



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**April 22, 2020**

**Location:**

WebEx Online Meeting

**Board members present:** Maria Stahl (Florida Department of Health - Brevard County); Denny Kolsch, LMHC (Peace Club); Shaunna Heffernan (Housing & Human Services – Brevard County); Leigh McElroy (Eckerd Connects – *non-voting member*)

**Other attendees:** Stanley Brizz (Eckerd Connects/Brevard Prevention Coalition); Andrew DiRisio (Eckerd Connects)

**I – GREETINGS, INTRODUCTIONS, OVERALL UPDATES**

- Maria Stahl spoke about some of the challenges they have been facing in the medical field and at Florida Department of Health regarding COVID-19.
- Stanley Brizz gave updates on what Eckerd and the coalition have been doing regarding COVID-19, and how they have been using video conferencing tools to stay in touch with students and clients. Also, that there has been a rise in substance abuse due to people coping with the virus in the wrong ways.
- Denny Kolsch spoke on the issue of misinformation being spread about the consumption of alcohol and COVID-19, that a person could destroy the virus internally by drinking enough alcohol. A document was released by the World Health Organization (WHO) to combat the spread of this misinformation.
- Denny Kolsch stated Peace Club have seen a 50% increase in admissions for substance abuse and mental health related services since the COVID-19 related stay-at-home order.
- Stanley Brizz gave reminders of recent cancelations including the Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit.
- Stanley Brizz mentioned the time to re-apply for the Drug Free Communities grant is coming up soon. More updates to come on this later.
- Stanley Brizz recommended resuming the subcommittee meetings through video conferencing tools.

**II – REVIEW OF RESUME & BOARD NOMINATION**

- The board discussed their thoughts on adding Carole-Williams Hayes (Department of Children & Families) to the board.
- Shaunna Heffernan motioned to have Carole-Williams Hayes added to the board.
  - o Denny Kolsch seconded the motion.
  - o All voted in favor. Motion passed.



### **III – MEDIA CAMPAIGN STATUS**

- Andrew DiRisio gave updates on the new tool being developed for the I Choose ME media campaign website. The tool will give the community a way to share their stories of recovery and passions in life in the hope of giving others ideas and motivation to replace substance abuse with positive activities.
- Stanley Brizz mentioned connecting with local youth to give feedback on our ideas for the campaign. One high school youth who volunteered to be involved with the DFC Grant is still interested in participating in the coalition. Stanley will connect that youth with Leigh and Andrew for youth-focused prevention feedback.

### **IV – REVIEW OF NEXT STEPS / SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

- Next meeting dates:
  - o 7/22/2020 - 10am-12pm
  - o 10/21/2020 - 10am-12pm
- Meeting location for the above is to be determined based on current world conditions. Updates will be given ahead of time.

### **V – OPEN FORUM**

- Denny Kolsch gave an update on the Labor Day weekend surf event that was being planned. It has currently been rescheduled for next year with the exact date to be determined.

### **VI – MEETING CLOSURE**

- Maria Stahl motioned to close the meeting.
  - o Shaunna Heffernan seconded the motion.
  - o All voted in favor. Meeting closed.