



Engage Douglas County
April 25th, 2024
10:00 AM

Mission: Mobilize and empower Douglas County to reduce substance abuse and promote mental health primarily among youth through action, education, and collaboration.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chelsea Harrington, Ginny Barnard, Laura Smith, Ariel Cohn, Anabel Feauto, Sherry Thomas, Nancy Noyes, Karrey Britt, Lydia Fuqua, Chisom Ajekwu, George Diepenbrock, Shannon VanLandingham, Brooks Robertson, Gabriella Pogany, Tobia Harvey, Nicole Malcom, Emma Speer, Chrissy Mayer, Kaitlyn Peine

2. Partner Updates

Be More Like Claire is hosting Sunday Funday on April 28th from 2-4:30. If you would like to volunteer for the event, please reach out to outreach@bemorelikeclaire.org. You are also welcome to register to play and you will be placed on a team.

The Kitchen Sale for a Cause is Saturday, April 27th. All proceeds from the event are reinvested into the community for food security resources. There are no items more than \$10. The event is open to all.

There is a SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator position available at K-State Research and Extension. Contact Kaitlyn Peine for more information.

<https://www.douglas.k-state.edu/about/join-our-team/index.html>

Drug Take Back Day is April 27th from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office. Individuals can drop off unused medications in the drive-up lane by the courthouse. Detera bags will be available for home disposal as well. If there is rain, the location will adjust slightly.

Laura shared that the Embrace Eudora Resource Fair hosted on March 31 was very successful. Many thanks to all who participated! They will be focusing on a community needs assessment going forward.

3. Leading Causes of Life 5K and Festival

- The 5k and Festival is scheduled for April 27 at 8:00 a.m. at Broken Arrow Park. We currently have 77 participants registered and are getting more every day.

4. YEP!

- The Year End Celebration is on May 7th. A YEP! Chapter of the Year will be awarded at the celebration. There will be training offered this summer with the youth sponsors and the team will be working on training up youth teams in Sources of Strength.

5. Virtual Town Hall Update

The recording of the THM can be found at <https://www.engagedouglascounty.org/videos>. There were five panelists sharing information about resources in Douglas County. There were 15 attendees.

6. Engaged in Action

- We have three categories of awards – youth, adult, and organization/business. The award nominations are due on May 3. The awards ceremony will be on June 27. We are looking for a small group of folks to serve on the nomination committee to select the final awardees. If you are interested in reviewing nominations and making a final selection, please contact Chrissy.

7. Follow Up from Suicide Prevention Needs –

Coalition members offered the following suggestions/comments for discussion related to filling gaps related to suicide prevention in Douglas County –

- Providing schools with staff to support efforts (Prevention Specialists)
- Community Health Care Workers
- Community Navigator in Baldwin and Lecompton
- Connection to youth – many are not aware of 988, better messaging, messaging at schools re: text capacity of lifeline – safety of connecting, more attempts to talk about how people can connect
- How do we connect with coaches, club leaders, churches – other adults that can share messages with youth?
- Connection with university community
- Partnerships with mobile phone carriers (stickers on new phones, pop sockets)
- Coaches Clinic – Coaching Boys into Men (12-week program on various topics – 15 minutes) healthy relationships, 2 sessions on MH (Shannon offered some space to present information at these session – Brooks offered to serve as a connector) Fall sports

Brooks, George, Laura, Sherry, and Shannon agreed to dive into these suggestions a bit more and come up with some actions to share with the coalition. Chrissy will convene the group.

8. Open Space

The Drug Endangered Children grant was submitted on behalf of Engage Douglas County. The application will focus on a partnership with the Eudora Fire Department to complete a comprehensive needs assessment in the Eudora community, provide care bags for young children interacting with first responders, provide naloxone, and work on developing protocols for supporting drug endangered children. An award announcement will be made in May.

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Follow up with actions from suicide prevention gap activity
- b. Update on the 5k
- c. Grant Updates
- d. Healthy Relationships

Next meeting May 23, 2024 at 10:00 at DCCCA Service Center – 1739 E. 23rd Street