

Draft Minutes
12/15/2021

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
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1. Welcome
2. Introductions
 - a. Attendants: Holly Hansen, Robin Kohler, Cassie Schend, Michelle Hill, Hilary Norcross, Cynthia Zingler, Kimberly McTighe
3. Review of 11/17/21 minutes
 - a. Kimberly McTighe motions to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Cassie Schend, approved by the coalition.
4. Real Talk Updates
 - a. Holiday Liquor Stores Bags
 - i. Peer advocates and Real Talk teamed up to decorate package store bags with holiday-themed prevention messaging to encourage safe drinking practices.
 - ii. Two alcohol retailers participated donating 500 bags for the prevention initiative
 - iii. Will be in The Vernon Voice upcoming edition
5. Vaping
 - a. Some students across the United States have been vaping fentanyl, schools in Norwalk have reported overdoses
 - b. The RHS SRO will be presenting in health classes, and a local newsletter that parents receive included information on how to talk to your children about fentanyl and vaping
 - c. Ellington Youth Services has a SMART recovery group that can be used for vaping recovery, it has been shared with support staff at RHS.
6. Coalition updates
 - a. Holiday Billboard
 - i. The billboard is up until January 3rd
 - b. Holiday Resources for local events
 - i. Cornerstone held a pancake breakfast in partnership with the Vernon Rotary Club. The coalition created and disseminated a mental health resource for this event.

- ii. Social services will be disseminating another resource Vernon ROCKS created to help teens cope with mental health.
 - c. Public Hearing for Cannabis retailers
 - i. The initial proposal for cannabis retailers was to allow them within 500 feet of a school. After two public hearings, attended by multiple coalition members the proposal was changed to 3,000 feet from a school.
 - d. CADCA Leadership Forum
 - i. CADCA will be held in-person with proof of vaccination. There are still safety concerns for this conference, so we are holding off on opening this up to the entire coalition to ensure everyone's safety.
 - ii. It is held the first week of February.
 - iii. Cassie and Holly will be presenting at the forum, we will be doing focus groups, with one being held on 12/16. Invitation to attend was offered at the meeting.
- 7. General Ideas for 2022
 - a. May NPW
 - b. Compliance checks in the spring
 - c. Volleyball Lock-In is being held on March 11th, 2022
 - d. MVPP
 - i. Strategies for dealing with grief to prevent turning to drugs or alcohol
 - e. Recruitment for Botvin Life Skills
 - i. Referrals from JRB
 - f. Trainings for Coalition
 - i. SBIRT
 - g. Recruitment
 - i. Faith-based
 - ii. Parents
 - iii. Civic groups
 - iv. Businesses
- 8. Other Announcements

- a. A past Real Talk member, Urwa, was featured in the Hartford Courant for publishing a book entitled “Steering Towards Change: Women Politicians Challenging Patriarchy, Class and Power in Pakistan” and has started her own non-profit.
 - b. Vernon ROCKS Coalition partnered with an existing coalition group, Become Part of the Solution, in November. The event focused on recovery support and raised money to get people into recovery.
9. Next Meeting: January 19th