

### January/February 2017

The Coalition offered educational information and other resources at 19 presentations, community events and health fairs in 2017.

Twenty-six students, representing Central, Hale, the Learning Center and Shared Journeys, were trained as peer educators for the “Peers with Purpose” program promoting substance abuse prevention. Teams of peer educators presented to all seventh grade students in the district in February, March and April.



The Coalition and its partners also participated in Milwaukee County’s Light and Unite Red campaign, putting a spotlight on the dangers of substance abuse and uniting the community to engage in prevention, encourage treatment and support recovery. A Senior Safety Talk was held at the West Allis Senior Center. The 51 attendees learned about Light and Unite Red, substance abuse prevention information, community and personal safety tips, how to properly dispose of medications and hands-only CPR and defibrillator training.



A campaign to promote the importance of recognizing positive and healthy relationships and how to create a more inclusive environment at school was held at Central and Learning Center during the week of Valentine’s Day.

### March 2017

West Allis Central High School youth members continued to promote their prevention message by challenging their fellow students to the Drug and Alcohol Challenge. Students gained knowledge and received positive reinforcement from fellow students to make positive choices.



Students from Shared Journeys presented to the entire freshman class about risky behaviors and the reality of being a teen parent. The students highlighted the impact of alcohol and drug use and second and third hand smoke for a booth at the WIC and immunization clinics at the West Allis Health Department. The students also designed t-shirts to wear at these community events.

The Latino Fair, held on March 25, included a cultural youth dance presentation, healthy food, Zumba, crafts for the kids, health screenings and information and a medication collection. The event, promoting healthy living and decisions, also included a presentation in Spanish about alcohol awareness and not hosting youth parties with alcohol. Spanish language Parents Who Host, Lose the Most signs were distributed to the almost 200 attendees.



## April 2017

April was again announced as “Alcohol Awareness Month” through a Mayoral Proclamation in West Allis and a Village Proclamation in West Milwaukee. An alcohol awareness poster, with information about drink sizes and binge drinking, was created and distributed throughout the community. Among the other activities conducted during the month were; a display in the West Allis Library lobby designed by the students from Shared Journeys, Prezi and PSAs shown on the city and school district channels, school wide announcements, bulletin boards and flyers by youth members at Central and Hale and weekly tweets and posts on Facebook. The “biggest” reminder was the student designed display for the wall at Central, reminding everyone to have a Safe and Sober Spring.



## May 2017

Over 400 students and parents attended the 8th Annual Safe and Sober Spring Family Night on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Central High School. Coalition youth members were on a panel, moderated by Central Principal Dr. Amy Van Deuren, sharing a positive message and promoting safe choices for having a fun and safe prom, graduation and summer. Parents were asked to share and sign the Family Pledge with their children and the Parents Who Host, Lose the Most campaign signs and materials were also distributed to the attendees.



Students from Central and Hale held Impact Day the last week of May to show the consequences of drinking, drugged and distracted driving. T-shirts of all sizes were hung on a clothesline outside the Hale cafeteria to illustrate the number of people killed in drunk or distracted driving accidents each day. They also encouraged students to “not become a statistic.” At Central, a crashed vehicle was on display and select students wore t-shirts representing victims of these crashes.



The May Coalition meeting featured presentations from all four youth groups, highlighting the many activities and initiatives they worked on during the school year. An annual highlight is the demonstration of the Peers with Purpose program where trained peer educators present to seventh grade students at Frank Lloyd Wright, Lincoln, Lane and West Milwaukee Intermediate Schools. A delicious dinner was prepared by meeting hosts Apostle Presbyterian Church.

A session at the statewide WI Partners in Substance Abuse Prevention Training conference was presented by the Coalition. Co-presented by Julie Whelan Capell, coalition evaluator, and Tammy Molter, coalition coordinator, the session highlighted successes in implementing SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) in WAWM schools and the importance of universal SBIRT for students.

The Coalition has been involved with the SBIRT project for a number of years, including conducting universal SBIRT in Central and Hale with all 9th graders in the 2015-2016 school year. Because of this involvement, students from Hale were interviewed and included in a national video campaign to highlight the importance of screening and to advocate for universal SBIRT in the schools.

**June/July 2017**



Youth members of the Coalition continued their involvement with CAAD (Community Alliance Against Drugs) including volunteering at “Tuesday in the Park” where they made announcements welcoming families and reminding them that most youth are not involved with alcohol and drugs.



Thousands attended the West Allis and West Milwaukee “National Night Out” events. The Coalition provided prevention literature, temporary tattoos and magnets to attendees. Youth members from Central, Hale and the Learning Center used the Jeopardy Game, designed with questions about underage alcohol and drug prevention, to interact with and educate the community.

The Coalition was one of five coalitions in the country invited to a national meeting to share our experience with SBIRT and universal screening in schools. The Coalition then received a two-year grant to explore and implement youth screening (SBIRT) in a healthcare setting.

**August 2017**



The West Allis Police Department, in collaboration with the Coalition, continued safety talks at senior and assisted living centers in the community. These talks highlight safety issues including proper disposal and storage of prescription medications and a medication collection. Over 70 pounds of medications were collected from these events in 2017. These talks will be expanded to include more religious communities in 2018.

**September 2017**

The Coalition, a member of the WAWM Heroin/Opiate Task Force, had a table of information at the Safety Night held at Nathan Hale High School. The program included a tour of the Teen Replica Room, consequences and fines by the West Allis Police Department and signs and symptoms of opiate abuse. Family Pledges and Parents Who Host, Lose the Most yard signs were distributed by youth members of the Coalition to promote a safe homecoming.



**October 2017**



Youth members began meeting to develop upcoming initiatives and projects for the school year. They also began planning for and celebrated Red Ribbon Week in their schools to bring attention to the national campaign to raise awareness about making drug-free choices. Bulletin boards, red ribbons, wearing red and announcements were just some of the activities used to promote their anti-drug message.



**November/December 2017**



The 2017 recognition award was presented to Joyce O'Donnell for her leadership in founding the Coalition and her work at the state level in support of keeping youth healthy and drug free.

Citlali Mendieta-Ramos, owner of Antigua Mexican and Latin American Restaurant, and Brian and Renee Shacterle, owners/operators of the West Allis Culver's, were recognized by the Coalition for their continued support.

WAWMCC thanks the Coalition Partners and Friends for their support of the Coalition and its mission to reduce underage substance abuse and help the West Allis-West Milwaukee community raise healthy, drug-free children.