

**Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Warren County**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: May 4, 2023

**Time**: 9:00-10:30 am

# In Attendance

Lori Phelps, Miranda Lamb, Bekki Smith, Avery Cuthbertson, Jackie Hunter, Madison Martin, Abby Wallace, Caitlyn Wagonfield, Nichole Richardson, Vikki Stickleman, Heather Moore, Erica Mckenzie, Amber Spaeth, Joel Jacobs, Kim Sellers, Sommer Green, Steve Brady, Jennifer Landry, Tracy Funke, Katie Wolf, Shelley Brown, Timothy Tepe, John Hitchens

# Mission Statement

# Partners working collaboratively to prevent the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by youth and adults in Warren County and to build healthy communities by increasing protective factors, reducing risk factors and sharing resources.

# Meeting Notes

* Breakfast and networking provided from 8:45-9:00 am
* Shelley Brown kicked off the May meeting by reintroducing the new resource table and breakfast. If you have resources for the coalition, bring them!
* Steve Brady lead us in the magic triangle icebreaker. We then did an activity where we asked coalition members “loaded question” cards to get to know each other better.
* Tracy Funke read everyone the coalition mission statement.
* Shelley went over the structure of the executive committee so that everyone knows who is helping to make coalition decisions based on polls from members. Shelley then went over the outcomes for Drug Take-Back day. We collected 1,152.5 pounds of medication this April! If you are ever interested in helping to work a Take-Back day, sign up on the coalition website! We help in Warren County every April and October.
* Shelley introduced our new intern Erica who will be with us through the summer. She is a public health major at UC and needs 100 hours of experience. Anything our partners do over the summer counts towards her hours so if you have opportunities let Shelley know.
* Coalition members completed a coalition survey.
* Shelley went over balances for the DFC grant and the Drug Task Force funds. As a reminder, Drug Task Force funds can be used on local efforts outside of the DFC requirements and it is great to have that money to focus on other topics, like the adult prevention focused committee. $500 was approved to the faith-based committee for upcoming prevention efforts.
* Miranda Lamb gave a social media update: the coalition is doing a “tell your why” activity in June where people write their “why” on a board. We will be taking pictures of people with their “why” to post on social media. Be thinking of your story behind why you feel passionate about substance abuse prevention and recovery. Shelley told us all her “why” to get us thinking. Miranda reminded everyone of the upcoming Town Hall event coming up on May 9th, we still need volunteers to help set up and to work the event and to tear down the event. If you want to volunteer, sign up on the website. We got 16 more followers and 16 more comments on Facebook!
* Katie Wolf gave an update on the adult prevention committee. Katie is the chair and Vikki is the co-chair. We are currently working on an event for adults with developmental disabilities on June 13th. We are also working on some billboard concepts for fentanyl and one pill can kill as well as a fentanyl awareness day later in the year (August/fall time). Our next committee meeting is on May 17th from 12-1 at 761 Columbus Ave.
* Joel Jacobs, chair of the faith-based committee, gave an update on upcoming events. There is a pop-up event in Franklin on Saturday, June 24th. The timeframe will be from 12-4 pm. Joel also led us all in a moment of silence and prayer for National Day of Prayer.
* Shelley gave an update on the youth-led prevention week in Mason. They had a week of fun prevention events, along with Safe Communities Coalition.
* Shelley introduced the inmates from Warren County Correctional Institution as part of the “Get Out Stay Out” group. We had a Teams meeting where coalition members were able to ask questions. Many of the inmates noted needing better role models and wishing that they had taken advantage of resources that were available when they were beginning to go down this path. They would tell younger people that they don’t want to go through what they have gone through. Resources and training in the prisons are also lacking in regard to preventing substances from coming in to the prisons. Parents and guardians should listen more and be less punitive to understand where the young people are coming from and establish trust. Better communication. More resources and education would help prevent repeat incarceration. Drug dealers do target youth because they are less aware and educated. They would move to areas with more money to charge more money. They take advantage of the appeal and curiosity, kids are targeted because they are in that stage where they are trying to become adults and find individuality, they are easier to be manipulated and guided. Law enforcement needs to be better role models by building relationships in the community and offering more community engagement events. Work with a person caught with substances instead of throwing a charge on them. “Scared straight” programs are ineffective. Kids aren’t listening to the scare tactics because they have other things going on and they view it as another obstacle instead of a learning opportunity. Sometimes it is taken as a challenge. Again, better communication is brought up, we need better active listening and communicating between kids and adults. Mental health plays a huge part, it is seen as a sign of weakness, trying to get attention, don’t know how to express that mental anguish. Medication isn’t always the answer, we need more help and better resources. We talked as a group after they got off the call about having them back to talk more, and about helping get people who are released involved in local efforts like the coalition.
* On **May 9th 6:00-7:30PM** at the Countryside YMCA there will be a community town hall for Warren County in response to a recent suicide in the local veteran community. There will be food and free childcare. It is also National Fentanyl Awareness day. There will be resource tables, Narcan, and therapy dogs. If you have any veteran specific services, please bring materials to set up at the resource table. Please sign up to help with set-up/tear-down!
* Shelley went over some other announcements. **Touch-a-Truck in Maineville on June 10th** needs volunteers. There will be an upcoming **faith-based pop-up event on June 24th**. Volunteers are needed for both events
* Shelley adjourned the April meeting at 10:35am, with additional time for networking and food.

# Action Steps

* Bring someone to the June meeting!
* Volunteer for an upcoming event!

**Next Meeting**

June 1st | 9:00-10:30am

Warren County Administration Building

406 Justice Drive, Room 128, Lebanon, OH 45036