



### **TPAUD Coalition Meeting**

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 8:00am

Attendees: (In-Person) Renny Affoumado, Gillian Anderson, Colin Bassett, Yazmin Carattini, Nina Chanana, Claudia Cleri, John Cowherd, Deirdre Eckholdt, Kim Foster, Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Sue Jacozzi, Michele Jakab, Scot Kerr, Michael Lombardo, Melissa McGarry, Dennis McLaughlin, Julia McNamee, Stacy Murphy, Jordyn Nappi, Kiersten Naumann, Joanne Orenstein, Erica Pivor, Jeff Rago, Melissa Roberto, Dave Rutigliano, Marc Sabo, Vicki Tesoro, Will Testani, Jacqueline Vega, Lara Walden, Scott Wich; (Zoom) Jason Stemmler

1. Introductions: New members please sign a CIA (see Lori)
2. Partner Updates:
  - a. My Friend Abby:
    - Thank you to all Suicide Vigil community partners
    - New MFA Club Advisor at THS is Jami Brown
    - Annual Share Your Light fundraiser on Oct. 24 Two Roads. Tickets at:  
<https://events.handbid.com/auctions/my-friend-abbys-share-your-light-2025>
  - b. EMS:
    - Added FT staff & more vehicles on road
    - Psych calls over the last 90 days was even with last year, fewer calls related to suicidal ideation (9 YTD vs 16 in 2024); no noticeable difference in substance-related calls
  - c. Police:
    - Chief says School Resource Officers report relatively smooth start to new year
    - Dept. will welcome a Wellness Dog to assist the TPD Peer Support Group next year
  - d. Health Dept.
    - Flu vaccine clinics have begun - schedule available online
    - Adult Mental Health First Aid class to be scheduled soon
  - e. Trumbull Public Schools:
    - Peer Support Specialist (Amy Grant) has started 2 days/week at THS, will support students & families primarily with substance use concerns (Dennis reported that there have been 4 referrals to Amy since the beginning of the school year, 3 for nicotine vapes). Amy's position is being paid for with Opioid Settlement dollars, and Stacy thanked the First Selectman and TPAUD for advocating for this role.
    - Stacy is reconvening the School Crisis Response team to review and update response plans.

- f. First Selectman: The town will look for money in the operating budget to fund TPAUD once ARPA money runs out. Will need coalition members to support.
  - g. Human Services:
    - Sept. is National Senior Center month.
    - Social Services: reminder we have a Food Pantry, Financial Assistance, benefit screenings, etc. to all community members in need
    - Counseling Center offers youth and family counseling, moderates S.L.A.M. Youth Leadership Group, offers tutoring services available to all Trumbull students, runs support groups (e.g. Coping Strategies). They also oversee the Juvenile Review Board (JRB).
    - JRB staff throughout CT undergoing extensive training on Restorative Practices. The coalition expressed interest in a restorative practices training as part of a future meeting.
  - h. St. Joseph High School: TPAUD will offer Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) during staff professional development this Friday.
  - i. TPAUD Executive Committee is building out a calendar of all TPAUD prevention activities to help with tracking and grant reporting – stay tuned.
  - j. YMCA: ramping up Fall programming & vaccine clinics.
  - k. Turnbridge: On Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, Mark Sabo is running a half marathon in support of Recovery.
  - l. Legislators:
    - Sujata - Chair of Regulations Review Committee, is open to input from TPAUD re: cannabis regulations.
    - Dave – preparing a slew of bills re: gambling. Melissa suggested targeting free bets.
3. Prevention Activities
- a. Education & Outreach
    - 1. 9<sup>th</sup> Gr. Forum (11/18) Planning underway: this is the 20<sup>th</sup> Forum, we are currently reviewing content, speakers, etc. Assistance will be needed with logistics. Organizations that want to table should contact Melissa or Kiersten. Claudia suggested more emphasis on dangers of DUI (consequences of DUI far worse than consequences of getting in trouble for using)
    - “Be In the Know” (BITK) Cannabis Prevention: TPAUD’s paid campaign currently underway boosting BITK posts on Facebook (using BITK social media posts is a requirement of our Cannabis Prevention Grant from DMHAS). We will get data on reach from our marketing firm.
    - “You Think You Know” Counterfeit Med/Fentanyl Campaign: TPAUD used SOR grant funds to support the regional YTYK campaign. The campaign delivered a comprehensive reach across 51 towns with 6,550,331 total impressions through a multi-channel approach combining bus tail advertising, digital display/geofencing,

streaming audio, and social media advertising. There were 24,884 impressions in Trumbull.

