

Top Row, From Left: Sharon Harris, SAFE executive director; Dr. Daniel Vogrin, director of the Melillo Center for Mental Health; Michael G. Estabillio, SAFE administrative assistant; Dr. Joseph Hinton, coalition co-chair; Councilman Tony Jimenez, Community Committee chair; Mary Berhang, SAFE board member; Sgt. Christopher Ortiz, Glen Cove Police Department; Robin Mead, SAFE social worker; Brenda Garcia, SAFE Life Skills facilitator. Bottom Row, From Left: Ida McQuair, SAFE board member; Melissa Tierney, executive director Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club; Ann-Marie Gailius, president of the Glen Cove Kiwanas Club; Arlene O'Dell, executive director Glen Cove Youth Bureau; Dr. Bernard Gorman, research Psychologist; Reverend William Wendler, North Shore Clergy Association; Mary Cooper, SAFE board member; Carol Waldman, executive director Glen Cove Senior Center; Fran Kohler, executive director Downtown BID; Georgina Connet, SAFE board chair; Paula Castiglia, PRIDE Project Coalition coordinator; Wendy Sanchez, Parent Committee chair and LifeSkills facilitator; Fred Moore, administrator Glen Cove Section 8 Program.

SAFE Inc. PRIDE Coalition Hosts Town Hall Meeting

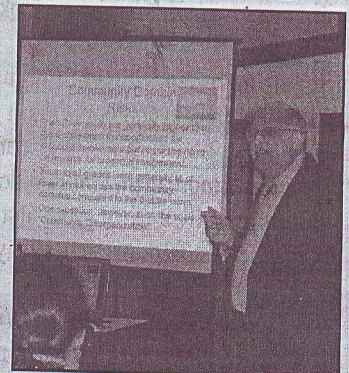
Coalition Members Help Build a Safer Community

SAFE Inc.'s PRIDE Coalition knows the value of providing a substance abuse free environment for youth and adults in Glen Cove. Entering their 7th year, the PRIDE Coalition is changing community norms, values, and policies about youth alcohol and substance abuse – an ongoing issue that threatens the well-being of our young people in Glen Cove.

On Thursday, April 29, SAFE Inc.'s PRIDE Coalition hosted a Town Hall Meeting to report their progress, review the most recent Prevention Needs Assessment, and look forward to the future plans of each Coalition committee. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, this meeting served as the most recent progress report of the Coalition and will dictate the actions of each coalition committee in the year to come.

Bernard S. Gorman, Ph.D., presented the results of the January 2010 Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey administered by the Glen Cove School District to students grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. First adopted by SAFE in January 2008, this tool has proven effective in determining the risk and protective factors affecting our youth in order to measure the needs of these populations.

Overall, there was much good news to be shared. According to the most recent Prevention Needs Assessment, the percentage of students reporting they have ever used alcohol decreased among all grade levels and tobacco use among youth and teens in Glen Cove remains much lower than national norms. Students report that community availability of tobacco and alcohol has dropped, suggesting that local vendors are not selling tobacco and alcohol products to minors due to the Glen Cove Police Department's Project 21 Program. Students report higher rates of community satisfaction and self-esteem



Dr. Bernard Gorman shares the January 2010 Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment results with the Town Hall Meeting attendees.

and low rates of anti-social behavior, signifying that the community is moving in the right direction by providing programs and services such as Glen Cove After 3, Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club Teen Program, SAFE Summer Fun, and Parent University. The average age of onset for alcohol and tobacco use in the 6th grade is delayed one year since 2008. The average age of onset for tobacco use in the 8th grade is also delayed by one year since 2008, while the average age of onset for marijuana use in the twelfth-grade is delayed one year. These delays in the age of onset signify that the Glen Cove School District's Health Curriculums are proving to be effective.

However, there are of concern that need to be addressed. Though the rates for twelfth-graders being drunk or high at school has dropped since 2008, the rates remain fairly high. Drinking and driving rates are as high as 20 percent in the twelfth grade, signifying a need for increased education and prevention in this

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area. Though these may seem like difficult topics to tackle, PRIDE Coalition Committee members are well prepared for the challenge.

Community Committee Chair Councilman Tony Jimenez announced the committee's plans to implement the SAFE Downtown campaign in conjunction with the Business Improvement District to protect teens from the dangers of underage drinking. Through the Community Committee's focus on the Senior to Grandchild connection, Seniors will be educated on how to recognize the early signs of addiction, reviewing their own medicine cabinet to protect the unauthorized use of their prescription medications, and setting positive examples to provide support and direction to at-risk youth.

The Community Committee will also work with the Glen Cove Police Department to provide educational presentations on Social Host Law, continue the enforcement of this law and to increase awareness through Public Relations Campaigns, including press releases in the *Glen Cove Pilot* and the most recent addition of a Public Service Announcement created by CBS. The Community Committee will also launch the SAFE Homes Campaign in conjunction with the North Shore Clergy and the PTA, which will help parents identify homes that are substance free environments throughout Glen Cove.

Youth Committee co-Chairs Melissa Tierney, executive director of the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club and Arlene O'Dell, executive director of the Glen Cove Youth Center announced the newly adopted youth committee name "Speak Up, Get Heard." The "Speak Up, Get Heard" members will continue

the "100 Better Things to Do Than Drugs" campaign in which they will encourage youth in Glen Cove to take part in pro-social activities, such as SAFE Summer Fun and community service activities.

Coalition Co-Chair, Dr. Joseph Hinton announced the continuation of focusing health education programs on peer influence, role models and marketing along with the expansion of the elementary level health curriculum to emphasize alcohol and other drug use, including prescription drug abuse to delay the age of onset even further. Peer mentoring will be made available in the schools for students who are experiencing feelings of social or emotional isolation as well as a referral network of those children to outside agencies in the Glen Cove community as needed.

Parent Committee Chair Wendy Sanchez announced the continuation of the Bi-lingual Parent University to address parent education needs on alcohol and drug related topics as well as Bi-lingual STEP parent training under the City's 21st CCLC grant. The Parent Committee will also continue to implement the Botvin Life Skills Training Program to Elementary, Middle, and High School students to continue to improve pro-social skills. The Parent Committee will also work to promote the SAFE Homes campaign.

The PRIDE Coalition is looking forward to another productive year. For more information about SAFE, Inc. and the PRIDE Coalition's mission, the Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment results, or upcoming events, please contact Paula Castiglia, Project Coordinator at 676-2008 or visit www.safeglen Cove.org.