



Communities for Positive Youth Development (CPYD) Coalition **March 17, 2021 || 10 – 11:30 AM via Zoom**

Welcome/Review Agenda:

The meeting started at 10 AM. Coalition Co-Chair, Yassi Delgado, opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda:

1. Welcome/Review Agenda
2. Introductions and Agency Announcements
3. Subcommittee Updates
4. Problem Gambling Awareness Month Update
5. Community Connections
6. Satisfaction Survey
7. Adjourn

Introductions and Agency Announcements by Sector:

- *Faith-Based Org:* Michael Myers, Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries - attendees are invited to a virtual event tomorrow as part of their monthly programming celebrating Women's History Month
- *Government:* Leslie Reis, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's Office - D.C. and District offices are extremely busy right now, looking at ways to help implement the American Recovery Act and the Equality Act. District office is not open to the public right now, but is fully staffed and available to constituents seeking assistance and resources; Christi Wessel, State Representative Michelle Mussman's Office
- *Parents:* Yassi Delgado, Schaumburg High School Director of Student Services & Parent of an 8th Grader - District 211 will have a board meeting this week where attendees will be able to hear about return to school offerings for students and families.
- *Youth:* Victoria, Koyinsola, and Grant, students at Schaumburg High School
- *School:* Danielle Casamassimo, counselor and Student Assistance Program coordinator at Schaumburg High School - three students from SHS are in attendance today; Maureen Mann counselor and Student Assistance Program coordinator at Hoffman Estates High School; Cyndie Gordon, Director of Special Education at Schaumburg District 54; Beth Farr, Social Work Department Chair at Schaumburg District 54, Ray Galarza, Social Worker and YAC Facilitator at Elk Grove High School
- *Youth-Serving Org:* Yvette Montes de Oca, Family Focus; Liz Dobrzynski, the Bridge Youth and Family Services; Emily Dudley, Teen Parent Connection
- *Civic Organization:* Joe Podlasek, Trickster Cultural Center
- *Other:* Sheryl Murray, Community Member
- *Healthcare:* Antonita King, NAMI Illinois

Sherrine Peyton, Director of Community Collaboration, on behalf of Joe Podlasek, coalition co-chair and Trickster Cultural Center CEO, announced that Trickster Cultural Center is now open to the public and the annual National Gathering of Veterans will take place on July 16-18th at Cantigny Park. Peyton shared that KYC's Community Collaboration has 29 staff members overseeing about 14 programs and introduced division leadership and managers. Staff in attendance included: Nicole Barrett, Community Collaboration Deputy Director; Daryl Pass, Manager of Recovery Support Services; Marianne Rogenski, Positive Youth Development Manager; Dan Hanners, Media and Communications Manager; Marian Lopez, Office Manager; Krupa Patel, Social Media Content Manager; Derek Sullivan, Substance Use Prevention Services Project Associate; and, Dawn Mass, Derek Sullivan, Substance Use Prevention Services Project Associate.

Subcommittee Updates:

Nicole Barrett, Deputy Division Director, introduced the coalition's Executive Committee. The Data and Strategic Planning Subcommittee will meet on April 14th; the Elk Grove Township Subcommittee will meet on March 31st, PYD Subcommittee just met in early March and has not set a date for their next meeting.

Marianne Rogenski, Adult Ally of the Youth Advocates for Change YAC, provided an update: students meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month via Zoom. Recent projects include making tie blankets for youth experiencing homelessness, kits were distributed ahead of time for students to make blankets during their virtual meeting. Focus has been on helping share resources for those experiencing food insecurity. A new student-led organization from Plum Grove Middle School, Say No To Plasticware, presented to the YACs who are also all collaborating on creating a mental health toolkit for schools. Lake Park High School has a new YAC who currently meets every other Friday and students have given valuable input to CYS programming for youth and parents and participated in life-skills discussion such as healthy relationships, mental health, and executive functioning. Several students from various YACs spoke to sponsors of a bill going through the IL House and Senate about personal health and safety information for K-8th graders, engaging in crucial advocacy work.

