



January 13, 2019

--- Mission ---

The Portsmouth Prevention Coalition is a coalition of community members interested in coordinating and designing strategies addressing tobacco, alcohol and other drug abuse with the primary goal of reducing youth substance abuse and overall substance abuse rates to help create a healthy, responsible and safe community.

Dear Town Council Member,

Please accept my apology for being absent from the January 14th, 2019 Town Council meeting – over the weekend my grandmother passed away and while the past few days have been difficult, my emotions will be intensified through the beginning of this week.

Being the only office tenant of the Linden Brown House, I address each of you in the following letter to offer some input on the approval request of the “Brown House Rental Fee Structure” agenda item.

As I understand, the decision at hand is one of proper-use and allocation of town resources – is the coalition and will the coalition deliver services that are worth the yearly investment of free office space, or \$3000 (\$250 x 12-months)?

The Portsmouth Prevention Coalition (PPC) came into existence in 1988 when designated by the Portsmouth Town Council as the official recipient of the Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA) funds. RISAPA mandated the creation of community substance abuse prevention task forces under each municipality in Rhode Island, with the goal of reducing youth substance abuse through strong community collaborations, led by a coordinator, and comprised entirely of community volunteers. **(See Attachment 1)**

As an entity of the Town of Portsmouth, the PPC meets a minimum of 10 times a year on the second Wednesday of each month. All meetings are open public meetings and conducted as such, with agendas and notices filed with the Secretary of State’s office and posted at Town Hall.

Over the course of this past year, the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition has continued to grow community awareness and citizen capacity regarding the Town’s substance-use and abuse issues. In September 2018, the Coalition was awarded the \$125,000, 5-year, Drug Free Communities (DFC) federal grant, which holds two primary goals: (1) reduce youth substance-use, and (2) increase organizational capacity. With this in mind, the Coalition is in a transformative state that is meant to solidify much of its past work in sustainable packages for our many partners.

Due to increased program revenues, the DFC grant, and new leadership, the PPC has been able to introduce, implement, and support recognized evidence-based prevention programs and strategies into

the community by collaborating closely with the Portsmouth School Department, the Portsmouth Police Department, the Town Government, our neighboring Newport County Regional Coalition communities, our neighboring East Bay Regional Coalition communities, The Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), Newport County Prevention Coalition, our local and national elected state representatives, and media outlets, as well as, Portsmouth's faith community, military families, civic organizations, students and parents.

In years past, the PPC has shown its ability to address prevention-based problems through its many accomplishments and ongoing activities (**See Attachment 2**). In fact, between the 2016 and 2018 Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS), there were decreases in Portsmouth High School students' 30-day use rates in all substance – tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs. With this in mind, the Coalition will continue to reduce substance-use amongst the town's youth. (**See Attachment 3**)

Even with such strides, the substance abuse issues of Portsmouth's youth are alarmingly high, depicting a strong need for innovated prevention services. The 30-day use rates of Portsmouth High School students for tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) are above the state averages in Grade 10, Grade 11, and Grade 12. (**See Attachment 4**)

Administrators and faculty at both Portsmouth Middle School and High School have expressed the growing vaping issue, and how it is having an effect on the Town's youth. Over the next months, the Coalition is planning many activities to address this and the dramatic decreases in perception of risk – we are increasingly visible in the Portsmouth community, and in each Portsmouth school. (**See Attachment 5**)

For the first time since inception, the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition has two employees, and is led by a full-time, 40-hour per week Coordinator, and a part-time Youth Program Coordinator. With the apparent need for prevention services, the Coalition's ability to promote positive change in the Portsmouth Community, and its new-found capacity, I hope that each of you are able to see the benefit of having a diverse and well-equipped group of volunteers working towards eliminating youth substance-use.

As the Coordinator of the Coalition, I hope to meet with each of you individually to further describe the activities and vision of the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition. Though the yearly rent of \$3000 would be able to be addressed and voted on by the Coalition, as a town entity that attracts both funding and public-value throughout, specifically for the town's youth, I believe that our office space should be an investment that the Town of Portsmouth is willing to make for its young people.

