

**West Side Youth Development Coalition (WSYDC)  
Coalition Meeting  
December 7, 2016 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Buffalo Police Department - B-District**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Meeting called to order at 3:15 PM**

#### **WSYDC Recognition Ceremony**

Dr. Wieczorek presented awards to longstanding members of the West Side Youth Development Coalition, including **Officer Mary Beth Billings** and **Officer Christine Sikora**, both community police officers in D-District, as well as **Officer Anthony Lebron** of A-District. In addition, their supervisor, **Captain Steven Nichols**, as well as Report Technician **Maureen Oakley** were recognized for their efforts supporting the coalition. In addition, **Chief Anthony Barba**, our host for the meeting, was presented with the award presented to the Coalition by the Grant-Amherst Business Association at their November Awards Dinner, in recognition of D-District being a strong partner in our coalition.

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Following the presentation of awards, everyone went around the room and introduced themselves. We were excited to see many new faces at the meeting, including members of Buffalo State's Committee on University and Community Relations, as well as new staff people at the Erie County Department of Health and the Western Prevention Resource Center.

#### **Coordinator's Announcements:**

Nate Attard provided a brief overview of the PFS strategies and the implementation strategies on each of them. In six months of last year, some were closer to being fulfilled (i.e. take back and drop off promotion), while others require more sophisticated efforts, (i.e. development of prescribing guidelines, being done at the County level). The strategies worked on last year will be continued, and will be modified to achieve fidelity as needed. Nate also provided updates on the Opiate Epidemic Task Force, which has reported that opioid overdose deaths are trending below where they were predicted to be. Efforts move forward on community education and prevention initiatives, including development of short YouTube videos on the reasons why everyone should be concerned about the opioid epidemic and what they should do. The coalition utilized its Facebook page and advertising budget to help promote these videos on behalf of the task force. Moving forward, the coalition is involved in task force evaluation efforts.

Jonathan Lindner provided an overview of the past year's efforts on behalf of the Drug Free Communities-funded initiatives. Moving forward into the New Year, the Coalition will be applying for renewal funding that will help sustain it through the next five years. Even without renewal funding, the coalition will be able to sustain itself because of the support of Buffalo State, just at a reduced capacity.

Marla Fulton provided updates on advertising. Bus shelter ads campaigns have been successful, with four different campaigns right now, with messages focused on parenting, breastfeeding, securing prescription drugs, and opioid overdose response. There are a total of 10 boards out right now, and our funding secures this quantity for the next year. They rotate around our neighborhoods quarterly. Lamar Advertising estimates that 167,937 views ("Impressions") of our ads take place each week. Though many of the people seeing these ads likely see them multiple times a week, if not a day, this number puts us close to impacting all 39,000 or so residents of our neighborhood, as well as many commuters and visitors.

## **Community Updates**

Frank Scarpinato of the Department of Health offered a quick overview on a document that the Department of Health developed to help people purchase Narcan/Naloxone using their insurance, and reminded residents of an upcoming drug drop off event at the Erie County Fire Training Academy. Frank is a friendly face and previously worked in the Department of Environment and Planning. His efforts of late around disposal of prescription drugs are well supported by the Department of Health, supporting his transfer to that area of county government. Frank will now be representing the Health Department at our coalition meetings. The coalition will work with him moving forward on prescription drug disposal promotion, including advertising of drop off events and promoting regular disposal of prescription drugs through "The Point."

Dawn Sagerman, a new employee of the Prevention Resource Center in Batavia, was in attendance at the meeting. With many police officers present, Nate Attard talked briefly about the PRC's services, in that they could be a resource for other officers who are looking to help establish neighborhood prevention coalitions.

Coalition is working on a grant through OASAS with the Buffalo State institution that seeks to develop prevention coalitions at SUNY and CUNY Campuses. Work is related to that which Jon Lindner, Paula Madrigal, and others have been doing, but would help to better frame within environmental strategies and gain institutional support for their implementation.

**The meeting concluded at 4:35 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of March. Date to be confirmed in mid-January.**