Ray Galarza, Adult Ally for the EGHS YAC, provided an update: students meet every Thursday for 1.5 hours. First hour revolves around SEL and de-stressing activities and the last half hour is when partners and KYC present and conduct planning for upcoming events such as the EGHS Operation Snowball on May 8th, kickoff to National Prevention Week.

Derek Sullivan, KYC staff, provided an update on behalf of the Rainbow Room YAC which began meeting in November 2020. Students are working on an art show and starting a TikTok account for National Prevention Week that focuses on healthy alternatives to substance use. At this time, the group is just starting out and a way for students to support one another.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month Update:

Marianne Rogenski provided this update on behalf of the Problem Gambling team, Marissa Thompson and Cole Daniels. The goals of this national campaign are: to increase public

awareness of problem gambling and the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services and to encourage healthcare providers to screen clients for problem gambling. Activities included: conducting a Facebook Live Town Hall with Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison on March 10th, in partnership with a gambling counselor; presenting to all four YACs about problem gambling among youth and providing a history of gambling in Illinois; posting on social media about how healthcare providers can screen for problem gambling in the same way they already screen for domestic violence and substance use; and, promoting awareness via billboards on Lake Street and Dundee Road (design was shared in the slides).

Community Connections:

Nicole Barrett introduced this section: Community Connections - Education through Conversation. Dawn Mass, Community Collaboration Project Associate, reviewed group agreements: Groups will be peer-led and peer monitored and relationship driven. Some conversations may be uncomfortable, but we will take personal responsibility for our intent and impact of our own words and be prepared to listen and learn, allowing everyone the time and space to speak. Some may be more open and vulnerable than others, but try to suspend judgement of one another's level of openness.

Coalition members were split up into breakout rooms of 4-5 people each for about 10 minutes to discuss each question. Before moving onto the next breakout room, members were encouraged to share major takeaways with the whole group.

Breakout Room 1: Culture and Mental Health

Question: How does your culture (i.e. religion, ethnicity, race, etc.) influence how you think about mental health?

- In traditional families, each member will take a role in determining how mental health is talked about, if at all, within the family. Some families from native or communities of color subscribe to traditional and holistic practices versus more westernized healing practices.
- Fighting through stigma when it comes to mental health and in some communities, people who could benefit from additional support hold back from asking for help because of the associated stigma.
- Groups like these are a step of education that needs to happen, especially with parents. To make connections with parents in broader scopes, small group settings are key.

Breakout Room 2: Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion

Question: What do you think of the concept of being "colorblind" when it comes to diversity and race?

- Group discussed what being colorblind means, in its literal sense and metaphorical sense and how it's viewed as a negative. Within itself, it's a microaggression to say that one is colorblind because they're dismissing the impact that an individual's race has on their experiences. Ray shared his own experience with implicit bias in the types of questions he asks students, depending on the families' socio-economic status.

- Being colorblind has a negative connotation, due to not recognizing who someone else is as a person. Since the events of last summer, more people have been willing to have these conversations and be more open to others.

Breakout Room 3: Serving LGBTQ+ Youth in the Community

Question: What role do we have as professionals in supporting LGBTQ+ youth in our community?

- Within the small group, Yvette shared her own experience and that she has not come across LGBTQ+ issues in her own work, working with families and how she has gained new insights as to the impact that society has on whether teens and young parents are open to sharing personal information such as their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.
- Conversation centered around being mentors or being visible as professionals who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. It is a matter of 'normalizing' being LGBTQ+ in a professional setting, being a safe accessible and a safe space for others.

Satisfaction Survey (link was shared in the chat and on the slides:

<https://forms.gle/Hhg3h6NeovB9EF4b8>)

Other Announcements - Save the Dates:

VIDA(x) training on Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth and their Families: June 10th, 9am-12pm

Annual Town Hall Meeting: May 12th, 6-8pm (changed to 7-8:45pm)

Adjourn:

Meeting ended at 11:35 AM

Funding provided to the Kenneth Young Center by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC), the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and Schaumburg Township.