Again, I apologize for my absence, and look forward to continuing the Coalition's advocacy, leadership and innovation on prevention issues!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey Silvia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corey Silvia, MPA

Attachment 1 – Coalition Members

Name	Affiliation	Sector Represented
Marianne Raymo , PPC Chairperson	Marianne P. Raymo, CPA	Business Owner; Portsmouth Resident
Liz Morely , PPC Vice Chair		Portsmouth Resident; Business
Pamela Martin , PPC Secretary	Naval Station Newport School Liaison	Military
Anne Burns , PPC Treasurer	School Department Employee	n/a
RI Senator James Seveney	RI State Senator; Portsmouth Resident	State Government
Colin Grimsey	Assistant Principal at PHS; Director of Freshman Academy	Portsmouth High School
Deacon John Silvia	President & Chairman of International Manufacturing Services, Inc.; Saint Barnabas Church	Religious Organization
Marcia Blackburn	Faith Formation Coordinator at Saint Barnabas Church & Recovery Community	Portsmouth Resident; Parent; Religious Organization
Colleen Carpender-MacDonald	ADCARE, Recovery Coach	Portsmouth Resident; Organization Involved in Prevention
Officer Maddie Pirri	School Resource Officer at PMS	Law Enforcement
Officer Rick Ruest	School Resource Officer at PHS	Law Enforcement
Lisa Colwell , PhD	Director of Portsmouth Schools Pupil Services	School Department
Kelly O'Loughlin	Student Assistance Counselor at PHS	Youth Serving Organization
Rebecca Elwell , CPSS	Director of Newport County Prevention Coalition	Civic/Volunteer
Polly Allen , CPS	Little Compton Prevention Coalition Coordinator	Parent
Catherine Alexander , PhD	Mobile Medical Services Owner; Portsmouth Resident	Healthcare Professional
Olive Allen	Student at Portsmouth High School	Youth

Attachment 2 - Portsmouth Prevention Coalition Accomplishments & Ongoing Activities

Service

- Facilitated a Cox Cable “Portsmouth This Week” program presentation on Adolescent Suicide with Leigh Raposa of RI Youth Suicide Prevention Program
- Coordinated a Drug Take Back Day with the Portsmouth Police Department
- Referred many community members to treatment resources for adults and youth
- Developed a model Faith Community Outreach plan that the Newport County Prevention Coalition published and distributed throughout the county and State --- Led to the creation of the regional Faith Forum, bringing faith and prevention leaders from all over the state together to coordinate efforts
- Brought the Campaign to Change Direction to Portsmouth High School and Middle School, in partnership with the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) --- Dr. Van Dahlen, the creator, has recognized the ongoing efforts Portsmouth is doing to expand the program
- Continuously raising community awareness on substance-use and abuse issues through local radio stations, the local and state news outlets, newsletters sent via email, and now, a fully-planned social media strategy that bridges all gaps within our media use

Capacity

- Hired a part-time youth program coordinator in October 2018
- Transition Coordinator from a 20-hour to a 40-hour work week in December 2018
- Completing ongoing community needs assessments with Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS) Data and focus groups throughout Portsmouth
- Recruited new members of the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition, and increased our Friends of Portsmouth Prevention mailing list --- new members include: a PHS Administrator, a local business owner, a local yoga/meditation/mindfulness trainer, and the PMS Student Assistance Counselor
- Attended Little Compton Prevention Coalition meetings to form a closer working relationship with the town and parents of the children attending Portsmouth High School
- Partook in an 8-week DFC onboarding webinar training

Financial

- Awarded \$625,000 (\$125,000 annually), 5-year Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant with an opportunity for an additional \$625,000 over 5 years, contingent on an extension application following the initial grant period
- Received \$5,000 Community Overdose Engagement (CODE) planning grant
- Received \$3826 State Targeted Response (STR) Grant from the Newport County Prevention Coalition
- Received \$12,329 Partners for Success (PFS) carryover Grant
- Contributed \$5000 towards the School Resource Officer position for Portsmouth schools
- Contributed \$2000 to implement “Tools for Today and Tomorrow” yoga, meditation & mindfulness program in Portsmouth Middle School
- Contributed \$6760 for the Portsmouth Police Department to increase party patrols & alcohol compliance checks
- Financially supported Life of an Athlete program & transportation
- Contributed \$2000 to PHS Patriot’s Committed

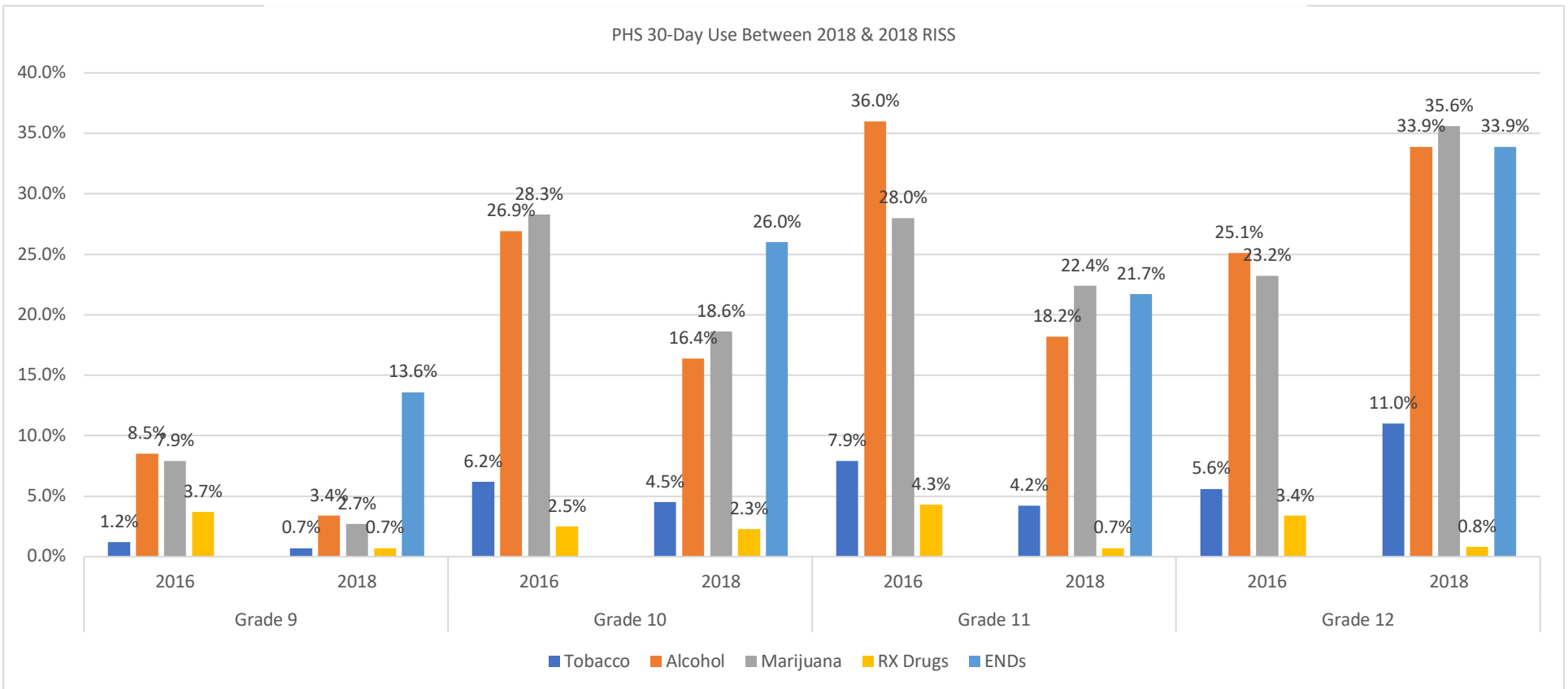
Sustainability

- Participate fully in the regional Newport County Prevention Coalition to increase inventory of programs, increased coordination with neighboring Newport County municipal prevention task forces, and increase financial capacity through cost-sharing, when applicable
