

Coalition Overview

Vision

WYACC is a community coalition working together to make Waltham a safe, healthy, just and engaged community where all young people can thrive.

Overarching Goals

Increase coalition capacity
Reduce 30-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD)
Increase perception of risk and harm of ATOD
Increase perception of peer disapproval of ATOD
Increase perception of parental disapproval of ATOD
Decrease stress and depression
Increase school connectedness

Meeting Dates

Coalition meeting take place on **the first Wednesday of each month** during the school year. We meet at 2:00 - 3:30 in the Teachers' Cafe at Waltham High School. To be added to the mailing list, email partnershipforyouth@city.waltham.ma.us

Current Initiatives

- ★ using photojournalism techniques to document the impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on their community, to be presented at a final showcase in June
- ★ Reviewing the drug and alcohol policy in the Waltham High School student handbook and drafting recommendations for improvement
- ★ Designing a survey to learn more about what students need in order to feel a connection to school staff
- ★ Organizing a screening of [Screenagers](#), followed by a youth panel discussion on the use and overuse of screens in the digital age.

Mission

To support a culture of mental health and wellness, free of substance misuse, for Waltham youth by connecting all sectors of the community, addressing root causes, and promoting advocacy, education, and policy change.

Guiding Principles

In all of our work, we are guided by commitments to:

- ★ Youth leadership and engagement
- ★ Family involvement
- ★ Recognition of strengths and celebrations of success
- ★ Diversity and inclusion
- ★ Equity and excellence
- ★ Data-driven decision making



Coalition Governance Structure

Staff: Handle logistics, offer technical assistance and support to coalition and subcommittees

Program Director: Kaytie Dowcett, Waltham Partnership for Youth

Administrative Assistant: Nancy Chiacchio, Waltham Partnership for Youth

Program Coordinator: Melanie St. Pierre, Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Peer Advisor: Shanesha Christmas, Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Evaluator: Anne Wang, EDC

Steering Committee:

Provide direction, long term planning

- ❖ Co-Chairs: Kaytie Dowcett and Erica Young
- ❖ Program Coordinator: Melanie St. Pierre
- ❖ Peer Advisor: Shanesha Christmas
- ❖ Co-chairs of each of the subcommittee (TBD)

Subcommittees:

Develop and implement activities, programs, and/or interventions

One adult and one student to co-chair

- ❖ Education and outreach (Youth): Shanesha Christmas
- ❖ Education and outreach (Adult): Maria DiMaggio
- ❖ Policy and Enforcement: Patty McCaffrey & Kaytie Dowcett
- ❖ School Climate/Connectedness: Emily Fulop