

Become a Member

- ★ Give the gift of time! Make a difference in the lives of Groton youth.
- ★ Work with our local coalition to provide support for planning, project management and communications.
- ★ Help with Coalition events, conferences, workshops and fairs held throughout the year.
- ★ Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the Month at Groton Town Police Department at 12 noon.
- ★ For more information and to learn how you can get involved call:
Michelle Hamilton, *Coalition Coordinator*
mhamilton@ledgelighthd.org

860.448.4882 ext 305

Our Mission

To Build a healthy, safe and drug free community by advocating for programs, policy changes, practices that increase protective factors and decrease risk factors.

GASP Coalition Membership

Boys and Girls Club
Child and Family Agency
Citizen's Task Force on Addictions
Grasso Southeastern Technical High School
Groton City Police
Groton Human Services
Groton Town Police Department
Groton Parks and Recreation Department
Groton Public Schools
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Mystic Area Ecumenical Council
Mystic Arts Center
Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut
Women's Services of Groton/The Connection
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Sacred Heart Church
Stonington Institute
Parents and Students

Executive Committee

Jenn Fleming, MSW, *Child and Family Agency*
Officer Dexter Herron, *Groton Town Police Department*
Jerry Lokken, *Manager of Recreation Services, Groton Parks and Recreation*
Dana Parfitt, *Grants Facilitator, Groton Public Schools*



Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
c/o Ledge Light Health District
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GASP Coalition
Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition



What is GASP?

In July of 1999, the Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse prevention (G.A.S.P.) Coalition was formed to address substance abuse in our community. Currently, GASP receives funding from the Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to continue the work. In 2006, the GASP coalition was awarded a grant from SAMSHA to mentor two communities; Norwich and Waterford, in their goal to reduce substance abuse. The coalition represents a collaboration of several dedicated local agencies, parents, teens and other interested community members.

GASP Goals

1. Increase the number of Groton youth participating in programs that build protective factors from using a combination of science-based and other effective programs.
2. Intervene to reduce and prevent substance use of all drugs among Groton youth.

Facts from GASP Survey*

Tobacco Use

- ★ Decreased smoking by youth in grades 9-10 from 22% in 2004 to 14% in 2006.
- ★ Most smokers obtained cigarettes from their friends, from home without parental approval or by purchasing them in stores

Alcohol Use

- ★ Alcohol was considered easy to obtain by about 80% of high school youth, and by more than half of middle school youth.
- ★ Drinking typically took place at home or at the home of friends, at parties or at outdoor gatherings.
- ★ High school girls in Groton reported riding with a driver who had been drinking more than high school girls reported nationally.

Marijuana Use

- ★ A cohort of girls in grades 7-8 in 2004 and in grades 9-10 in 2006 reported the highest prevalence of recent marijuana use, 25%.
- ★ About 20% of high school junior and seniors indicated that marijuana use by youth is “not at all wrong”.

* Facts from 2006 survey.

Accomplishments to date

- ★ Banned Tobacco Vending Machines
- ★ Passed Social Host Ordinance
- ★ Sticker Shock Campaign
- ★ GASP Named CCSUD Coalition of the Year
- ★ Smart Training for Liquor Permittees
- ★ Established the Youth Advisory Council
- ★ Adopted Proven Prevention Programs

GASP Long Range Plan

- ★ Strengthen drug-related policies and laws
- ★ Increase awareness of dangers of drug use
- ★ Decrease access to tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs
- ★ Increase the number of positive programs for youth and families
- ★ Increase programs aimed at strengthening families and neighborhoods
- ★ Increase parents' awareness of alcohol-related laws
- ★ Improve connections to community, school, friends and family
- ★ Improve self-esteem and build positive communication skills