



Advisory Board

October 28, 2020

OUR MISSION

Reading Coalition's mission is to strategically address our substance abuse problem that local youth abuse alcohol, prescription drugs, tobacco, and other illegal drugs at unacceptably high rates that emerge early in adolescence, happen frequently, and indicate heavy use. To realize our mission, we will promote a healthy community environment using the strategic prevention framework to ensure everyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Reading can enjoy an optimum quality of life.

ABOUT OUR BOARD

The **Advisory Board** is made up of stakeholders, appointed by the Coalition Director, from our community and region that serve in an advisory capacity to:

- Exchange and share information that will enhance our community approach to substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion.
- Supply Reading Coalition staff with feedback on activities, projects and emerging initiatives.
- Spread the word about coalition resources and events

SPOTLIGHT

Coalition staff filmed a video presentation on vaping and COVID-19 for RMHS health classes.

NATIONAL NEWS

Julianne DeAngelis shared this update to inform the staff and board of the recent outcome of the Purdue Pharma case described at a recent [MOAR](#) Zoom meeting. Maryanne Frangules, [MOAR](#) Director, "reports many in the substance use treatment field are disappointed with the outcome of the case. They will now be able to develop a public trust which opens the opportunity for the Sackler family to reorganize under a new name. Other than monetary, there are no criminal penalties at this time." Learn more [here](#).

ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOW-UP

We wanted to gather input from the board on "who else should be at our Advisory Board table?"

STAFF UPDATES

[Coalition Resource Guide During COVID-19](#)

Professional Development Update

- The Director participated in the Annual HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Prevention Summit, which focused on the national prevention initiative, overdose response strategy and other broad based initiatives.

Book Announcement

- James Wahlberg recently release his memoir, [The Big Hustle: A Boston Street Kid's Story of Addiction and Redemption](#). Learn more [here](#).

Next meeting will be online on Nov. 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Update

- The CIT Steering Committee recently met to discuss the pilot program progress. We are using the next few months to evaluate the impact of the pilot project. We have also begun the process of applying for CIT Certification at the national level. With the support of the Chief, we have begun the CIT certification application process.
- New Resource: Child Life Disaster Relief (CLDR). CLDR is a national 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to mitigating the negative psychosocial effects of trauma on children and families. Their network of Certified Child Life Specialists empower and support children and families by implementing trauma-informed interventions through direct services, community outreach, and education. Through developmentally appropriate interventions and support, Certified Child Life Specialists increase coping and resilience in the wake of disasters or crises.

Chemical Health Education Program Update

- The first virtual class and follow-ups were completed this month.

Doc Wayne

- The Director and Outreach Coordinator are in conversation with [Doc Wayne](#) to create a plan to bring Doc Wayne's services to school-aged children in Reading. Using a theoretical curriculum, which incorporates social-emotional learning and life skills, Doc Wayne offers innovative mental health programming reimagined through the lens of sport. During COVID-19 Doc Wayne is offering virtual individual and group therapy.

Social Solutions Pilot Project

- Staff is currently using the Apricot software to track our activities. We have access to tech support as needed.

Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition MassCall3 Grant Application

- Staff meets 2-3 weekly with regional partners to work on the grant application. MOUs for the Town and School will be needed. We participated in the Bidder's Conference and are working to create the strongest application for our region.

Malden Recovery Center

- The Recovery Center is open virtually – Paul Hammersley will be joining us next month to give an update on the Center's fifth month. Center programming is being shared via [social media](#).

Medford CDC Grant

- Sarah Waldron has been hired to serve as a Clinical Coordinator at Somerville Court to help court-involved individuals and their families navigate treatments resources. This project may become a model for replication in Woburn.

Meeting dates

- Please note that we will holding our November and December meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month instead of the 4th Wednesday.
- The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18th at 5:30PM and the December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30PM.