



Advisory Board

December 16, 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter Mirandi, Interim Director, Health Department, Town of Reading
Susan Beauregard, Teen Services Librarian, Reading Public Library, Town of Reading

GUEST SPEAKER

Community Service Officer Kristen O'Shaughnessy is joining us tonight to review the partnership between the Reading Police Department, Reading Coalition, Human/Elder Services, and RESPOND, Inc. in responding to behavioral health needs in the community.

STAFF UPDATES

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

Recent Presentations:

- The coalition staff was on hand during Chief David Clark's presentation of the police budget to the Select Board and FinCom on 12/15/20. The coalition is requesting an increase to cover the cost of the Apricot software used to track our work, increases to the Interface Referral Service contract annually and the Tip 411 program.
- The Outreach Coordinator conducted five roll call presentations for all five shifts to update officers on the Crisis Intervention Team Project and provide resources.

Next meeting will be online on Jan. 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

The Director was invited to present to high school students enrolled in the Reading Memorial High School- Child Development Class on **“Maternal Substance Misuse & Substance Exposed Newborns”**. We reviewed the devastating impact that alcohol and other drug use can have during pregnancy on fetal development. Here are a few student takeaways from the presentation which covered the challenges facing mothers, babies and the community

“I learned that this is something that is not talked about a lot and in order to make people more aware of it, it should be more widely talked about and taught in schools and other places.”

“It is important to help people who may be struggling with this but do not realize it and what it can do to their baby.”

“How important it is to educate people on this topic”

“I didn't realize about the effects and the impact on children after they are born.”

To learn more on this topic, visit <https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders.aspx>, <https://www.ifcsboston.org/Our-Services/Center-for-Early-Relationship-Support/Project-NESST> <https://www.nofas.org/>, and <https://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/opioids/basics.html>. Slides attached.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Coalition staff, Lt. Richard Abate, Det. Rob MacHugh, and CSO Kristen O’Shaughnessy all participated in the **Middlesex County Outreach Critical Incident Management System (CIMS)** training to track overdoses in the region. The systems allows for HIPAA-compliant data entry of overdose cases so that police departments across the region can follow-up in their own communities. The system developed by Kelly Research is free to use and was initially developed in Plymouth County. Currently, the system provides real time data, multijurisdictional connectivity, follow-up notification system and easy data entry. A behavioral health module will be added in the next year.

The Outreach Coordinator and Reading Police Department Officers participated in a **De-escalation Training** which reviewed tactics officers can use on scene to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Outreach Coordinator and Director both participated in...

- **MA Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) Statewide Virtual Substance Use Prevention Conference.** Key topics included: Acknowledging the Impact of Racism on Community Health and Prevention: Making Our Work More Restorative; Transforming Substance Misuse Prevention; and Changing Power Dynamics.
- **Sozosei Foundation/Otsuka Pharmaceuticals “Inaugural 3-day Summit on Over-Incarceration of People with Mental Illness”.** Focus on creative strategies and design thinking. Presenters were from
 - o Sound Mind, <https://www.soundmindlive.org/>
 - o National Council on Behavioral Health, <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/>
 - o One Mind, <https://onemind.org/>
 - o Social Finance, <https://socialfinance.org/>
 - o John Howard Society of Canada, <https://johnhoward.ca/>

- o The Bail Project, <https://bailproject.org/>
- o The Trevor Project, <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
- o The Council on State Governments Justice Center, <https://csgjusticecenter.org/>

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM: A LOOK INSIDE THE DATA FROM YEAR 1

Sammy Salkin, Outreach Coordinator, will present the data highlights from our pilot year. Slides attached.

NEW TOPICS

- Convenience stores and selling alcohol update from Town Manager.
- Earmark from State Rep. Haggerty proposed for Reading Coalition in the amount of \$10k for next year.

Meeting dates

- The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at 5:30PM.