**Faces4Change DFC/CARA Community Coalition**

**June 14, 2022  Meeting Minutes**

**Dr. Hicks Harper called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.**

**Members Present:** Dr. P. Thandi Hicks Harper, Billo Harper, Yolande Njjomgoue, Mo Bowler, Danielle Mudd, Frank Sottaceti, Danielle Winkworth, Akiel (On the Road), Collin Carpenter, Jennifer Rea, Kayla McKean, The Spirit Doctor (Love), Tim Jones, Valentin Sanchez, William Ellis

**Faces4Change “Harrisonburg Drug-Free Community (DFC) Coalition”**

1. Welcome by Dr. Hicks Harper
2. Introduction of Meeting Agenda by Luke
3. Participants were asked to put their comments and questions in the Chat Box

**2022 Year in Review**

1. Social Media presentation by Victoria
2. Frank Sottaceti asked about possibilities working with school nurses to share F4C resources with students
3. Updates about the CADCA Mid-Year Training in July 2022
4. Updates on meeting with Senator Kaine. He encouraged F4C to reach out to his office.
5. Successful Youth Leadership Summit in June 2022. Presentations from Officer Kidd and JMU football player. Akiel from On the Road and Yolande shared update.
6. Hope to get EMU participation next year!
7. Review of radio interviews this past year
8. Mo gave updates on the Community Needs Assessment conducted in 2022. Will be hearing the results of this Assessment in February

**2021 Youth Data Survey (YDS)**

1. Introduction of Jennifer Rea and Kayla McKean by Luke Morgan
2. Overview of the survey organization (IIHHS), origins, purpose, and collaborating partners
3. Objective is to examine current and longitudinal tends around local youth risk behavior
4. Overview of Demographic data of those youth who completed the survey.
5. Overview of “Quick Facts” about the results of the survey.
6. Slight decrease in alcohol consumption since 2019. Disapproval of parents and friends impacts youth’s alcohol consumption
7. Decrease in tobacco use among youth from 2019. Decrease in belief that tobacco puts them at a great risk.
8. Teens are reporting using electronic valor products more frequently than tobacco
9. Teens reported less illicit drug use than in 2019. Between 1 and 2 percent of students misusing prescription medication
10. Decreasing marijuana use among youth.
11. Decrease in violence since 2019. Fewer youth wearing seat belts. Youth church attendance decline.
12. Suicide ideation and consideration rates stayed stable. Most youth still would not tell anyone at all if they were feeling suicidal.
13. English is the primary language spoken at home, while Spanish is the second most prominent.
14. Fewer Hispanic youth drink alcohol than youth overall. Over substances were comparable. Lowered perception of risk related to tobacco compared to youth overall.
15. Hispanic use parents are slightly more approving of substance use.

A discussion started about drug use among teens, particularly the rise in use of cough syrup.

1. Frank Sottaceti shared that marijuana still is not legal for youth to use in Virginia. Harrisonburg is primarily a meth community for adult.
2. Dr. Harper shared information about the dangers of cough syrup and its increasing use among students. She encouraged the presenters to include this on the next survey.
3. Jennifer Rea shared that the process for adjusting and adding to the survey will begin later this year. The longitudinal nature of the survey discourages frequent changes, but questions can potentially be added.
4. Billo Harper discussed how cough syrup mixtures are often referred to as “lean” or “Sizzurp” and are prominent in new hip hop culture coming from the South/Southwest.
5. Dr. Harper asked youth-serving organizations what substances they see/hear about with the youth they serve.
6. Aikel from OTR mentioned that vapes/e-cigarettes are most frequently use. Marijuana used occasionally.
7. DXM as is in Robutussin can be just as potent as other codeine-based cough syrup—“Robotrippin.” Discussed how OTC drugs, such as Tylenol, are becoming more prevalent in suicide/overdoses.

**Questions and Comments**

1. Billo Harper mentioned to do break out conversations at this year’s summit to see what kind of experiences parents have had with resources and substance use in youth.
2. Frank Sottaceti suggested/asked about using the assessment to dig more into home/parent life and environment. Particular interest in asking about whether a parent is incarcerated.
3. Dr. Harper discussed the balance between maintaining longitudinal data while still staying current with the trends.

**Greetings**

1. Dr. Hicks Harper thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to stay in touch

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm**