

Martha's Vineyard Youth Task Force

Who We Are

- Angela Knapp – Program Director
- Susan Mercier – Community Engagement Coordinator
- Scott Mullin – LGBTQIA+ Outreach Coordinator



But more importantly

- The MV Youth Task Force is truly meant to be led by our youth and you.
- The MVYTF was founded in 2004 by concerned community members.
- MVYTF's actions over the past 17 years have had a significant positive impact on prevention.
- MVYTF continues to work towards education, prevention, and collecting data.

Mission

- The Youth Task Force mission is to reduce substance use and other risky behaviors by promoting community-wide health and wellness for youth and families through a cooperative integrated network of youth, parents, health practitioners, health and social service organizations, public officials, educators, law enforcement officers, and other community members.

Martha's Vineyard Youth Task Force

2007	2009	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
55%	51%	43%	42%	35%	33%	33%

% of Martha's Vineyard high school students that had at least one drink of alcohol in the last 30 days

- Chat and chowder Dinners
- School Chaperone Policy
- Sticker Shock *
- Social Norms Marketing*
- Parent Mailings
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey**
- Compliance Checks
- Student Focus Groups
- Community Events
- DA's Roundtable
- Individual Stakeholder Meetings
- Community Assessments
- Website Design
- Creation of Facebook Page
- Medication Drop Boxes*
- Prescription Drug Bags
- Poster Campaign on VTA*
- Police Trainings/ Mobilizations
- Guiding Good Choices classes*
- "Project Next" for ages 18-26
- Safe Homes Pledge
- Parent Speaker Series:
 - Katie LeClerc: Internet Safety
 - Martha Straus: Intentional Parenting
 - Dr. Traci Brooks: Adolescent Brain Development
 - Mark Hoover: Be a Parent, Not a Pal*
 - Corey Scanlon: Lives Forever Changed
 - Kathi Meyer: Taylor's Message*
 - Cory Palazzi: Discussion on opioid abuse
 - Janell Burley Hofmann, Author of iRules*
 - Dr. Charlie Reznikoff
 - Dr. Ruth Potec: Adolescent Brain Development
 - Johnny Cupcakes
 - Jeff Yalden
 - Janina Kean: Adolescent Brain
 - Vaping 101 with Bob Collett*
- Middle School Health Class Presentations
- School Health Curriculum*
- Social Host Liability Education
- Outreach to non-profits
- Professional Development for Schools
- Responsible Beverage Server Training
- Freshman Parent Social
- HS School Resource Officer
- Parent Dinners*
- Prom Safety Initiatives/After Prom Party*
- After Prom Party Bus Ban
- National Drug Take Bag Day
- Narcan Training
- "Hidden in Plain Sight"
- "Talk They Hear You" Campaign at Edgartown Cinema*
- Digital Leadership Program with Janell Burley Hofma

- Michael Blanchard

- " 50% difference in long term propensity for addiction when first use of alcohol or drugs is delayed from the ages of 8-10 until the ages of 14-17.
- " The most successful strategies utilize parents and peers in the process of motivating adolescents to avoid alcohol. Prevention and treatment strategies that understand the predispositions to alcohol use in the form of peers, parents, and schools, will use those same venues to change expectancies and alcohol-use patterns. Motivational Interviewing uses the intrinsic motivations of the child to achieve change. Even though other AA-based, and psychoeducational methods have been shown to be effective, MI has been well received among adolescents who feel respected and included in the process. Communities considering prevention strategies would be well-served to consider a grassroots

Goals

- Clear parental expectations, consequences, and modeling
- Community Norms Favorable to Use
- Cultural Identity and Pride

- Research has found that sexual and gender minorities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people (LGBTQI+), have higher rates of substance misuse and substance use disorders than people who identify as heterosexual. People groups are also more likely to enter with more severe disorders.

Youth
Pride in
collaborat
ion with
IWYC



Action Plan based on our 2024 Strategic Plan

Intervening Variable 1: Clear parental expectations, consequences and modeling

- Strategy 1.1: Conduct age-appropriate evidence-informed educational programming for elementary and middle school students and their parents/caregivers.
- Strategy 1.2: Conduct age-appropriate evidence-informed educational programming for high school students and their parents/caregivers.
- Strategy 1.3: Engage community in efforts to raise awareness of the importance of clear parental expectations and modeling, including education on social host liability.

Intervening Variable 2: Community Norms Favorable to Use

- Strategy 2.1: Conduct a youth-focused campaign to raise awareness of existing positive community norms.
- Strategy 2.2: Engage and educate employers who hire young people on substance misuse risks and safe employment.
- Strategy 2.3: Conduct an awareness-raising campaign on substance misuse in social situations and amplify events/practices free from substances.

Intervening Variable 3: Cultural identity and pride

- Strategy 3.1: Build relationships and partnerships with existing groups/organizations that represent underrepresented/underserved groups.
- Strategy 3.2: Engage with data and existing resources to learn about underrepresented/underserved groups and how best to serve them.

The
Positive
Community
Norms
Framework



Call to Action

- Join the coalition - meet quarterly in person and virtually once a month with one of our sub-committees
- Become a volunteer
- Share your voice