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Monroe County Coalition Meeting  
Zoom Meeting  
5/18/21

**Introductions:** Elaine Thompson, Dept. Juvenile Justice (Other Sector), Tom Goetz, Anchors Aweigh (Civic Sector), Elizabeth Baker, Rochelle McEntyre (Medical Sector FQHC), Cristine Poist, State Attorney's Office, Alison Kerr, Dept. of Health (Govt. Sector), Ben Kemmer, Florida Keys Children's Shelter (Parent Sector), Billy Davis, A Positive Step (Other Sector- Minority Vendor) Tammy Hansen, Julian Acosta, Guidance Care Center (Youth Serving Sector), Martina Belotti, Champions for Change (Youth Serving Sector), Dr. Angela Mooss, Behavioral Science Research Institute, Hal Johnson, Epidemiologist, Ali Baston, Sondra Esquinaldo, Susan Moore, Monroe County Coalition.

**Elaine Thompson chaired the meeting**

**\*\* Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM\*\***

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Elaine Thompson and seconded by Alison Kerr.

**Epidemiologist, Hal Johnson** gave a presentation including Monroe County data entitled, "What are they Vaping". The information shared showed cigarette smoking use has gone down since the survey conducted in 2020, but marijuana use has fluctuated over the same period. Vaporizers are now used at a higher rate than both cigarettes and marijuana. The survey concluded with added data on vaping that nicotine use was considerably higher among youth and the use of marijuana was slightly more as well.

**Alison Kerr: Department of Health** is continuing work with the Mental Substance Abuse Planning Committee at GCC with ongoing community health priorities and the health improvement plan. In absence of Brandi Peretz, Tobacco Prevention Project Manager the announcement was made that "World No Tobacco Day" is May 31, 2021. They are seeking 2 volunteer students for the upcoming SWAT 2-day training which includes a certificate and graduation pin.

**Tammy Hansen: Guidance Care Center** has worked for 8 weeks with approximately 80 to 85 Kindergarten students who will graduate this week at Gerald Adams. The Boys and Girls Club and the Children's Shelter are continuing "Project Success" for middle school and currently looking for places that serve Kindergarten through Middle School to offer these programs in their summer activities.

**Julian Acosta: Guidance Care Center** has been working hard to reestablish all services and maintain communication with schools and faculty. They were able to serve 270 students so far at Marathon and Coral Shores High Schools with the PPG grant and 2,652 students were served with the PPG grant. The SOAR2 grant year to date has served 1,150 students. Prevention Specialist are continuing to work along with student assistance through virtual means and welcome Hannah, the newest HOB Middle School staff member who is working with students at a strong rate. Mental Health and Prevention Services are always available through GCC and they are willing to help.

**Martina Belotti: Champions for Change** has had an extremely active year which started with 30 students enrolled, successfully keeping 23 of them active. The prom pre-event was held by giving out swag bags from MCC "I Steer Clear" campaign for safe driving. Children's Mental Health Week was celebrated with banners, flags and swag bags filled with materials for teachers, staff, and students. Messages on mental health and the importance of self-care were placed on social media and on VNN in the school. Because prevention week is partnered with Monroe County School District, MCC, and the City and County as well, "Champions for Change" students attended the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with their annual request and had the opportunity to share the importance of prevention and the importance of collaborating with non-profit organizations. Peer mentors received pins to wear on graduation gowns and were able to promote and share what they

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learned through the "Champions for Change" program to underclassmen. There will be three more Safe Sober graduations events to come with "No One's Home" campaign event materials prepared from MCC to give parents. "Champions for Change" students have volunteered to work at the skate park this summer which is considered a hot spot. Thank you to Susan, Julian, and Tammy for their support.

**Ben Kemmer: Florida Keys Children's Shelter** is continuing to be very busy with resident and non-residential programs. Non-residential services have gone up so much that a non-resident counselor has been hired to cover the upper keys and another counselor may be hired in Key West as well. Since August there have been 82 All-Stars programs opened with 59 of them completed, Since December there were 10 Parenting Wisely programs opened with 4 of them being completed. At Risk Camp will run again this summer free of charge with the first session scheduled June 5 through June 12. The second session will run June 19 through 26. A few more sessions will be added throughout the summer and will include therapy, counseling, and entertainment as well. Transportation is available to and from Key West if needed.

**Law Enforcement: (no attendance)** Susan Moore announced there will be additional law enforcement for middle and upper keys for Prom and Graduation.

**Elizabeth Baker: Rural Health Network** has monthly newsletters available upon request. Vaccine and dental pediatric programs are available. Nutritional classes are ongoing virtually and in person each month for free. Mobile services for medical and dental needs will be starting with a ribbon cutting event on June 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at their North Roosevelt location parking lot.

**Billy David: A Positive Step** is currently recruiting KWHS students ages 16 and older, who are enrolled in the KWHS Idle Hands Summer Youth Program partnered with the City of Key West, to provide jobs for the summer. There are advertisements in the newspaper and on radio. "Take Stock in Children is now on board. Services are continued for the Fatherhood Program in the Monroe County Detention Center and at Anchors Aweigh Clubhouse for dads which include incentives and support with the aim of dads being active in their children's lives. A Positive Step continues to aid dads in obtaining a GED, CDL license and OSHA training. The minority arm of "A Positive Step", "Billy Davis and Associates" has partnered with MCC and will hold 2 events each month starting in July providing prevention services to minority communities for Key West to Key Largo.

**Tom Goetz: NA/AA** Anchors Aweigh Clubhouse is closed between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m., but open for any non-profit that needs use of an afternoon space in a comfortable environment or outdoor garden. Currently held at the clubhouse are 6 to 7 daily AA meetings, 2 weekday NA meeting with daily NA meetings held 8:00 a.m. at Rest Beach. Transferring to virtual meetings during the pandemic caused revenue to go down considerably but it is getting better with more in-person meetings being held.

**CHI: (no attendance)**

**Susan Moore: Monroe County Coalition** is prepared to rollout their virtual platform in July and it will be included on school websites. All agencies are welcome to be included announcing their organization services and information. MCC welcomes new graphics personnel joining to help in the expansion of social media which will include awareness of all organization services. With federal grant money present for prom and graduation, the Key West Police Department and Sheriff's Office have been asked to engage additional party patrols around high-risk drinking areas outside of school events to keep youth safe this summer. MCC Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program has 140 completed programs with promotion of the program to continue this summer along with fun on-line game activities geared to parents in prevention education. Current opioid deaths and data was shared with emphasis on promoting the return of pills and medications at local drop-off locations along with the use of available Deterra drug deactivation bags and continued use of Narcan with no questions asked. MCC is looking forward to partnering with "A Positive Step" and the upcoming events in the park.

**In Conclusion: If you think you have a problem, please reach out for help. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 4:00 p.m. with the next Coalition meeting taking place on July 20, 2021 , 3:00 p.m.**

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