

New Castle United for Youth

DFC Grant Year 4 Annual Report

January 2021

Year Four Goals

Increase Community Collaboration

- Increase Coalition Capacity by increasing prevention knowledge and skills of Coalition members
- Increase involvement of the youth sector
- Strengthen awareness of Coalition

Reduce Youth Substance Use

- Reduce availability of alcohol and other substances
- Change culture and context within which decisions are made about alcohol and other substances

Year Four Strategies Undertaken to Strengthen Capacity & Coalition Awareness

- Enhanced Coalition website
- Participated in town wide community events
 - Chappaqua Children's Book Festival
- Continued to attend monthly Westchester Coalition meetings
- Attended CADCA Leadership Conference
- Continued outreach to additional sector representatives
- Responded to Pandemic conditions
 - Moved monthly Coalition meetings to Zoom format
- Met with Council on Race & Equity leaders to explore potential partnerships

Year Four Strategies Undertaken for Increased Youth Involvement

- Held “Conversations That Move Us Forward” podcast project
- Migrated summer youth internship program to virtual format
- Recruited students to participate in Westchester County Youth Task Force
- Hosted three Greeley seniors as interns for the five week Senior Experience
- Engaged students in developing Coalition messaging and education efforts
- Recruited students to participate in County led “Exercise Your Influence” training and campaign
- Held joint training session with CVAC Youth Corps
- Instituted weekly Youth Coalition meetings during the school year via Zoom
- Created liaison positions between the Horace Greeley SADD Club and the Coalition

Year Four Strategies Undertaken for Reducing Availability of Alcohol and Other Substances

- Funded overtime for New Castle Police to increase weekend patrols during times of potential high alcohol consumption
- Distributed email from Police Department and Chappaqua Volunteer Ambulance Corps about celebration safety
- Mailed flyer about prescription drug disposal to all town residents

Year Four Strategies Undertaken for Changing Culture

- Partnered with SADD to bring motivational speaker early in school year
- Hosted parent programming and website and social media outreach for times of transition and increased risk of substance use
- Participated in virtual Wellness Weeks at middle schools
- Worked with Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction and Asst. Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health to identify potential partnership efforts
 - Expanded health curriculum
 - Curated middle school book collections on topics involving substance use and protective factors
 - Project Adventure

Year Four Strategies Undertaken for Awareness and Increasing Perception of Risk

- Funded SADD and Middle School Prevention Specialist activities
 - Red Ribbon Week
 - Bulletin Boards
- Planned “Science of Prevention” presentation by Amy Brown on vaping
- Senior Experience Intern work
- Hosted screening of “If They Had Known,” a movie about risky drinking behavior and misuse of prescription drugs, in partnership with CVAC as a training opportunity for their Youth Corps
- Produced website blogs and Facebook, Twitter and InstaGram posts
- Summer Internship work

Future Areas of Focus

- Continued evaluation of past and future data and strategies
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Increased focus on enhancing skills for parents and youth
- Continuing to strengthen school year youth coalition work and create opportunities for middle school and high school youth to work together
- Identify speakers to educate community further about marijuana and binge drinking
- Review logic models for substances of concern
- Increase sector engagement and encourage opportunities for member generated strategy requests