

Commack Coalition of Caring, Inc.
November 21, 2017
Agenda/Meeting Minutes
Meeting Place: Covanta Huntington



-
- I. Welcome
 - II. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Checking: \$30,089.71
 - b. Tax filings were submitted for 2016-2017 year
 - III. Upcoming Events
 - a. *8 Dimensions of Wellness* Program being brought into CHS by Horizons Counseling and Education Center
 - b. Upstander/Bystander Program – Speaking with Nicole Keller from The Retreat tomorrow (program date TBD)
 - c. *Suggestion: See if the local coalitions might work together on a bullying/upstander program*
 - d. Vaping Program – Will reach out to Stephanie Sloan from Suffolk County Department of Health Services (program date TBD)
Comments: Vaping is a huge problem with our middle and high school aged youth. Parents not aware of the dangers. The students have been addressed on the topic but more needs to be done. What school policies are in place? Most schools abide by New York State law as far as policy goes (for smoking on campus). At some schools, if paraphernalia is confiscated, it has to be tested. There are wipes to test the contents of the device. The counterdrug task force has a machine that can test the devices. Needs to be private and confidential.
 - e. Stephen Dewey, PhD, Professor, Feinstein Center for Neuroscience – *The Effects of Drugs of Abuse on the Teen's Brain* Presentation on 1/18/18 at Commack Fire House, 7pm-9pm
 - f. Wellness Day – 3/13/18 at Commack Middle School, 6:30pm-9pm-
planning committee met on 11/17/17.

- IV. Introduction of Ken Hinsch, Facility Manager of Covanta Huntington, LLC
- V. Presentation: *A Prescription for Poisoning Our Nation*

Ken's presentation can be found in the attached Power Point. Some of the highlights are included here:

- a. Covanta's Huntington Plant opened in 1991*
- b. Involved in the destruction of prescription medication*
- c. The World's leading energy to waste company*
- d. Thermal destruction is the only way to ensure that prescription drugs are disposed of properly*
- e. The power generated from the Towns of Smithtown and Huntington garbage gets to power on a grid.*
- f. Individuals cannot come to Covanta to dispose of drugs. Difference between community vs. commercial programs.*
- g. 4 billion prescriptions written in 2016 in the U.S.*
- h. We only have 23 million people in the country*
- i. 12.5 prescription per individual in US*
- j. 280 million prescriptions written in NY. That's 15 prescriptions per individual in NYS*
- k. Ground water contamination is a major concern as on Long Island our water comes from the ground*
- l. Waste water treatment plants cannot help with this*
- m. 80% of all rivers tested by US geological survey show traces of pharmaceutical products*
- n. Landfilling is not an option*
- o. Can lead to contamination from run-off and leachate sources*
- p. 1983 landfill law lead to the elimination of landfills in 1990*
- q. 28 out of 61 wells in Suffolk came back positive for pharmaceutical products*
- r. Cholesterol, birth control, antibiotics, anti-depressants, pain killers are among the medications found in the well water tested*
- s. Take back program through Covanta is called Rx4Safety*
- t. First program launched in 2010*
- u. Provides for safe and secure destruction of medications*

- v. Force prescription companies to have an interest in the proper disposal of leftover prescriptions. Example, If they paid a penny per prescription, the take back would be funded forever*

Upcoming January Events (in lieu of meetings)

January 9 – “Decoding What’s Behind the Vapor” Commack HS Little Theater, 7 – p.m. presented by Stephanie Sloan, Suffolk County Department of Health

January 18 – “This is Your (Teen’s) Brain on Drugs” 7:00 p.m., Commack Fire Department, Jericho Tpke, Commack presented by Dr. Stephen Dewey. This will also be a medicine takeback event.