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**Greater Portsmouth Youth Wellness Coalition**

**October 16, 2024**

**Attendees:**

**Amy Michaels, Meghan Stewart, Larry McCullough, Kim Harty, Jordan Trombino, Joanne Coles, Ashley Murphy, Jennifer Minicucci, Eli, Gretyl Macalaster, Chris Burke, Nicole Seaward, Anya Zlotosch, Sam Areson, Brady Barry, Dave Cosgrove**

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome, introductions, and opening activity
2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey presentation
   1. Lynne Clement
   2. Kandyce Tucker
   3. Chiahui Chawla
3. Current Coalition Projects – Amy
4. Roundtable Share

**Discussion:**

1. Welcome, introductions and opening activity
2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey presentation
   1. Presentation attached with notes
   2. Representatives from BDAS and DHHS gave an overview of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and answered questions from the group
   3. Questions from the group:
      1. Regarding the validity of the survey, how does DHHS weed out inconsistent answers? 🡪 looking for inconsistencies like answering a, a, a, b, b, b, etc. or looking at differences in answers that are meant to be consistent throughout the survey
      2. Will the 2025 YRBS include ACEs questions? 🡪 yes, the 2025 survey will include 8 core ACEs questions as well as questions about cell phones and social media
      3. Who gives input on the YRBS questions? 🡪 DHHS and BDAS gather groups like school SAPs, NAMI, New Futures, public health networks, and more to get input on questions they’d like to see on the YRBS
         1. Because the YRBS collects trend data, only 30% of the questions can be adjusted each year
         2. In coming years, the Coalition will be in contact with BDAS and DHHS to provide input on questions we’d all like to see on the survey
         3. This is especially important because the DFC Core Measures are no longer on the YRBS and we will be advocating that they be added back because our funding is dependent on this
      4. Why are students reporting that substance use is decreasing but mental health issues are increasing? 🡪 there are a few reasons for this: the questions are being asked more clearly, during COVID, youth may not have had access to substances which is why they reported lower use numbers in 2019, youth are better ably to identify their mental health status now due to more understanding and education (the same goes for bullying and vaping)
      5. Why isn’t the YRBS publicized more? 🡪 the Superintendent is sent the YRBS results each year and has to authorize the release of the school/district reports. It may be that in Portsmouth, the Superintendent is not authorizing the release of the results to the community
      6. Why didn’t we have Regional data from 2023? 🡪 Not enough schools participated in the 2023 YRBS to be able to show regional data
3. Coalition Updates – Amy
   1. Youth Coalition has a new phone number! Please reach out to 202-681-7752 with any Youth Coalition-related stuff
   2. We are going to be creating a Youth Coalition website and promotional materials like brochures
      1. If anyone is interested in assisting with this project, please reach out to Meghan & Amy!

**Next Meeting: November 20th at 3:30pm**

**Great Bay Community College – WorkReadyNH Classroom**