

SAFE Glen Cove Coalition Addresses Substance Use

BY RECORD PILOT STAFF

GLENCOVE@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition held their Sustainability Planning meeting recently to review their work from the previous year and strategically plan to set goals for the 2015-16 school year. The mission of the coalition is to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove. The coalition is overseen by SAFE's board of directors and co-chaired by Councilman Tony Gallo and SAFE executive director Dr. Sharon Harris.

The coalition's four established committees (community, school, youth and parent) each have their own charge based on alcohol and substance abuse use surveys administered to students every two years at the middle and high school to identify trends and prevent future use.

The community committee, chaired by Gallo, serves as a think tank to examine needs assessment data and make recommendations;

implement media campaigns regarding underage binge drinking, enforcement of underage drinking laws and social host law; implement "SAFE Homes," a pledge adults take not to social host and "SAFE Glen Cove," a commitment made by local business to not sell alcohol or tobacco to minors.

The school committee, chaired by Denise Kiernan, director of health and physical education for the Glen Cove School District, utilizes the needs assessment data to identify, to provide Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs (ATOD) prevention activities and programs for youth; expand and enhance health education curriculum to address needs assessment data; enforce district's tobacco policy and drug-free school zones; utilize Teens-As-Teachers/SALT programs to facilitate and implement coalition prevention activities throughout the district; collaborate with the youth committee on shared coalition initiatives to ensure full community

participation; participate in assessing and analyzing root causes of substance abuse problems in the community;

The youth committee, chaired by Arlene O'Dell, executive director of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau, utilize needs assessment data to identify and provide prevention activities and programs for youth and participate in planning activities for youth that help to reduce youth drug and alcohol use.

The parent committee, chaired by Laurent Caballero, SAFE's bilingual Life Skills Program facilitator, acts as a bilingual parent resource for prevention, education, intervention and research on alcohol and drug abuse; serves as liaison with the PTA Council; participates in assessing and analyzing root causes of substance abuse problems in the community; helps develop, attend and promote coalition activities and events such as the Annual Health and Fitness Fair, Town Hall, Parent University, Red Ribbon Week, SAFE Rides and SAFE Homes.

The four committees will continue with their respective initiatives in 2015-16 and will work with Sergeant David You and Sergeant Ohio Aquino of the National Guard Counter Drug Task Force to implement prevention education workshops for youth and will also continue to work with Carol Meschow of the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island to identify and address non-smoking areas in Glen Cove to promote a healthy and safe environment for youth and adults.

"The coalition is in its twelfth year and continues to meet its goals and objectives due to the commitment of its membership. As SAFE's board chair and strategic planner for the coalition, I am extremely proud of its accomplishments," said Georgie Connett.

For more information about SAFE, Inc. and the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, contact the office at 516-676-2008 or visit www.safeglencove.org.