

MONROE COMMUNITY COALITION MINUTES

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Attendance: Tammy Amador, Kathryn Bernhardt, Jim Bloss, JeNell Buchanan, Terry Cheshire, Jennifer Garcia, Chris Gray, Michael Hanford, Chris Hendrickson, Sarah Lunstrum, Cherie Matyas, Mary Myers, Jeff Rasmussen, Andy Song, Justin Springer, Erin Wood

Guests: Blake Baird, Leaders In Learning High School; Julie Conklin, Parent; Kara Dineen, Take the Next Step; Amanda Franke, Snohomish County Alcohol & Other Drugs, Liza Patchen-Short, Snohomish County Mental Health

Staff: Joe Neigel

Sectors of Support represented at this meeting: 10 (green = represented, white = not represented; **8 required**)

Youth	Parent	Law Enforcement
Civic/Volunteer Group	Business	Healthcare Professional
Media	School	Youth Serving Organization
Other Substance Abuse Org	Religious/Fraternal Organization	Local Government
Chemical Dependency Treatment	Mental Health	

- **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1PM by Pastor Michael Hanford. This meeting suspended regular business in order to focus on building connections. Members were invited to promote their agencies and initiatives.

- **New Coalition Business**

- **New Prevention/Intervention Specialist at Park Place Middle School**

Coalition members learned a new P/I, Chris Jury, had been hired to replace Sandra Olson. Mr. Jury is an employee of Northwest Educational Services District #189 and will be located at Park Place Middle School. Mr. Jury has extensive substance abuse prevention experience and is funded through School District and CPWI funding from the ESD.

- **Annual Community Survey Goes Live**

The Coalition's Annual Community Survey is live on Survey Monkey. This annual assessment of adult concerns about, attitudes and knowledge of youth substance abuse and mental health issues is requirement for CPWI communities like the Monroe Community Coalition. The Coalition must achieve a minimum of 215 responses prior to the closing date of the survey on December 31, 2015

Coalition members committed to promoting the survey through social media and pen and paper administration. Media Sector representative Chris Hendrickson indicated she would write an article about the survey for the Monroe Monitor. Her story was published in the Monitor on November 16. Click on the picture to read her story.

Annual Monroe Community Coalition survey drops

By: Chris Hendrickson | November 16, 2015 | Monroe News News



- **Member Updates**

- **Blake Baird** introduced himself as the new Coordinator for Leaders In Learning High School, as well as the new Middle School Success Coordinator. Mr. Baird is focused on building recognition for LILHS as the community's second high school, and on developing an alternative education path for middle school.
- **Terry Cheshire** and **Jennifer Garcia**, the Principal and Counselor at Park Place Middle School, talked about exploring new ways to engage disconnected students at PPMS, including collaborating on an innovative mentoring program.
- **Justin Springer** talked about his priorities as the District's school resource officer, focusing on the unique challenges of serving more than 2,000 students. Officer Springer indicated he tries to reach and teach students in his jurisdiction the same way he teaches his own children, but shared that he has no tolerance for violence – "I'll charge them every time," he said.
- **Jim Bloss** from the National Alliance on Mental Illness shared about his commitment to assisting families impacted by mental health issues. His agency is involved in research, providing support groups, education and advocacy. Mr. Bloss said, "We try to take care of caregivers with our 12 week caregiver support group and through NAMI Basics classes." You can learn more about NAMI Basics by clicking this [hyperlink](#).
- **Chris Hendrickson** from the Monroe Monitor indicated she's always interested in stories that help advance the Coalition's goals, even when she's stretched really thin!
- **JeNell Buchanan**, the Counselor at Leaders In Learning High School, reported that Coalition members have been a great resource for her school. She indicated Andy Song from Cocoon House and Sarah Lunstrum from Take the Next Step have each recently visited to LILHS to offer support.
- **Andy Song** from Cocoon House informed the Coalition about his street outreach efforts as well as many different outreach, housing, and prevention programs his agency offers to homeless and at-risk youth. Mr. Song also promoted his agency's commitment to helping pregnant and parenting young mothers. If you'd like to learn more about the important work of Cocoon House, you should click this [hyperlink](#).
- **Cherie Matyas** shared about her volunteer matching service at justserve.org. Just serve connects people with the desire to volunteer with local volunteer opportunities. Coalition members looking to recruit volunteers for their projects, or who are looking for ways to volunteer in their community, should check out the website. Mrs. Matyas also shared about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' local recovery support groups which are available throughout the Sky Valley.
- **Sara Lunstrum** and **Kara Dineen** walked coalition members through the diverse services [Take the Next Step](#) offers to youth and families in Monroe. In addition to tutoring, family dinners and numerous other youth focused services, TTNS also runs a drop-in resource center for people in need and reported they are currently serving the highest percentage of guests who are homeless that agency has seen in its ten year history.
- **Jeff Rasmussen** serves as a member of the Monroe City Council and as the Director of the Monroe Boys and Girls Club. His agency opens at 6am and serves more than 1,200 local kids. Offering services ranging from childcare to a very successful sports program, Mr. Rasmussen's Boys and Girls Club never turns a student away for financial reasons. If you'd like to learn more about the Boys and Girls club, check them out [here](#).
- **Chris Gray** indicated that she serves on the Housing Hope Board of Directors along with **Jeff Rasmussen** and Monroe Community Coalition Chair, **Tom MacIntyre**. Her agency recently opened Monroe Family Village which is

