

## **Northern Lights Coalition Monthly Meeting February 29th, 2024**

Attendees (in person) - Justin Noel (SADD), Desi Thomas (Department of Health / Suicide prevention), Ashley Graham (Department of Health / Coalition Coordinator), Devin Howard (Northern Lights Chairman), Leon Fassett (Crisis Response), Emily Bishoff (SOS Coordinator), Irmonie (Devin Howard's assistant), Denise Williams (Outreach Coordinator Northern Lights) (Virtual) - Michael Dorsey (Grow Home), Chelsea O'Neil (Pathways / OMPP)

Justin Noel started off by giving a SADD update. He is working on more "Healthy Relationships / Date Rape" learning programs in the schools. He has several programs already scheduled (i.e., Northeast High School and St. Mary's). It's all going well, and he hopes to continue scheduling other schools.

Chelsea O'Neil gave the OMPP update. She said they have continued to visit pharmacies. So far, they are welcomed wherever they visit. It's going well.

Ashley Graham gave an update on TIPS training. They made some adjustments to the way they present the training and now have specific dates and times for it. Each facility must have 10 people in attendance for us to train. She said several facilities have scheduled training since many places are starting to hire for the spring and summer and want their entire staff trained.

Emily, Ashley, and Denise gave an update on the House of Addiction at Marley Station Mall. Things are going well now that we are actually setting up stations in the mall. We have 12 schools attending as field trips and approximately 20 vendors attending.

We tried to play two videos on vaping. We could not get either to play, so Desi Thomas, Justin Noel, and Ashley Graham (who all have seen the videos) shared what they were about. The first was filmed in the UK in 2007 when vaping products came on the market. This was before any research had been done on the dangers and risks of vaping. Even though the UK is more accepting of vaping, they also have more restrictions than the USA. Most of the information in the video is outdated and false. The second video was filmed last year in the Midwest. It's more accurate in terms of the dangers and risks. The film follows a few students from Idaho who vape. They all agreed everyone should take the time to view the video. It is very informative.

Since we were not able to view the video, this opened the door for a great conversation regarding concerns regarding vaping and the use of medical marijuana with our youth.