

**MINUTES: 10/13/22 SPC BIG PINEY
3:30 - 4:30 PM
BIG PINEY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
CHAIR: REV. MELINDA BOBO**

Present

**Melinda Bobo, Priest, St. Andrew's Church, Coalition Chair
Jeff Makelky, Principal, Big Piney High School
Sherri Redden, BP Town Council, Sub9 substitute teacher, Senior Center
Norma Clements, School counselor, BPHS
Trisha Scott, Coalition Coordinator**

Notes:

Mr. Makelky reported a high use of vapes in the high school - 6 kids caught this week. Most are freshmen. Vuse is the new popular device for youth. Mr. Makelky requested prevention resources for a comprehensive policy for students caught vaping or with vape products on school campus. He requests a focus on education and cessation resources while students are supervised in in-school suspension. Mr. Makelky reported that students are reporting to him that vaping is causing a problem, they want to quit, and they do not know how to quit. Members discussed the Wyoming Nicotine Free School Toolkit, specifically the section of the toolkit that deals with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd violations.

Mr. Makelky requested the coalition provide the following information and resources:

1. The toolkit recommends a chemical dependency assessment for a 3rd violation. Is there a provider in the county that offers a youth chemical dependency assessment? Can the mental health fund pay for it?
2. What is the status of prevention funding for vape detectors? Vape detectors at the high school level have been a successful deterrent to student use of vapes on campus and school experience shows that they would be useful/effective at the middle school level.
3. What is available for a follow up system for violations? Members recommended structured follow up to find out/measure what the experience is with the quit apps. Mr. Makelky suggested coalition assistance with a follow up for the current cohort of students caught this past week.

Trisha and Mr. Makelky each signed up for the youth quit apps at this meeting to review to compare their effectiveness. A focus group of students using the apps would be most effective to understand what is the best app to use in the school policy.

Trisha will send Mr. Makelky digital Tobacco Free Campus signs and get 6 metal signs for the school campus.

Alcohol: Sherri Redden voiced frustration with the use (need for) alcohol at all community events that reinforces youth seeing alcohol as part of the culture of adulthood. Trisha offered to present the community event toolkit option to the Big Piney Town Council if Sherri thinks that would be effective. Fair this year had incidents with intoxicated youth. The fair has made some

improvement in regulating alcohol at fair (no coolers in the arena) but it is still a problem. Albany County has no alcohol at county fair. It is seen as a 4-H event for youth.

Suicide prevention: Mr. Makelky requested QPR for the freshman health classes. Trisha will contact Mr. Willford, Mardy Sleight, and Bill Lehr to schedule.

Mr. Makelky requested input on a discussion question approach to suicide prevention for the high school advisory groups. Groups meet 4x a week with the same teacher over a student's 4 years at BPHS. Those faculty become trusted adults for those students. Mr. Makelky is looking for an alternative to a "sit and tell" approach to suicide prevention. Trisha will contact Cassie Crumpton, master QPR trainer, to consult on a discussion question/small group approach for the advisory groups. All the BPHS teachers are QPR Gatekeepers. The advisory groups will be talking about mental health starting January 19.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.