

Health and Human Services Advisory Council

April 9 6:30 – 8 pm

HHS Basement Conference room

In attendance: Deborah Youngblood, Teresa Kett, Asa Fanelli, Matt Stafford, Murali Vemuli

- Teresa Kett, public health program specialist presented on three critical programs to the HHS department:
 - Medical Reserve Corps – vetted and trained volunteers to be deployed in an emergency (and sometimes for routine matters)
 - Emergency Preparedness: HHS responsible for Emergency sheltering, description of how this is managed and efforts made to coordinate improved communications
- Youth Commission Project
 - Discussion of what the Youth commission is. Description of current youth commission project designing and implementing a student mental health and stress survey, assessing the results and making a formal presentation with recommendation based on the survey to the school committee.
- E-cigarette youth prevention efforts
 - Follow up from the last meeting to describe the efforts that have taken place in this area since then including:
 - School forum hosting by school superintendent, attended by 300 parents approximately. AG Maura Healey keynote. Informative panel discussion on the current trends around vaping and risks.
 - Schools and HHS working group formed to develop a community wide strategy to address this issue
 - Presentations to multiple 8th grade classes on vaping
- Spring HHS programs were briefly described with flyers shared and a request to help us spread the word about these programs. Programs included:
 - Newton Creates: Suicide Prevention and Mental Health program: June 4th
 - New April vacation program for 8th and 9th grade students: April 16 - 19
 - Parenting Program: Joani Geltman: May 1
 - Improbable Players Program: May 14