



**Town of Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board (YAFAB)  
Room 110-Birdseye Municipal Complex  
Monday, April 20, 2015  
Minutes**

**In attendance:** Jocelyn Ault, Darrin Bosco, Greta Broneill, Nina Chanana, Doreen Chiccarello, Maddy Dragone, Lucretia Duwel, Winnie Etienne, Anna Gasinski, Rene Gibson, David Gugliotti, Paige Hoydick, Raquel Juarez, Zach Kenney, Roula Kouvas, Audrey Law, Kate Mascia, James Olsen, Dudley Orr, Kristi Peña, Edward Rawls, Julie Robinson, Denise Scott-Taylor, Kellie Taylor, Mary Tiernan, Shannon Tripodi, Tammy Trojanowski, Kate Venison, Cassie Volcy, Denique Weidema- Lewis

**Call to Order**

Winnie Etienne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Coalition members introduced themselves and shared something they would change in Stratford if they had a 'magic wand'.

**Approval of March 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Dudley Orr made a motion to approve the March 16, 2015 meeting minutes. Audrey Law seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Local Prevention Council Grant**

The Stratford South End Reunion Group requested \$250.00 to fund the Community Expo on June 20, 2015. The Community Expo will be an event with children entertainment, vendors and community resources. The Executive Committee made a recommendation to approve the request. Darin Bosco made a motion to approve the recommendation. Raquel Juarez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Committee/Team Reports**

Youth Committee and #Rx4Disaster~ The MEDALS Awards are scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall Council Chambers. Audrey Law reported that the team has met with Internet Marketing Strategist, Susan Rubinsky, to begin working on a social media campaign on awareness of the dangers of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs. The team will meet on May 5, 2015 and will determine the best practices.

Partnerships For Success (PFS) Committee~ The 2015 Freshman Forum was very successful in its second year. The Forum was presented to a nearly full auditorium at Stratford High on April 1, 2015. The attendance doubled, from 275 last year to nearly 450 this year. The Medication Drop Box has collected a total of 1,319.8 pounds of medication since October 2013. Also, the Stratford medication drop box location, with surrounding towns, will be featured in an Ad at the Trumbull Mall for the next 6 months.

Data Committee~ Key Informant interviews and focus groups are being conducted. Greta Broneill presented an article in the New York Times on the significant increase in use of e-cigarettes among youth. Due to a great deal of interest and Coalition's minimum amount of knowledge about e-cigarettes, TPAUD will present on e-cigarettes at the May meeting.

Logistics Committee~ The By-Laws were presented and reviewed by the Coalition. The By-Laws will be sent to Town Administration for approval. The Coalition will approve the By-Laws in May.

Assets Committee~ An "Introduction to Assets" presentation will be made at the May Guidance Department meeting. Dudley Orr is working on a weekly "Assets Newsletter" to be sent by the Superintendent to all parents in the public school district.

### **Name that Coalition**

The Coalition discussed potential names for the renaming and rebranding of the Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board. The open discussion led to many ideas with a name still to be chosen. Coalition members brainstormed words that they liked to be included in the name, such as:

- Stratford
- Wellness
- Collaborative
- Partnership
- Together for Resilient Youth
- Awareness

Name recommendations included:

- SPRY—Stratford Partnership For Resilient Youth
- Project S<sup>3</sup>—Empowering Stratford Youth to be Safe, Successful and Substance Free
- SPARC—Stratford Prevention and Recovery Coalition
- Partnership 4 Prevention
- Stratford's ASSETS
- SLAP—Stratford Leadership Awareness Partnership
- Stratford HOPE—How One Person Emerges/Evolves
- Stratford URGES—Unleash, Recover, Growth, Education, Safe

Coalition members are encouraged to send other ideas to Anna Gasinski, via e-mail.

### **Five Why's of Teen Marijuana Use**

The "Five Why's" technique for problem analysis, which was demonstrated at Week 1 of the National Coalition Academy (NCA), was introduced. The purpose of using this technique is to uncover, challenge and test assumptions of the community problem. Coalition members divided into groups of 3-5 and were asked, "Why is this problem (problem: teen marijuana use) happening in Stratford?" Once causes were identified, each group was asked, "Why is this happening?" This process continued until the group could no longer identify a more basic "why" or root cause.

The root causes that were identified were: Community Norms and Favorable Attitudes. However, those groups that identified Community Norms as the root cause resulted in Favorable Attitudes. Coalition members identified lack of parental discussion in the home, teens unaware of the legal consequences, societal attitude is accepting, and teen assume drugs and alcohol are going to be present at a party and it is the time to try it.

**Community Updates**

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2015.
- Spring into Wellness Fair is on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Stratford Library, Lovell Room. The event will feature an "In Our Own Voices" by Don Fisher from NAMI, Mental Health First Aid preview, and Yoga, Chair Yoga and Mediation. Other vendors will include: a nutritionist, hypnotist, and massage therapist. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Bunnell High School will be hosting Retail 101 starting on Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26, 2015. The proceeds will benefit this year's Bunnell junior and senior classes.
- RYASAP is accepting submission for their annual Anti-Tobacco and e-cigarette educational graphic design contest. This is a poster project for students K-12 and in college.
- The CADCA Mid Year Training Institute in Indianapolis is from August 2-6, 2015. This conference is open to any coalition member interested in attending.

**Plusses and Wishes**

Plusses	Wishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Active meeting; a lot of participation</li><li>• 5 Why's Activity</li><li>• Open group (non-judgmental)</li><li>• By-Laws!!</li><li>• Heard from youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Table set up differently to be able to hear everyone</li><li>• Meeting end at 8:30 p.m.</li><li>• Activity done sooner (earlier)</li><li>• Good kid = cool kid</li></ul>

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James Olsen