



Advisory Board

April 29, 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

We would like to send out a special thank you to our Incident Command Leaders and first responders for their hard work in responding to COVID-19. Let's do our part. When we wash our hands, keep our distance, we protect everyone in our community. Let's come together by staying apart. The Board of Health posted the mask advisory for Reading. The latest town info is posted on <https://www.readingma.gov/>

MEETING FOCUS

Staff Updates-

- [Coalition Resource Guide During COVID-19](#)
- Coalition Spring Newsletter, visit <https://conta.cc/3enZfMr>
- Data Action Team Update by Erica McNamara
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Monthly Update by Sammy Salkin

Special guest

- Lauren Chambers, Regional Opioid Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition

A few resources recently sponsored by the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition for the Reading Coalition

- The BEST Institute week long training for the Outreach Coordinator on youth development
- Zoom subscription for coalition to host virtual meetings
- Motivational Interviewing training for Director and Outreach Coordinator
- New England School of Prevention Studies (4 day program) for both staff

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT FOR THE READING COALITION?

Vaping Trends & Cessation Support [Webinar](#)

Please join the Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support on **Thursday, May 14th at 7:00PM** for an informational webinar on current vaping trends and cessation support.

Vaping Trends & Cessation Support

Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product by youth in the United States. Over the past year, rates of e-cigarettes use among young people have sky rocketed. This webinar will help parents understand the current trends in e-cigarette/vape product use among teenagers, explore the most recent health data on the risks of vaping, and discuss vaping cessation support strategies and resources.

Presenters:

Samantha Salkin, BAPH, Outreach Coordinator, Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support
Kathleen O'Leary, RN, MS, FNP-BC, NP-C, CTTS, Founder/CEO Lotus Health Education

Registration is required. Please [RSVP](#) by 5:00PM on Wednesday, May 13th.

STAY SAFELY CONNECTED

We're being reminded just how connected we all are - and how much we depend on one another. And it's not just the spread of the virus. For everyone who works from home, there are many more that make that possible by serving as first responders, working at the hospital, the power plant, the grocery store and the delivery service. This moment shows us how much we all need each other to keep going.

See you on May 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. (virtual if needed, details TBD)