Portsmouth Prevention Coalition Actions since July 1

As you know, all Rhode Island community prevention coalitions were regionalized as of July 1, 2017 and Portsmouth is now a fully participating member of the Newport County Prevention Coalition.

Marianne Raymo, Portsmouth resident and Chair of the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition has been elected to the Chair position of the Newport County Prevention Coalition, Senator James Seveney has volunteered to be the NCPC legislative liaison and Ray Davis, Coordinator of the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition has been hired as the Assistant Director, effective June 19 part-time, of the Newport County Prevention Coalition.

The NCPC has met on a monthly basis and is fully represented at the table with the exception of Jamestown which is being aided and urged to participate.

A Guide to Raising Healthy Teens informational full 4 page color brochure directed to parents will be distributed starting this fall on a quarterly basis in cooperation with Narragansett and South Kingstown Prevention Coalitions to all Newport County doctors and health clinics that serve families to be included in the medical files to be given to all families. The subjects will vary on various health issues and one page in particular will relate to a Portsmouth specific issue-such as the issue of adolescent stress which will be highlighted in the first issue.

A Prevention Resource Booklet-similar to last year’s mailing- will be mailed to all parents of incoming freshmen to PHS along with an introductory letter explaining the role of Ms. O’Loughlin as the Student Assistance Councilor and her contact information with all costs covered by the Newport County Prevention Coalition

A Newport County wide Life of an Athlete training event for students and coaches is being planned for September 22 / 23 that will include Navy Seals events as well as John Underwood sessions and possibly an administrators policy making session.

These programs and initiatives are being paid with county funds and some local Prevention Coalition funds going toward the Life of an Athlete program that will be specified further in this report.
A focus group was conducted by DATA Corp of Rhode Island on the Mental Health needs of Newport County residents as it relates to substance abuse issues of area professionals brought together by the NCPC. This study which will be part of the next Community Needs Assessment for the County.

This summer has been an unusually busy time for the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition and the executive board members of the Coalition due to the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition being awarded a small opioid prevention grant entitled the Lazarus Project of $3826.

We submitted a plan in collaboration with Chief Thomas Lee and the Portsmouth Police Department for producing and rolling out a public information campaign on the proper way for Portsmouth residents to dispose of unused, outdated and unwanted prescription drugs at the Prescription Drug Drop Off Box located inside the Portsmouth Police Dept. lobby to increase the correct use of that drop off box to get prescription drugs properly disposed of. That plan also will look at supplementing the supply of Narlexone Overdose Prevention kits for the Portsmouth Police Department and the Portsmouth Fire Department since there is no additional state or local funding for the supply of those life saving kits to our first responders.

The PPC also received a Project Family Success Carryover grant from the Department of Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) of $12,329 for programmatic initiatives that fit under the Above the Influence program outlines.

The following is the approved plan Portsmouth submitted for the funds that has been approved:

$2000 for Portsmouth Police Department to provide 10 additional 4 hour patrols to high impact area of suspected underage alcohol consumption between July 31 and September 29, 2017

$2000 Patriots Committed training session at Lake Placid attendance for students and coaches this past summer

$2000 Portsmouth contribution toward the Newport County joint Life of an Athlete Training sessions to be held Sept. 22/23, 2017

$2500 for the development, set up and creation of a Portsmouth Prevention coalition website to be operational by September 29, 2017

$2500 for specific prevention programming to be held at Portsmouth High School and Portsmouth Middle School

Sept. 11: PHS Faculty Drug Identification Training/ Detective Jason Berthelette, Woonsocket Police Dept., Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals National trainer
Sept. 21
Hidden In Plain Sight- PHS

Sept. 29: Ed Gerety – Leadership Skills for 7th & 8th Graders – PMS

$1500 stipend to Kelly O’Loughlin for research work this summer on parent oriented materials and articles the PPC can use in media information for parents of topics that are of specific interest to Portsmouth parents

$1000 for printing and distributing parent information media items

All costs for these initiatives above the $12,329 PFS funds are being paid by environmental strategy programming funds the PPC has earmarked for programming in our budget.

The PPC will receive a $3000 Legislative grant from Representative Dennis Canario at our September 12 Coalition meeting to be used for website/media development and parent programming.

The PPC will receive a $1000 incentive award from BHDDH for compliance agreements from the school committee, Superintendent, Middle and High School Principals to conduct the 2018 Student Survey that will be conducted by March 31, 2018.

We await word on the federal Drug Free Communities grant awards sometime in September.

All funds for the PFS grant carryover MUST be utilized on programs and implemented by September 29, 2017 as a condition of the federal re-dispersal of those funds to BHDDH.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition and your involvement in facing the challenges of providing effective drug prevention policies, programs and information to students, families, staff and the public at large.

Respectfully Submitted,

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