

**Madison Chatham Coalition Membership Meeting**  
**November 16, 2021 9:30 am** *Virtual Zoom Meeting*  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Christine McIntyre (Health), Gulp Deol (Other substance abuse agency), Amy Lewis (other substance abuse agency), Brian Colatrella (police), Kathy Martini (youth-serving org), Kiana Frazier (schools), Lauri O'Brien (parent), Marilyn Muslielski (civic), Mary Moore (civic), Rozella Clyde (civic), Salena Mahr (parent), Heather Marsh (schools), Amelia Ortman (schools), Bill Lillis (other substance abuse agency)

**9:30-9:35 Meeting called to order**

- 1) Allison thanked everyone for attending our combined MCC, MACC, and MAASA meeting. Introduced Gulp Deol, joining from Ohio, coordinator at Richland County Youth Substance Use Coalition. Were introduced by Tracy Johnson, put in contact with one another. Gulp had Allison speak at one of their meetings.

**9:35-10:00 Featured Speaker- Gulp Deol**

- Background: works at the Richland County Health Department in Ohio. Started working as a health educator in January 2020.
- Richland County Substance Coalition founded in 2016, had some success back then but lack of funding and commitment until the Health Department was granted the drug free grant in October 2019.
- Didn't start meeting as a coalition until June 2020 because of Covid and the focus change. In person first meeting was June 2021. Now are on year 3 of DFC grant. They have 30 members, 10-15 show up on average.
- Challenges: Covid and time commitments.
- 3 committees: data and evaluation committee, prescription misuse prevention committee, alcohol misuse prevention committee.
- Coalition meets once a month
- Challenges: lack of parental-youth involvement, trying to work with schools is helping. The parent-teacher organization at the high school is essentially non-existent. In terms of youth involvement, trying to work on challenges and contests. Set aside funding for billboards, for students to be involved. Getting an anonymous box to let students submit challenges and contests.
- Reaching out to as many as community partners, attending their events has been successful for them.
- Raffle up some gift cards.
- Partnered with community organizations to give out Deterra packets, utilizing pharmacies
- Alcohol side of things, encouraged local businesses to hang up posters for Parents who host lose the most. Trying to push more each day.
- Does anyone have any questions?
- Allison: Data collection group, a youth subcommittee, we found that everyone was working on the same type of thing. How have you managed that? Was that an issue at all?
- Gulp: each committee meets separately. Has an agenda for each meeting. Not too much overlap there. Committee meetings are shorter, 30 minutes.
- Lauri: One thing we spoke about at our board meetings, something we did before pandemic was events which is what got us more engagement. Parents want to be informed but not necessarily take a stand. Understanding that there are some challenges in engaging parents, we need to figure out what is going to work to get them into our mission. Appreciate for bringing up those challenges that Gulp shared.
- Gulp: asking parents what it is they want/need from the coalition.

- Allison: asking on behalf of a board member; what is the preferred way for your membership to participate in the coalition? Volunteering, planning events, how are they involved?
- Gulp: very limited. Have only been meeting a year and a half, even though they are on year 3. They are just getting started. In terms of getting involved, any community events, they try attending
- Allison: any other questions?
- Allison: Gulp and Allison will stay in touch to bounce ideas off each other.

### 10:00-10:20 Other Sector Updates

- Allison: we have Heather Marsh from Chatham High school, Emilia from Chatham Middle School, and Vanessa was going to join us but had a family emergency but have notes to share on her behalf.
- Emilia: in for Alex Mandala the perm SAC at Chatham but is a leave replacement. Have been working with Christine McIntyre from PCP with 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Starting off with Covid and how it effects their lives then made it into broader topics. Have gotten a lot of great feedback from students. Have also made a lot of connections within their group. Ran an anxiety group for 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls, just ended yesterday.
- Christine McIntyre: been a pleasure working with Emilia. Will continue working with Chatham Middle School when Alex returns.
- Lauri: curious about how big the groups are? How did you put the groups together? Were they all PCP clients or did you advertise to the school?
- Emilia: 5-6 students, got student recommendations through counselors. People already in the group brought friends, send a permission slip home. In the anxiety group it was 9 girls, which was done through an interest form through Google Docs.
- Heather: the new SAC at Chatham high school. Busy start to the year. Just had red ribbon week, last week of October. Worked with the Teen Task Force, posted a trivia game during lunch, had a great turn out with students. Did a healthy coping skills activity during lunch as well. In addition, going into physical ed classes on how to build healthy connections. Will be starting a wellness Wednesday initiative. Concluded a connections group, 4 kids were in it, they were identified by counselors who might be struggling with social isolation because of the pandemic. In the future, based on a survey, will do groups such as LGBTQ, anxiety groups, high school experience groups, social media, and friendship drama.
- \*connection failed\*
- Allison: if anyone has any questions for Heather, write it in the chat and she can share it with Heather and she can possibly answer them in the December meeting.
- \*connection returned\*
- Allison: does anyone have questions? Have you noticed any change in vaping use?
- Heather: we don't see too much of it, not many reports. Was not here last year, not sure in terms of numbers. Are hearing more about edibles this year, it's becoming a bigger thing. It's easier to hide than vapes. Kids will eat rice krispy treats, nerd ropes are a thing and come with the nerd ropes brand. There is no smoke to hide, so that may be a challenge.
- Allison: any other questions?
- Allison: will read remarks from Vanessa on things she's seeing. Seeing an increase in dissociation, might be a trauma response on last few years. Increase in vaping. Increase in marijuana use and perception of harm. Also the misconception of marijuana compared to other substances. Looking to bring back Steven Hill, who spoke at the high school 2 years ago also spoke at the junior school and spoke on his journey with addiction. Wants him back before prom.

#### 10:20-10:45 MCC TTF Update (Allison)

- Have been meeting with them regularly. They had technical difficulties, which they'll provide for our newsletter
- Night of conversation, working with Christine McIntyre and TTF. They provided such good feedback and currently still brainstorming
- Christine: making it an interesting program this year especially with the TTF input
- 4<sup>th</sup> year doing Night of Conversation; normally it's been in person and we invite families, then moved to podcast series, now we're taking a step further. We want to meet families where they are so we will be bringing it to their homes and asking they participate that way.
- Focusing on mental health issues as well
- Will have more information coming out next couple of weeks like registration, they will talk more about their video which we'll add link on the newsletter
- Christine: the switch was we had the families come in and an outside person coming in and ask questions, now we'll have the parents asking the questions
- Allison: moving on to brief MCC updates. Nixie is in the process on re-engaging the faith based organization. Has reached out to faith based organizations in Madison and Chatham. Want to find out issues what different churches are dealing with and what they know about the coalition and what we can share with them. Also trying to brainstorm ideas on how we can partner together.
- There's been a gap for several years, faith based is difficult to engage because of the type of work they do and how busy they are. However we are very well aligned with some type of issues we deal with and the services we provide.
- Hidden in Plain Sight, Dec 9 at 7PM, virtual. We are working with the DEA agent that we have worked with for the past 3 hidden in plain sight events. He will walk parents through the different hiding places and devices that parents can find in a teenagers bedroom. The second portion of the event is a drug trends presentation which will be live. Opportunity for parents to ask questions. Will be creating the flyer and registration, and will get that out within the next 2 days. It is 18 and over.
- Our December meeting, we have Kelly from Epiphany will come out to start creating our plan for our competing continuation application. That process will start Thursday, so our goal for December will be to be in person if possible to be a working meeting. Break into small groups and work on our action plan that is on our competing continuation application.