**Reproductive Health Workgroup**

**Meeting minutes**

**DATE:** 03/27/19

**TIME:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** Richwoods High School- library

**Present:** Roberta Burns, Dana Garber, Rebecca Sauders, Becca Mathis, Alex Tisch, Sheri Lamie (YAC staff advisor), Leslie McKnight, Katy Endress, Monica Hendrickson, Michelle Compton and 6 students from Richwoods High school Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Adolescent Reproductive and sexual health discussion- (I tried to capture as much as possible and the main themes that we talked about)

* **Tell us why you think STI rates are so high in Peoria county.**
  + Lack of information
  + Teenagers think they are invincible, that it wont happen to them
  + Short length of health class- one semester, freshman year
* **Do you talk to your parents about sexual health?**
  + About half of the students said yes
  + Parents are uncomfortable
  + Students wish the conversation would happen
  + Parents need to inform me how to protect myself, being more vulnerable with a disability.
  + If we held a forum for parents, would they go? The ones who would probably show up likely already having conversations, it is the ones who are hardest to reach who need it. There is a time and work barrier keeping parents from being able to attend things.
  + Suggested PJ Star and Channel 25 doing something about “keep your children safe” showing facts data, and tips for having conversations.
  + Abstinence needs to be included in messaging, that’s what parents want to hear.
  + Mass call/email system that the school uses is good communication
  + About half said parents use facebook/social media. There is a district Facebook page
  + There are parents that hover or don’t over that do or don’t have the conversation.
  + Religious barriers
* **Are STIs/HIV viewed as a major problem in the community?**
  + We had no idea before the GYT event
  + People might not know about resources like Planned Parenthood, or they might not feel confident going into Planned Parenthood or other places.
  + There is still a stigma around Planned Parenthood, seeing protesters in the media. People don’t know about all the pregnancy prevention services
  + Students don’t know that they can get tested at the school nurse office, even some YAC members did not know this.
  + Some families shield their children, so even the schools that don’t provide sexual and reproductive health education still have that need.
  + Some people see STI’s as a personality trait
* **What would encourage teens to actively prevent STI’s**
  + Flyers in bathroom stalls or in school planner that everyone gets (concern about flyers getting ripped down, suggested hard plastic frames)
  + Continue the GYT event. People that wouldn’t get tested last year got tested this year and are having more conversations and being more open. It is becoming more normalized to talk about.
  + Social media use: snapchat, Instagram, youtube- there are always ads that pop up in between that people see. Students really liked the Planned Parenthood stickers, start conversations and they are fun.
* **Health class (lots of discussion on this)**
  + Need in health class for changing curriculum, guest speakers, stories, more conversations and interactive learning instead of powerpoints. Need at least 2-3 weeks of sexual health education, should be its own unit.
  + Follow up from the freshman health class in junior or senior year
  + Students don’t take health class seriously, everyone in the class is either sleeping or on their phones
  + Teacher needs to be comfortable teaching this topic
  + How can we interweave these conversations into other classes and topics
* **Overall themes:**
  + Improved content in health classes
  + The need to de-stigmatize, dispelling myths
  + Parent involvement- how to reach them and get them confident in having these conversations
* **Afterthoughts:**
  + Need to meet with more spiritual/religious families and professionals to work together
  + People aren’t afraid anymore, in the past there was more of a fear of HIV, now people aren’t using as many condoms. Reported less condoms being utilized from school RN office.

1. Monica Hendrickson
   1. Discussed Community Health Improvement Plan, Prioritization meeting. Although Reproductive Health is not one of the 4 priorities selected at that meeting, it is an ongoing priority, part of strategic plan and will still continue to meet regularly and remain an ongoing part of the community health improvement plan.
2. Becca Matthis
   1. Needs someone to help tomorrow, March 28th at Peoria High from 10-12 (can be all or part of that time) to help with leading focus group.s
   2. April 5th- Manual high school is needing someone to be available from 10:30-1:30 to have a table about anything related to substance abuse.
3. Intervention Teams Breakouts (we did not break out into groups, due to time and low attendance, please send Michelle any dashboard updates)
4. Brief Announcements/other
   1. let Michelle know of any ideas for other field trips or alternate meeting times and/or locations

**Next meeting: 4/24/19 at 3pm and Peoria City/County Health Department**

**2116 N. Sheridan Rd, Peoria- room 125**