



TPAUD Coalition Meeting

December 18th, 2024 @ 8:00am

Attendees: Renny Affoumado, Amanda Ahern, Chief Colin Bassett, Nina Chanana, Paul Downing, Scott Duva, Deirdre Ekholdt, Jennifer Ellyson, Sgt. Tim Fedor, Ron Feligno, Jennifer Gillis, Rev. Tim Hare, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Dave Johnson, Scot Kerr, Mike King, Chief Michael Lombardo, Paulette Mack, Melissa McGarry, Dennis McLaughlin, Julia McNamee, Cornelia Morris, Jordyn Nappi, Kiersten Naumann, Dr. Chi Oreadu, Joanne Orenstein, Dmitri Paris, Melissa Perez-Constantine, Erica Pivar, Jeff Rago, Melissa Roberto, Dave Rutigliano, Jessica Samuelis, Jeroy Smith, Lara Walden, Noreen Wilpiseszski

1. Introductions & Partner Updates
2. Coalition Strategic Planning for Prevention Across the Lifespan
 - a. Attendees broke into discussion groups, based on four key population groups: k-8, high school, young adults (18-25), and older adults. Groups were asked to identify the primary needs and challenges within these communities, as well as resources and opportunities.
 - b. This strategic planning process will continue at the next coalition meeting on January 15th at 8:00am at Trumbull EMS.
3. Community/Family Education:
 - a. Liz Jorgensen – “Delay the Gray: Supporting Our Boys Through the Teenage Years”: On January 13th (7-8:30pm). Liz Jorgensen, owner and director of Insight Counseling in Ridgefield, CT, is a nationally recognized expert in adolescent and adult psychotherapy and counseling, particularly in engaging and motivating teens. Liz will address timely topics especially relevant to boys, and will help parents and guardians build skills to more effectively engage with boys and support their mental wellbeing throughout their teen years. Registration for the online presentation is open at www.tpaud.org
4. Coalition Business
 - a. TPAUD has received cannabis prevention grant funding from Catalyst CT The Hub. TPAUD has been granted \$57,000 for prevention activities from 1/1/25-6/30/26; efforts will include collaboration with Easton’s Here To Help and ADAM of Monroe, as well as Fairchild Wheeler HS.

Upcoming Dates:

1/10 – Tashua Elementary Family Wellness Game Night, 6-8pm

1/13 – “Delay the Gray: Supporting Our Boys Through the Teenage Years” with Liz Jorgensen, 7pm on Zoom

1/15 – “Understanding School Avoidance for Parents and Families” TPS Family Mental Health Engagement Series, 6-7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting details: Dial-in: 646-876-9923, Meeting ID: 984 8924 7715, Passcode: 936000

2024-25 Coalition Meeting Dates: January 15, February 19, March 19, April 9, May 21, June TBD