

RCASA Board of Directors Meeting-January 31, 2019



**Reading
Coalition
Against
Substance
Abuse**

RCASA's mission is to strategically address our substance abuse problem that youth in Reading, Massachusetts 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."

SPOTLIGHT

The Director would like to extend a special thank you to the Reading Police Patrolman Association and Reading Police Superior Officers Association for their sponsorship of the coffee and refreshments at the Retirement Coffee for Julianne DeAngelis on January 30th. Julianne was presented with her Reading Street Sign "DeAngelis Way", a few tokens of appreciation and state citations for her impressive career as Treatment and Prevention Professional. Tonight, the Board will celebrate Julianne DeAngelis at her last official meeting as she retires from the Town of Reading as the RCASA Outreach Coordinator. After a brief overview of coalition updates, we will thank Julianne for her dedicated years of service from 2011-2019.

FOCUS

1. Board Updates

- **Board Membership/Vacancies** - Board Officers still needed for President and Vice-President. Welcome to Kevin Sexton, Chair of the Board of Health.
- **RCASA Legal Review**- Bob LeLacheur, Town Manager Update
- **CBD Stores**- Kevin Sexton, Board of Health Chair Update
- **CBD Educational info**-Please see attached for a CBD handout compiled by North Reading Police and their Community Impact Team. Special thanks to Nina for sharing her CBD research. Erica will be working on a Reading version for our community with the SROs.

2. RCASA Staffing

- With the support of the Town Manager, Deputy Chief, and Superintendent, the full-time position of Outreach Coordinator was posted on TalentEd on January 23, 2018. Erica is working with Jen Bove, RPS Human Resources, to coordinate the process. 9 applications received so far. Special thanks to Supt. Doherty for providing School HR support to ensure we get a qualified pool of candidates.
- Over the last month, the RCASA Director needed additional time out of the office to care for a sick child who was hospitalized on multiple occasions. Special thanks to Lt. Abate for his support.

3. Reading Public Schools Projects

- **2019 Reading YRBS**: RCASA continued our role in coordinating the local YRBS process with Reading Public Schools. RPS is participating in a regional survey process with districts from the Middlesex League. The consultant for the project is JSI (John Snow Inc.). Survey review, planning, and parent notifications with opt-out forms will be completed in February. Survey roll-out will likely be in mid-March. Data will be collected online at the middle and high school levels. Preliminary results will be released to districts in late June.
- **Classroom Education**: Brian Lewis, School Resource Officer, presented in 9th grade health classes last month for opioid prevention.

Our next RCASA Board Meeting is Feb 28, 2019 from 5:30-6:30 pm.

- **Outreach:** A Vaping Prevention handout was provided by a nearby community that encapsulates many of the key areas for adults to be aware of. Additional resources on Vaping Prevention are on the RCASA website. The Director will present at the Parker Middle School PTO on Feb. 6th at 7pm on this topic.

4. Grants

- RCASA collaborated with Wakefield's coalition, police department and Eliot Community Care to co-write a grant application to Lahey Health to fund a potential pilot project. If grant funds are received, Eliot would site a certified Recovery Coach in Reading (10 hours a week) and Wakefield (10 hours a week) to assist with referrals for treatment and support services. The Recovery Coach will be employed and supervised full time by Eliot Community Care.

5. Thank you for Julianne

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2018 RCASA Annual Report
- North Reading Impact Team CBD Handout
- Vaping Handout from Dr. Alan Woolf, School Physician for Melrose, Boston Children's Hospital