

Raymond Coalition For Youth ~ Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2025 ~ 9:00 – 10:30 am
In Person at Raymond Baptist Church Basement



Present: 19 Members

School	Abbi Cosgriff, IHGMS Nataly Medrano, RHS
Youth Serving	Andrew Wood, UNH The Browne Center Celeste Clark - Exec Director, RCFY Pam Baker - RCFY Program Coord Pam Turcotte, RCFY Finance Coord
Government/Municipal	Dustin Ward, Starlight Military Dave Mara, Governor's Office Ben Williams, State Liquor Enforcement Kristan Buckman, Dudley Tucker Library Sarah Cain, New Futures
Substance Prevention	Samantha Thamson, SPHN Carson Bear, SPHN
Medical	Ashley Stratton, Amerihealth Caritas
Law Enforcement	Mike Labell, RPD Brian Stice, RPD
Service Organizations	Kathy McCarthy, Raymond Area Rotary Gary Bleddyn, Granite United way
Volunteers	Marcia Garber, Grandparent

Welcomes, Introductions, Announcements were made.

Celeste then introduced Sarah Cain from New Futures. Sarah talked about bills now being proposed and how you can advocate for them. Some of the things being discussed is the 5% for the Alcohol Fund and the discussion around the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). There was also discussion around a proposed tax proposed to fund the 988 phone number. This would be similar to the tax already in place to fund the 911 number.

Sarah then passed out information on how to sign up for Action Alerts and impactful ways of Advocating. She also mentioned submitting written testimony and what an impact it has.

Celeste then talked about The Exeter Hospital Youth Focus Group Review. There were 10 students from Raymond composed of Juniors and Seniors. They discussed Physical and Mental Health, Healthy Eating, What Stops You From Being Mentally Healthy, Resources, Substance Use, Messaging and Other Issues.

Pam Baker then updated Youth Action and what they are working on right now. Attending the "Getting to the Y" conference. Middleschool working on "Take Down Tobacco, I choose to be Vape Free".

June 2 is the Granite Youth Alliance Film Festival. Both the Middle and High School YA groups have entrees.

Kristen Buckman from the Library mentioned some of the programs she is offering, Teen Game Night and a Talent Show.

Other Updates:

- Fundraising Gala, March 29 at the Atkinson Country Club.
- Operation Raymond Cleanup and Wellness Day on May 7 at the High School
- Project Safeguard on May 16. Will be partnering with Candia, NH for the first time.
- RX take back on April 26 in both Raymond and Candia.

Thank you for joining us today, being an RCFY advocate, passing along the information learned today, and encouraging others to learn more and get involved.

Next Meetings: **May 8, 2025** and **Jun 12, 2025**

Mission Statement:

The Raymond Coalition For Youth empowers the community to promote positive youth development and reduce youth substance use and suicide risk.

Promoting Positive Healthy Choices for our Youth!

www.rcfy.org



RCFY community prevention partners

School Law enforcement
Health Youth Business
Media Government, local, state, federal
Faith-based Parents
Youth-serving Substance misuse prevention

**CARA Grant
(Comprehensive
Addiction and Recovery
Act)**
Raymond Police
Department, DEA
Raymond School District

**Student
Assistance
Program \$\$**
Raymond School
District - RCFY is
community Partner

**LEAP After
School Program
\$\$**
Raymond School
District - RCFY is
community Partner

Pickleball Courts
Town of Raymond
Raymond
Recreation
Raymond Area
Rotary

**NAMI Connect
Suicide Prevention
Training**
Raymond School
District

RCFY monthly meetings Youth Action meetings (Grades 6 - 12)
Youth Leadership Training Family Fun Night Project Safeguard
Operation Raymond Clean Up Prevention Summit Sticker Shock
Summer Fun Series Youth Film Festival Medication Take Backs
Wellness Fairs in schools Community Resource - Access to supports

SWOT January 2025

RCFY Strengths (Internal)

- Partnership with school
- Data in schools is available- why YRBS(HS+MS) (RCFY controls this)
- Grant
- The school recognizes the importance of this work!
- Connections - access to so many resources
- Communication (social media) mailers/graphics
- Regular meetings
- Getting feedback from kids
- Involved at many different levels
- Resource to stay updated - new futures
- Crossover of all resources, groups, people
- Listening to and understanding - to everyone
- RCFY understands it takes a village and they are it
- Consistent messaging
- Expanding into the Art world is appreciated
- Brand recognition
- Constant involvement in community events/community activities
- Watching kids evolve through the program/Coalition and come back

RCFY Opportunities (External)

- Message correlation with/dry, January
- Local/town government involvement/knowledge of RCFY
- YouTube channel and promotion
- Partners- working together - not duplicating
- Community expansion / other towns, Candia?
- Youth center/(Leap)/Rec
- Transportation for youth to be more involved
- Welcome packets for new families to Raymond School District
- Life of an athlete/education for youth/families
- Seacoast unit/mental health/substance misuse education/resources
- How do we reach kids in sports?
- Alternative to Suspension
- Diversion program
- SEL Room at school

RCFY Weaknesses (Internal)

- More Youth voice (diverse sectors - sports, arts, nerds, etc)
- More, family voice and engagement
- Sustainability- \$\$
/location/brand/MOU/communication/relationships
- Family education sessions (including kids)
- Community space for youth
- Where is the next threat/risk?
- Technology/social media
- Elementary-aged families- how can we get them info/resources?

RCFY Threats (External)

- Funding
- politics
- Need to stay original
- Other groups not collaborating/going rogue-working in silos
- People don't listen/don't want to talk about this
- Parents modeling, " bad behavior"
- Social media/Internet
- Cell phones during school/distractions
- Covid/affect on youth
- Marijuana on agenda/advertising - products
- Succession plan?/Community plan?
- How to reach the unreachable child/family
- Coalition/school relationship
- Difficulty keeping fun/entertaining