargent Carissa Siry and Sargent Sean Cassidy of the National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force. Childcare was also made available by the Coalition during this event to accommodate parents of young children.

COMPASS YOUTH COALITION (CYC)



COMPASS Unity is actively recruiting youth to join COMPASS Youth Coalition (CYC), the youth sector of COMPASS Unity. Youth coalition members serve as role models and represent the mission of COMPASS Unity coalition. CYC members play a key role in the larger coalition, as local youth provide a unique voice in prevention efforts that are geared towards influencing youth behaviors. Youth participants will help prevent alcohol and other drug use among youth and create positive change in the community by planning and engaging in prevention-based events and activities.

As a second year Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program recipient, COMPASS Unity will continue to employ various strategies in order to train and engage youth in substance use prevention activities. The greater coalition provides ongoing training on SAMSHA's Strategic Prevention Framework, peer pressure resistance, and leadership development. The Coalition also plans to continue to host youth and family-friendly initiatives, in an effort to not only recruit youth, but also to serve as protective factors for youth, their families and the community at large.

JOIN OUR EFFORTS!

COMPASS Unity welcomes you to join the coalition. Monthly meetings are held every second Tuesday of each month. Morning meetings are held at 10AM-11:30AM at South Country Central School District's Administration building, located at 189 North Dunton Avenue, East Patchogue. Evening meetings are held every third month at 6:30PM-8:00PM, at South Country Public Library, located at 22 Station Road, Bellport. Substance abuse prevention training is held during meetings by The Long Island Prevention Resource Center (LIPRC), the Prevention Specialist or other professionals that are knowledgeable in substance abuse prevention. For more information, please contact us at COMPASSUNITY@SOUTHCOUNTRY.ORG