- Advocated to help gain school committee and school administration approval to implement an adolescent substance-use statewide survey in Portsmouth grades 7 to 12
- Conducted a new election of the Coalition’s executive officers: Marainne Raymo, Chair; Elizabeth Morely, Vice-Chair; Pamela Martin, Secretary; and Anne Burns, Treasurer

Attachment 3 – Change in PHS 30-day Use between 2016 & 2018 RISS

Portsmouth High School - How often a student responded to have use a particular substance over the last 30 days												
	Grade 9			Grade 10			Grade 11			Grade 12		
	2016	2018	% Change	2016	2018	% Change	2016	2018	% Change	2016	2018	% Change
Tobacco	1.2%	0.7%	-0.5%	6.2%	4.5%	-1.7%	7.9%	4.2%	-3.7%	5.6%	11.0%	5.4%
Alcohol	8.5%	3.4%	-5.1%	26.9%	16.4%	-10.5%	36.0%	18.2%	-17.8%	25.1%	33.9%	8.8%
Marijuana	7.9%	2.7%	-5.2%	28.3%	18.6%	-9.7%	28.0%	22.4%	-5.6%	23.2%	35.6%	12.4%
RX Drugs*	3.7%	0.7%	-3.0%	2.5%	2.3%	-0.2%	4.3%	0.7%	-3.6%	3.4%	0.8%	-2.6%
ENDs	n/a	13.6%	n/a	n/a	26.0%	n/a	n/a	21.7%	n/a	n/a	33.9%	n/a

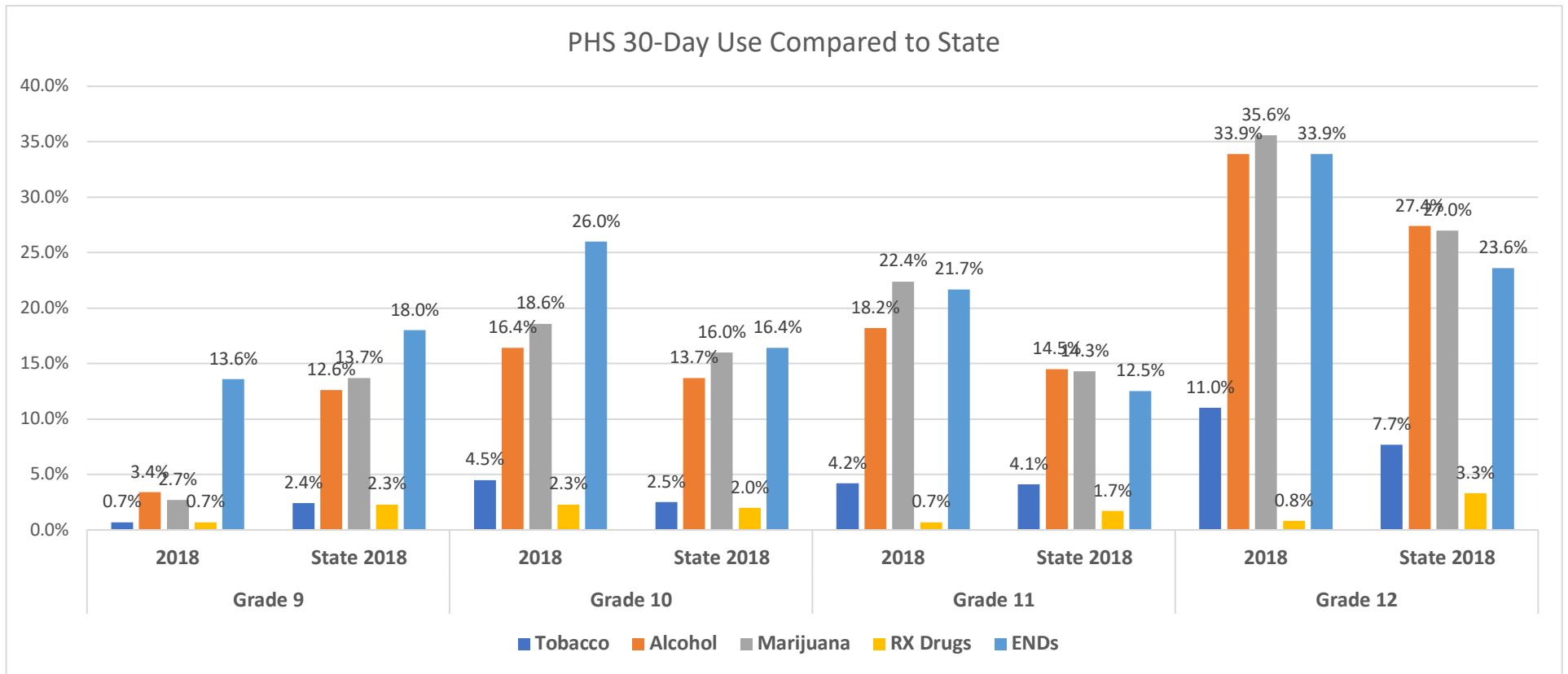
--All PHS 30-Day Use percent changes shaded in blue have decreased between 2016 and 2018--



