

**North Providence: A Community That Cares**  
**SAMHSA Drug Free Communities Grant**  
**Subcommittees**

**I. The Key Leader Board**

This committee will serve as an executive board for our North Providence Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. It will be comprised of community leaders from each of the twelve sectors that are a part of any community: government, law enforcement, education, health care, religious, civic, and volunteer organizations, business, the media, youth, parents, and the substance abuse authority. This group will meet on a monthly basis to review the recommendations of the various subcommittees, offer suggestions and provide final approval for actions. This group will also be available to participate in the Communities That Care process of community readiness assessment and leadership training.

**The following subcommittees will be assigned a chairperson who will facilitate the development of a detailed action plan which they will submit to the Key Leader Board for approval and implementation go-ahead.**

**Committees will decide when, how often and for what length of time their particular Group will need to convene to accomplish their mission and goals.**

**II. Special Events**

**Fact:** Children, whose parents are involved in their lives in a visible and meaningful way, are not as likely to use alcohol and drugs as those whose parents are not so present in their lives.

**Mission:** To brainstorm ideas on how to bring youth and their families together to provide them with prevention education as well as an opportunity to have some fun. One strategy will be to identify annual, recreational, religious and other events that already take place in the community to build on these opportunities to share knowledge with community members who attend these events.

**Goal:** To plan and coordinate up to four events each year - one every season would be ideal.

**III. Prevention Education:**

**Facts:** Many parents/caregivers do not understand the potential dangers of underage alcohol and/or drug use and tend to turn a blind eye towards this behavior.

**Mission:** To bring together individuals with either the expertise or the interest to research and learn about the latest trends in behaviors and attitudes among youth and their parents regarding underage use of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs (ATOD). This committee would also identify the latest model programs and strategies for engaging the community in the Coalition and in promoting healthy behaviors and attitudes.

**Goal:** To provide information and develop materials to present at special events and trainings for youth, parents/caregivers and the general community.

**IV. Parent/Caregiver Outreach:**

**Facts:** According to our Community Needs Assessment, there have been two recent trends in the town of North Providence indicating the need to reach out to parents and other youth caregivers. First of all, the number of single parent households has increased significantly, and secondly it is a well documented fact that once children enter high school parents become less and less involved in school activities.

**Mission:** To identify ways to engage parents/caregivers of High School aged children to become more involved in their children's lives, and to help them to set the expectation for their youth that they do not approve of their using alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.

**Goals:** 1) to conduct a telephone survey polling parents/caregivers to learn what their needs and concerns regarding their youth are. 2) To work with youth to help them to create a weekly news brief to send home to parents/caregivers. 3) to discuss and recommend ways to get parents more involved in school activities leading to regular school gatherings for parents/caregivers. 4) to create a plan to establish a peer support group for heads of single parent households and 5) to consider the possibility of instituting a parent "Hotline" for parents/caregivers to access with concerns and needs regarding their youth.

## **V. Communications**

**Fact:** The most effective way to influence youth, families and the community to develop healthier attitudes and behaviors regarding alcohol and illegal drugs is with a well planned communications strategy that delivers a simple, consistent message with the facts regarding underage substance use.

**Mission:** For individuals with either communications expertise, or verbal and written communication skills, and some understanding and interest in various media modalities to develop and make recommendations for implementing a comprehensive communications campaign to reinforce prevention education in the community, and build the awareness that making positive change is everyone's responsibility.

**Goals:** To recommend numerous different strategies to get the message across to a wide audience as often as possible.

## **VI. Policies and Procedures**

**Fact:** Strategies such as stricter penalties for breaking the laws regarding underage substance or illegal drug use, as well as more consistent enforcement of the laws have been found to have a significant impact on decreasing such use.

**Mission:** To research existing town policies and ordinances with an eye towards possible changes or additions to provide a greater deterrent to underage substance use.

**Goal:** Improve or create new local policies and procedures.

## **VII. Evaluation and needs Assessment**

**Fact:** The only data currently collected at the community level for the tracking of youth behaviors and attitudes pertaining to substance use are the School Accountability for Learning and Teaching (SALT) survey administered bi-annually in all public schools.

**Mission:** To research and recommend other types of evaluation tools as well as to assist in collecting other data required by SAMHSA, our funding source in order to continue receiving funding.

**Goals:** 1) to update the community needs assessment annually 2) to recommend or create a coalition building survey and 3) to assist in compiling the data necessary to complete our bi-annual evaluation requirements back to SAMHSA.

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**Subcommittees Sign-Up**

**Please put a check in the box next to any subcommittee you might be interested in joining.  
Don't forget to fill in your name and contact info at the bottom of the form.**

***THANKS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TOWARDS CREATING A  
SAFE AND HEALTHY NORTH PROVIDENCE***

**I. The Key Leader Board.....**

**II. Special Events.....**

**III. Prevention Education.....**

**IV. Parent/Caregiver Outreach.....**

**V. Communications.....**

**VI. Policies and Procedures.....**

**VII. Evaluation and Needs Assessment.....**

**Name.....**

**Address.....**

**E-mail.....**

**Phone.....**

**Sector Affiliation.....**

**(see description of Key Leader Board attached above)**