



Vernon ROCKS Coalition
February 16, 2022
2:15pm, virtual

Draft Minutes

02/16/2022

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
 - a. Attendants: Holly Hansen, Robin Kohler, Cassie Schend, Michelle Hill, Kimberly McTighe, Hilary Norcia
3. Review of 01/19/22 minutes
 - a. Kim McTighe motions to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Robin Kohler, approved by the coalition.
4. Real Talk Updates
 - a. Peer made Posters for Prevention
 - i. Posters were developed by Real Talk member, Skylin, with the intent that viewing peer-made anti-vaping posters will remind adolescents that they don't have to.
 - ii. They are printed and need to be delivered to the school which will occur this week.
 - b. Youth Development-
 - i. Youth opportunities are available because of a grant which focuses on Positive Youth Development. The coalition will be using those funds for providing youth with job hiring experience and award 2 stipend positions. There are 2 positions, and youth will gain skills of going through the employment process.
 - ii. Stipend position for Vernon youth aged 16-18. The two youth will receive a monthly stipend based on a flexible, 12-hour work month that is funded through July.
 - iii. One role will focus on the general needs of the coalition and real talk and the other will be only for RHS students and focus on recruitment.
 - c. 2022 initiatives
 - i. Youth have identified that they want to provide peers with healthy coping mechanisms.
 1. Bring in therapy dogs
 - a. Kim has a connection to Willow, a hypoallergenic dog

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2. Have a table event to make sensory items
 3. Marijuana education
 4. Vaping cessation efforts (quitting tools- gum, lollipops)
 - d. Maintain a consistent meeting schedule - Real Talk will meet every two weeks on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.
5. SOR Mini-Grant Application Update
 - a. The grant application will be submitted this week. Deliverables are listed as follow:
 - i. Required Deliverables: utilize CT campaigns, use local and state data to guide priority populations and strategies, implement substance abuse prevention and behavioral health promotion initiatives within their communities.
 - ii. Selected Deliverables: Host Narcan and QPR training with Holly being trained in QPR; attend relevant continuing education conferences for coalition members; and provide re-entry bags for people discharged treatment.
6. Manchester Vernon Prevention Partnership
 - a. On February 15, we had our advisory meeting. The following are the topics that were discussed:
 - i. Parent resources
 1. How to provide resources to parents: A link tree linking to coalition developed materials, hardcopy brochures, and information on how to foster discussions with kids about many of the topic concerns.
 - ii. Vaping concerns
 - iii. Youth focus groups to determine their needs and concerns
 - iv. Protective factor training
 - v. Cross-community Narcan training
 - b. The next meeting will be held in May
7. Botvin Life Skills
 - a. Covid has challenged the implementation of this grant deliverable
 - b. In 2021, the coalition hosted a modified, virtual version of the training
 - c. Revised to be more appealing to youth
 - d. 10 sessions of 40 minutes each, with the goal of minimum of 6 youth per session

- e. Ideas for participant recruitment: Faith-based youth groups; a free summer youth program for those aged 13/14 to target youth who are unable to work; working with the library; participating in the TELF program; or offering credit or community service hours as incentives.
8. National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week-March 21-27
- a. Parent Resources
 - b. Looking for parent organizations to help spread information generated by the MVPP.
 - i. Project Grad
9. Other Announcements
- a. Volleyball Lock-in will take place March 4th with junior and seniors
 - b. Requests for Narcan and QPR trainings for school staff
 - c. Drug Take-Back Day will be held on April 30th
 - i. Pharmacy requested promotional information to publicize the event prior.
 - d. On Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, coalition partner Become Part of the Solution will host a fundraising event. There will be acoustic music, refreshments, raffles, and other activities. Proceeds go to support getting people into recovery.
10. Next Meeting: March 16th