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Our vision: Healthy, supportive communities for everyone.

Our mission: Through collaborative and strategic action, we empower communities to prevent the misuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

NOTES

Thursday, October 24th 1-2:15PM

Attendance: Kate Hansen, Brenda Humbracht, Casey Siebecker, Alysha Basel, Allison Bucheger, Deborah Johnson, Jeena Breunig, Sara Jesse, Taylor Fish, Hannah Erdman, Jodie Molitor, Jesse Phalen

Topic	Process/Notes
Welcome Time: 3 minutes Purpose: Welcome and settle in for meeting Leader: Casey	Casey will lead group through some brief introductions.
Celebrate Success Time: 5 Minutes Purpose: Celebrate Member Successes Leader: Casey	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's Talk Vapes & Alcohol webinar was held this week – thank you to all who helped make that a success! Casey and Debby – spoke with Wisconsin homemakers Association (~60-70 women) about harm reduction and P4P. Thank you Debby and Casey! Thank you to all who helped with the Community Health breakfast at Ho Chunk as well as the webinar meeting.
Approval of Minutes Time: 2 Minutes Purpose: Decision Leader: Brenda	Minutes from September 26 meeting were reviewed and approved with no edits.
Health Equity Spotlight Time: 10 minutes Purpose: Spend time learning about equity issues Leader: Kate	21 Week Equity Challenge through United Way: Topic: Racism & Inequality in Systems & Structures Group watched one video from Angel's journey and discussed (https://pbswisconsin.org/webisode/why-race-matters/preview-why-race-matters/video/)

Coalition Engagement Action Team Time: 10 minutes Leader: Kate	Recruitment Updates Please share out about any meetings or potential new member connections made since our June Meeting. Kind Fest: Lots of people stopped and learned info about P4P. One possible person interested in joining P4P. Next Coalition Engagement Action Team Meeting : Tuesday October 29 at 11am to continue planning for school YRBS meeting in the spring.
Alcohol/Commercial Tobacco Action Team Time: 10 minutes Leader:	Update from SCA Still looking to pursue changes to Sauk Prairie Tobacco Free Parks Sauk Prairie School District Field Day – shared materials with second graders regarding avoiding substances, etc. Still working with school districts to get onboard with the Youth Summit Youth Voice Project – Working with River Valley on a statewide project. Opportunity for students to share how tobacco and nicotine affect their lives. This will be happening in November. Recap of Let's Talk Vapes & Alcohol Results of survey was shared with the group: https://shout.com/r/3Lcma6pp Parent Focus Group Results Share Out 5 groups with 13 parents/guardians participated. 3 were in person; 2 were virtual. Summary attached to notes. Next Action Team Meeting Thursday October 31 st at 10am via zoom to plan for more focus groups.
December Social Media Posts Time: 10 minutes Purpose: Seeking Facebook page volunteer manager Leader: Kate	Come with ideas for Facebook posts for the month of December.
Share Partner Agency Updates Time: 5 minutes Purpose: Share upcoming events, announcements, webinars, opportunities	Share upcoming events, announcements, webinars, opportunities, etc. from partnering agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug take back day is 10/26, Spring Green, Spring Green and Plain (flyer attached), and Elroy and Mauston • SUPER Halloween meeting, Wis Hope in Baraboo 10/25 (flyer attached) • Sober event 10/26 5-10pm at Rec Center (134 South Locus Street) in Reedsburg – costumes, jack-o-lanterns, prizes • ALANON Convention 10/26 at Chula Vista • Baraboo Boo to Drugs walk is 10/26

Next Meeting: November 21st from 1:00-2:15pm Either In Person or via Zoom

Action Team Membership Sign Up

Please self-identify which action teams you want to participate on and hear from regularly

Visit: <https://forms.gle/AuvXRynGHeVupD9n6>

Coalition Tracker 2024

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Parent/Guardian Focus Group Summary & Key Themes

About the sample:

Across five groups 13 parents/guardians participated. The school districts represented include: Reedsburg, Baraboo, Prairie Du Sac/Sauk City, Spring Green, and Wisconsin Dells. Three groups were in person and two groups were held virtually.

The participants were majority female (12) and the average age of the participants were 44 years old. 10 identify as white (non-Hispanic), 1 black, and 2 of Hispanic, Latinx or Spanish Origin. Participants had an average of 2.5 children and the majority of those children at the time of the groups were between 10-14 years old.

When asked questions about the perception of harm when it comes to underage drinking as parent the respondents overwhelmingly said it was not safe (12) to drink alcohol under age 21. Further the majority of participants also replied it was not safe (12) to provide their child alcohol under age 21. Only 1 participant reported they felt it was safe to drink under 21 and to provide alcohol to their child under 21.

