

**Decatur Prevention Initiative**

**Community Mobilization Action Team (CMAT)**

**Thursday, June 18, 2020 @ 6:00 PM**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting/Conference Call**

**Hosted by: Terrie Moore (Executive Director) and**

**Dee Anderson (Parent/Outreach Coordinator)**

**AGENDA**

* **Welcome, Vision and Mission**
* **Introductions of Parents and Guest Icebreaker “What caused you to smile today?”**
* **Recent Community Events and Announcements: (May/June Birthdays; Youth Middle School, High School or College Graduations, New Births, Etc.)**
* **Courageous Conversations: Wellness Talk**
* **1) How have you handled situations, that may have increased your level of:**

**anxiety or stress or depression or anger or fear?**

**2) What to do when others aren’t social distancing?**

* **Upcoming Community Events**
* **Closing Remarks/Adjourn Meeting**
* **July Meeting – Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 6:00PM (Location TBA}**

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Decatur Prevention Initiative

Coalition Meeting Notes: June 2, Grd2020 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Attendance (16):** A total of 15 participants on Zoom and one on the conference call. Alondra Cruz (CPACS-*SA Prevention Agency*), Dianne Andre (City Schools of Decatur-*Schools*), Devon Johnson (Emory Maternal Health Substance Abuse and Child Development-*Health*), Sara Gheesling (Agnes Scott College- Associate Director-*Education*), Kimberly Wilson (GUIDE-*SA prevention agency*), Corey Bivens (Decatur Housing Authority-*Youth serving org*), Susan Morley (Recovery/Parenting Coach- *Decatur Parents Network Parents)*, Joel Lee (City Schools of Decatur & GA Dept of Labor-*Business)*, Janel Allen (Community Service Board-(Government Agency providing Substance Abuse Treatment Services), Joel Gould (Carrot and Stick-*Local Business*), Lt. Menard, (Decatur Fire and Rescue-Government Agency and Health), Tiffany Cuthbert (DPI- Epi), Carol Treible (DPI-Evaluator), Marnie Grodzin (DPI Youth Coordinator), Dee Anderson (DPI Outreach/Parent Coordinator), Terrie Moore (DPI Executive Director). *See the attached sign-in form.*

**Start:** 1:05 pm

**End**: 2:35 pm

Notes provided by Dee Anderson

**Welcome/Introductions:** DPI Coalition will continue to meet virtually due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Corey Bivens welcomed coalition members, and Marnie Grodzin read the DPI vision and mission. Members were introduced virtually via round-robin. Terrie Moore announced the winner of SAMHSA's National Prevention Week-Contest Winner of Ninetta Violante from the City of Decatur Fire Department and received a $25 gift card from the "Dancing Goat" restaurant.

**Member Spotlight:** Two member organizations were highlighted, and the first was the City Schools of Decatur Student Center by Dianne Andree (Student Success Coordinator). A new position has been filled for the new Decatur HS Student Center by Jacob Drayton (JD), play therapy, prevention, and running groups. Founta High, a part-time counselor for the CSD middle school and high school students, is also on staff. Sebrina Shields is a recognized face at the middle school and will lead the new Middle School Student Center. The health classes are moving back to the HS in 2021. We are also excited about five Georgia State Community Mental Health Interns working with CSD. Pathways, Inc. will be in all the schools and College Heights play therapy intervention groups in the K-12 grades. The other organization highlighted was Agnes Scott College. Sara Gheesling, (Asst. Director of Student Outreach and Education, Agnes Scott College), who oversees the Wellness Prevention Program and the Student Financial Support Program, shared information about the college and her department with the coalition. Agnes Scott is involved in The Bystander Program, a diversity program that identifies racial agenda, social issues, and watches passively and actively. It teaches students how to approach social aggression. Sara is setting up a support program for students in recovery. Sara has agreed to participate in this year's 2020 DPI Community Readiness Survey Interview, and she will identify one of the college peer educators to be interviewed by DPI as well. Dianne shared that the Girl Talk Group for high school and middle school and college students will be created to help partner with each other for a type of mentorship and conversation platform.

**Partner Updates/Upcoming Events:** Marnie shared that the LBGTQ Workshop of Ga. School and their allies, adults, and parents conducted their winter break workshops at Agnes Scott College. The college continues to be a link and works together to support and impact the Decatur community. Corey shared that it was a great turn out for the DHA summer lunch program of 48 youth at the Ebster Recreation Center. Today, there was approximately 12 youth that came out. Decatur Housing wants to help get the word out about the lunch program. DHA has approximately 379-400 youth in the community and wants to continue to meet the need of its residents. Many of the youth-serving organizations in the City of Decatur are closed for the summer, e.g.. The City of Decatur Recreation Centers, SL Jones Boys & Girls Club, DeKalb County Parks. The Decatur YMCA will be doing a summer camp and some swim classes. They may offer some scholarships. Devon stated that Emory's Spotify Public Service Announcements, (YouTube channel), were targeted throughout the 30030, Decatur zip code area. Emory is also working on a catalog of all resources available to them. Janel shared that DeKalb County Extension services usually host a summer program, but due to COVID-19, they will offer a virtual summer camp. They purchased chrome books for youth and are offering a six-week program starting Monday, June 8 for DeKalb County and Decatur City Schools students. Thirteen names from CSD will participate in the summer virtual platform. Kimberly from GUIDE shared that the STR grant ended on March 30, and not much is going on now. She is still waiting for her baby to arrive. Kimberly hopes to rejoin everyone in the fall of 2020. Susan has no updates but was glad to be on the zoom meeting. She will develop a virtual "Camp Mommy" of one-week activities for in-home summer fun things parents and kids can to together.

