

Raymond Coalition For Youth ~ Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022 ~ 9:00 – 10:30 am
In Person and Zoom at Raymond Baptist Church Basement



Present: 23

School

Fiona Coomey - Raymond School District
Jessica Caron - Raymond School District
Krystal Kebler - Raymond School District

Health Care

Carli Hughes - Lamprey Health Care
Kelly Hartnett - Seacoast Mental Health

**Substance Misuse Prevention
Treatment Services**

Karen Morton-Clark - Recovery Friendly Workplace
Nadine Lamontagne - Unite Us
Julie Day - Waypoint
Abbi Hoff - Waypoint Intern
Kim Coronis - Breathe NH
Samantha Areson - Seacoast PH Network
Yosita Thanjal - Seacoast PH Network
Kim Gordon - Wellsense

**Town Government
Youth Serving**

Alyssa White - Asst Librarian, Town of Raymond
Pamela Turcotte - RCFY Finance Coordinator
Celeste Clark - RCFY Executive Director
Pam Baker - RCFY Program Coordinator

Law Enforcement

John Minichiello - Hancock Police Dept
Brian O'Keefe - DEA

Volunteer/Community Member

Lynne Towle - Resident - Volunteer
Cutler Brown - Volunteer RCFY BOD

State/Federal

Paula Frenette - Resident
Eliza Zarka - Governors Office

Welcomes, Introductions, Announcements were made.

RCFY Executive Director Celeste opened the meeting by giving an update on the Gala. We were able to raise \$31,000 towards our sustainability.

John Minichiello of the Hancock Police Department talked about his program called "Teen Savers of America". He talks to groups about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Legislative updates included HB 1598 to legalize marijuana in NH. Eliza Zarka of the Governor's Office stated that the Governor is likely to veto the bill if it reaches his desk. The private industry is not as positive due to the fact that the State would control the sale much as they do the alcohol industry. Celeste also passed around some of the advertising that was used in a combined effort with other NH Coalitions showing why the state should not legalize.

There was some discussion regarding how to handle parents picking up children from school and the after school program where there was some concern about drug or alcohol use. Fiona Coomey said the school does have policies in place but sometimes it is a judgment call. Does the pickup appear to be impaired, in that case the police would be notified.

There was discussion about a work program offered at the Kittery Yard for youth 18 years old or older. They offer a job/work study program in the trades.

Operation Raymond Cleanup with the schools is scheduled for May 5. Townwide ORCU is April 25 thru **May 14, 2022**. Residents are encouraged to clean their neighborhood or pick an area in

town that needs attention. We will have kits which include bags and gloves. There will also be a limited number of t-shirts available.

Brian O'Keefe from the DEA was present to promote the medicine take back which is scheduled for **Apr 30, 2022** at Walgreens from 10am to 2pm. There was discussion regarding the amount of deaths from people using fake RX drugs. Every year sees over 100,000 deaths in the US. 65% of these deaths are from Fentanyl which the drug cartels are mixing in the fake pills. DEA can add any twitter handles agencies forward to them.

Celeste then talked about the fact RCFY is celebrating 20 years and did anyone have suggestions on how to celebrate this milestone.

Some suggestions:

- Statistics

- Voices of people of benefited

- Video of sponsors and youth involved from the last 20 years

- Request proclamation from the Governor

Youth Voice: The YA group at the High School is working on ideas for the film festival.
Some youth concerns are suicide prevention and mental health treatment.
Operation Raymond Cleanup is a community service event for the entire HS.

Alyssa White talked about all the programs available at the Library such as community mapping and citizen science program. A list of scheduled activities is posted at the library.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month.

Meeting ended at 10:30 AM

Thank you for joining us today, being an RCFY advocate, passing along the information learned today, and encouraging others to learn more and get involved.

Next Meeting May 12, June 9, No July Meeting, **Aug 11, 2022**

Mission Statement:

The Raymond Coalition For Youth empowers the community to promote positive youth development and reduce youth substance use and suicide risk.

Promoting Positive Healthy Choices for our Youth!

www.rcfy.org