Attachment 4 – 30-Day Use Rates: Portsmouth High School & RI State Comparison

	Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	2018	State 2018	2018	State 2018	2018	State 2018	2018	State 2018
Tobacco	0.7%	2.4%	4.5%	2.5%	4.2%	4.1%	11.0%	7.7%
Alcohol	3.4%	12.6%	16.4%	13.7%	18.2%	14.5%	33.9%	27.4%
Marijuana	2.7%	13.7%	18.6%	16.0%	22.4%	14.3%	35.6%	27.0%
RX Drugs	0.7%	2.3%	2.3%	2.0%	0.7%	1.7%	0.8%	3.3%
ENDs	13.6%	18.0%	26.0%	16.4%	21.7%	12.5%	33.9%	23.6%

Any percent in highlighted orange represents Portsmouth’s percentages are greater than the State’s



Attachment 5 - Activities & Events Planned for beginning of 2019

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Purple<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distributing bows at Clements• PHS - Purple sports gear to teams• Patriot's Committed Dodgeball• PMS – Purple Rec. Night• Elementary – Pledge• PHS VAASA Vaping presentation to PMS• Change Direction Presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PHS Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors• Bristol-Warren Cross-Programming<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coping engagement activities• Portsmouth This Weekl - Introduction• Apply CODE Grant Pt. 2• Submit DFC Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CADCA National Leadership Forum<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feb. 4 – 7 in Washington, D.C.• Strategic Planning Meeting<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full data dissemination• Strategic Prevention Framework Training• Editing Logic Model• First Meeting of PHS “Health/Wellness” Youth Group• Communications & Membership Sub-Committees<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portsmouth Community Newsletter• Rebranding & Social Media Growth• New member packets• DFC Q1 Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CADCA Academy<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington, D.C.• Juvenile Hearing Board<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streamline consequences for greater impact on outcomes w. School Resource Officer Rick Ruest• Website Overhaul<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update Content• Connect to all social media accounts• “Quick Links” to modern resources• Student-Lead Campaigns<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop messaging & clever campaigns around underage drinking, marijuana use, and/or drinking & driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PHS Pre-Prom<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker Engagement w. Incentive to attend with a parent• PHS Post-Prom Activities Planning• Parent Data Collection<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey/Focus Groups• Coalition Cultural Competency Training<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being Mindful to Diversity• Coalition Sustainability Training<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Future of Prevention• Portsmouth This Week – Marijuana• First Responder Training• Bus Driver Drug Identification Training