Joe shared openly that the COVID-19 and virtual distancing took a toll on some of his senior students. He needs to see his kids daily as a senior advisor. A few seniors did not complete all of their work online, and Joe was not able to be there to help motivate, encourage, and support these students in person. He is now working at school, one on one, through Apex to help students in credit recovery in order for students to complete work assignments and get prepared for the fall. There was a general feeling that DHS has some blatant hidden issues of racism that need to be exposed and weeded out, particularly, the disparity in terms of treatment of black and white students. While local incidents for students of color were very upsetting, Joe has tried to keep his students positive and motivated. He feels there will be a need for more counseling, extra support for students, and opportunities for them to be more proactive in racial issues. Alondra thanked Joe Lee for all his hard work. She shared that CPACS provides for their community; groceries, language resources of any kind, acknowledge and support equality, justice, and learn more about community and will share a link about all available resources. Joel shared that his business (marketing) changed due to COVID-19 and is now working with many who businesses are selling PPE products, e.g., masks, hand sanitizers. He had conversations with CSD on how his company can provide help and support in the next school year. His contacts produce medical masks with no logos and cloth masks with logs. He has been primarily doing medical masks but now getting some cloth mask orders.

Carol shared that the Evaluation team had a meeting about the grant evaluations and the GA Student Health Surveys. Our partners in Bulloch County have completed 8 Community Readiness Interviews, and to date, DPI has completed two with six remaining. Dee is conducting all CRI 2020 interviews.

Terrie started a conversation about the Decatur racial issue of racial disparity and race discrimination. Decatur Parent Network is working on a letter to all the parents about the Oakhurst youth/parent incident on May 10, 2020. Terrie opened the discussion for comments, and Marnie shared that she and Dee and several other coalition members attended a three day Beyond Diversity Training, the first quarter of this year. This training addressed many of the issues that we are experiencing and seeing in Decatur and across the nation. Joe and Dee also shared their feelings of hurt, pain, anger, and a sense of hope. The Parent Network is working on this issue as well since parents are struggling with how to address each other and help their families understand racism. The school system asked DPN to host a town hall about this conversation; (pending). The format would include various City of Decatur sectors of all ages and races. (pending final date and location). Joe applauded the Decatur Police Chief Booker for writing an insightful letter and for taking an inward look and trying to address issues of institutional racism and white supremacy. Joe quoted S.Covey, "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." Lee also applauded DPI for being willing to engage in courageous conversations. Corey stated that we need to focus on our youth and involve our youth in this work and get as many youth perspectives as possible. Some youth organizations in Decatur tackling this are SOAR and Black Student Alliance. The Decatur Better Together is another initiative involved in anti-racism work. DPI would like to see more young Black males on the Decatur Town Hall planning committee.

**CMAT Parent Team –** Dee shared that she continues to call, text, and email all the CMAT Parents on weekly basics to check in on how they are doing and what their needs are during the sheltering in place order. We invite them to also participate in the DPN monthly parent webinars. All are doing well. The next virtual CMAT meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 6:00 pm.

**CADCA Mid-year Virtual Training Institute – July 27-30th**- Terrie shared that the 2020 CADCA Mid-Year Training, scheduled for July in Nashville, Tennessee, has been reworked to be a virtual conference. The CADCA Training Institute offers in-depth, interactive training sessions geared specifically for community coalition leaders, youth, and staff. The training will be July 27-30, with a dedicated youth track. Terrie shared that the training will be available 24 hours a day through midnight of July 31, enabling participants to not sit for a from 10:00 to 5:30 each day. She extended an invitation to the Coalition members. At this time, Devon, Marnie, Dee, Carol and Terrie will participate.

**How do we get our message out?** Terrie shared that DPI will bring a PSA message out of the vault that focused on social hosting. This PSA was previously shared on the MARTA trains closed-circuit television channel. We are permitted to relaunch in the 30030 zip code and use Geo-Targeting. (The message is for adults not to let kids drink and to talk honestly with them about drinking). Adults who see the PSA are directed to the DPI website for more resources. The analytics from this campaign should be available by the July meeting. Our past PSA's are showing positive results. Tiffany Cuthbert makes sure that the DPI resources, Facebook, PSA's, and website are updated and relevant to our current campaigns.

**The next meeting is Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 1:00 pm. (Zoom Meeting)**