- School Vaping Education:
  1. Posters in all THS bathrooms include risk info, school consequences, and a QR code to quit resources.
  2. New electronic pass system at THS (students are allowed a certain amount of time to be out of classroom) – students are spending less time in the hallways.
  3. St. Joe's - installed vape detectors in bathrooms and initiated reformative practices for students on return to school after suspension.
- Recovery Roundtable: Celebration of Recovery tomorrow night in honor of Recovery Month (Community Room at Trumbull Library, 6-8pm, dinner will be served courtesy of Silver Hill Hospital).
- MHFA/QPR Update:
  1. TPAUD hosted two YMHA trainings over the summer with support from Trumbull Public Schools, 8 ppl trained total; all school nurses will be trained during the Nov. professional development day.
  2. TPAUD partnered with My Friend Abby to train 15 people, including 9 young adults, in QPR over the summer.
  3. TPAUD has two upcoming QPR trainings scheduled (St. Joseph High School & YMCA) and will schedule a community QPR in the coming months.
- Suicide Postvention Planning: ongoing & evolving to include all untimely deaths, not just suicide.

b. Access & Enforcement

- Retailer Compliance Checks:
  1. TPD & DMHAS conducted nicotine checks last week – 2 of 16 retailers failed. The last time we did checks, all passed.
  2. TPD & DCP alcohol checks – checks of off-premise license holders (liquor stores) scheduled for 9/25.
- Drug Recognition Expert Program: Extremely competitive process, only 18 successful applicants throughout the state. Trumbull Officer Joe Iannucci will begin training in Oct. The state covers training and travel costs; opioid settlement dollars will be used to cover Officer Iannucci's time.
- Safe Storage Campaign: info on TPAUD site, materials include lock bags and liquor stickers distributed throughout town at school & community events.

c. Policy

- Prohibition of cannabis businesses: permanent ban passed Town Council unanimously.

4. Coalition Business

- a. Student Surveys: The proposed student survey tool was reviewed by Long Hill administrators, and approved by BOE Curriculum Committee, goes to full BOE on 9/30 for approval. Surveys will be administered on November 12<sup>th</sup> at THS, and in Dec. at middle schools. Questions have been added on smartphone use, as well as attempts to quit/cut down on cell phone & substance use. We have modified teacher instructions for clarity. Parents will receive a link to review survey questions and access past results.
- b. Trumbull Youth Services Bureau (YSB): This is funding from CT Dept. of Children and Families received by Mary J. Sherlach Counseling Center. DCF requires that each YSB has a board; TPAUD has the required membership and overlapping mission, so will serve as the YSB Board for Trumbull. Claudia Cleri will serve as the young adult rep to the YSB (which is also required by DCF). More info. to come. Scot suggested TPAUD establish a YSB subcommittee.
- c. A Sacred Heart chemistry professor approached TPAUD to partner on a service-based learning class next spring around drugs and society.

**2025-26 Coalition Meetings:** 10/15, 11/19, 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/22, 5/20, June TBD

**Upcoming Events:**

9/25 – Recovery Celebration, 6pm at Trumbull Library  
 9/25-9/26 – MMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health  
 9/26 – QPR Training for St. Joseph HS Staff  
 10/1, 10/3 – HMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health  
 10/2 – TPAUD at Trumbull Farmers Market  
 10/3-10/10 – Trumbull Restaurant Week  
 10/21-10/24 – Red Ribbon Week at HMS and MMS  
 10/24 – My Friend Abby “A Night to Shine Your Light”, Two Roads Brewing Co., 7pm  
 10/25 – Drug Take Back Day, 10-2 at Trumbull EMS  
 11/4 – Youth Mental Health First Aid for School Nurses  
 11/12 – TPAUD Surveys at THS  
 11/18 – THS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Forum