occupied by 47 families! Housing Hope provides low income housing and specialized services including education designed to address the root causes of homelessness. Ms. Gray indicated the agency provides a range of Housing Services, including: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living Program, Permanent Affordable Housing, and Team Home Building. Specialized services include: Case Management, College of Hope, the Eduployment Program, Supporting Children Program, HopeWorks Social Enterprises. You should definitely check out Housing Hope’s [website](#)!

- **Erin Wood**, Monroe School District’s Behavioral Intervention Specialist, shared that her time and services are being fully utilized schools across the District. She indicated she is frequently encountering students dealing with depression and anxiety, and said her focus is on stabilizing acute situations.
- **Tammy Amador**, a Counselor at Monroe High School, is coordinating the Monroe Youth Coalition with **Joe Neigel**. The Youth Coalition meets each Monday from 1:45 to 3pm and has more than 20 members. The Youth Coalition continues to plan around its social norming PSA, [“You Are Not Alone.”](#)
- **Mary Meyers** deferred her time to share so others could promote their agencies and activities, but mentioned she has her hands full trying to fill several open nursing positions around the school district. If you know a candidate who might be a good fit in a school setting, please direct them [here](#).
- **Kathy Bernhardt**, the family liaison at Frank Wagner Elementary School, talked about the Natural Leaders program – a parent and community partnership that bridges cultural gaps between immigrant families and the school district. Through her meetings at the Parent Hub on Wednesdays from 9-10:30am at Frank Wagner, she supports families new to the community to feel comfortable in their new home. Would you like to learn more? Ms. Bernhardt is also the Coalition’s Facebook guru, and Parent Hub is [online](#).
- **Liza Patchen-Short**, from Snohomish County Mental Health, talked about her role as the County’s Children’s Mental Health Liaison. Ms. Patchen-Short focuses much of her work on increasing access to children’s mental health services through workgroups, events and facilitating connections to available resources. She promoted the County’s upcoming Mental Health Promotion Summit on May 7, 2016. Check out the Save the Date flyer [here](#).
- **Amanda Franke**, Snohomish County’s Risk and Resilience Specialist, indicated she is looking for partners as the County builds a three-tiered social norming campaign around opiate/opioid prevention, naloxone use – the opioid overdose reversal medication, and medication assisted treatment for individuals in recovery.
- **Pastor Michael Hanford** promoted police and firefighter appreciation week, as well as the Treasure Chest at Cascade Church. You can learn more about the Treasure Chest and Cascade’s desire to serve local adoptive and foster families at their [website](#).
- **Adjourn**
The Coalition meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.

Monroe Community Coalition Standing Subcommittees	
Leadership Team	Tom MacIntyre, Kerry Boone, Michael Hanford, Cherie Matyas, Mary Myers
Media/Communications	Cherie Matyas, Paola Saldana, Chris Gray, Kayleigh Shaw
Training	Mary Myers, Kayleigh Shaw, JeNell Buchanan
Community Relations	Michael Hanford
Coalition Buddies	Kathryn Bernhardt, Morgan Huber
Vape Policy/Advocacy	Kerry Boone, Michael Hanford