Themes from Discussion:

The following scale was used for this question:

Extremely Uncomfortable -1, 2, 3, 4, 5- Extremely comfortable.

When asked how comfortable they are talking with their teen about underage alcohol use at parties, the majority of participants reported 4 or 5 – extremely comfortable talking with their teen. Some of the reasons they said made them feel comfortable talking about this topic included:

- Athletic participation made the rules very clear and that they as parents were not setting the rules.
- Families already established when children were younger a very open communication dynamic in their family and it just felt natural to cover this topic as well.
- One participant said they knew as a parent that was their job and that had to become comfortable doing it (talking with their youth about alcohol). They also mentioned not wanting their youth to go to different people as sources of information.

Participants cited that having resources like brochures or up to date fact sheets on hand when having conversations would be helpful with older teens. Some participants said they would like to know when school touches on alcohol use either in health class or other courses, as they would like to reinforce the messages students receive/are taught about alcohol in a timely manner. This participant also stated they don't frequently hear from their teens school about what they are learning or what has been going in school. Their teen is not a reliable source for this information.

When asked their perception of the frequency of underage drinking parties or gatherings in Sauk County, most participants said they felt parties were happening regularly. Some cited that football

season on Friday nights is one time of year they hear about these parties, in addition to Prom or Graduation parties also being cited. No specific cities or locations were shared about where these parties or gatherings happen, other than some guessed in teens homes. **One participant identified that they personally knew of 2 other families that would provide alcohol to youth at gatherings or parties at their home.**

When asked what factors influence their decision to provide alcohol at a teen party or gathering they are hosting, participants frequently mentioned:

- Legality- It is illegal for anyone over 21 to provide a place or location for youth under 21 (not directly related to them).
- It's not the family culture to (provide alcohol) when hosting events. It's a dry family- no adult consumes alcohol at home.
- Fear of injury or accidental death of youth.
- Parents hold a position within the community, that if it was discovered they condone underage drinking, their employment would be in jeopardy.
- Their teen participates in athletics and many of their friends do as well, so they respect the athletics code of conduct.
- One participant mentioned that they will always choose to host their kids friends because they felt most control over the activities the kids would engage in. (not providing alcohol)

When asked what is their biggest concerns about youth parties or gatherings where alcohol is available for the youth, participants reported many of the same points as the question above and also reported:

- They know that teen brain development occurs until age 25, so they don't want to impact their teens' development by introducing alcohol.
- Drinking and driving was mentioned in every group and many participants agreed.
- Some participants worried that if alcohol was present, what else (what other substances) were also present.
- A few participants also mentioned they don't host or allow their teens to attend drinking parties, because they don't want to make a decision about safety for a particular teen when hosting who isn't their child and/or they didn't want other parents to make that decision for their teen.

When asked to share about what their conversations with their teens about alcohol have looked like, covered in content, participants report:

- Often conversations happen in the car because their teen is "captive" between school and practice or other activities.
- Windshield Time is what one participant call this setting. Windshield time is not only for alcohol conversations but a wide variety of topics between a parent and child.
- Participants report sharing their personal experiences when it came to drinking alcohol and what might have happened to them.
- Participants overwhelmingly report that they emphasize never to drink or drive. Some use the message: You can call me at any time, no questions asked, and I will come get you if you feel

unsafe or don't have a safe way to get home from a situation. (Particularly in the context of alcohol use)

When asked at what age did you start talking about alcohol with your child, participants reported a wide range of ages between 8-13. One participant mentioned that younger siblings learn about some topics because their older sibling is at the next development level. (Diffusion)

Not in response to a particular question, but participants made statements through out the groups such as **"Teens will drink no matter what"; "I know my teen will likely try it at some point. Whether or not they share that with me, I don't know"; "Alcohol is so prevalent, and I imagine in the future my teen will drink, I just hope they do it safely"**. This speaks to the perception that underage drinking is inevitable and will likely occur in Sauk County.

A handful of participants mentioned that they wish the schools offered more assemblies or opportunities in the classroom for youth to hear from people with lived experiences related to negative consequences of alcohol use: victims of drunk drivers, persons in recovery, family of alcoholics.

A handful of participants asked if there are parent support groups that cover topics like alcohol, cannabis or commercial tobacco use and other youth growth and development topics. They mentioned until attending this focus group, they frequently felt alone in setting expectations around alcohol or other drugs for their teen. They positively reported that having casual conversations with other parents was helpful to not feel isolated in these parenting topics.