



**Walpole
Prevention
Coalition**

**Walpole Prevention Coalition:
*Orientation Manual for New Members***

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1. Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to Walpole Prevention Coalition!

We are so glad that you have decided to join us! Whether you are simply curious about what we do or are seasoned in substance use prevention, we are happy to have you! The following orientation manual is simply to give you a basic understanding of who we are, what we do, and the structure and workings of the coalition.

Mission Statement

To reduce alcohol and substance use among Walpole's adolescent population by dialogue, cooperation, resource-sharing, problem-solving, and collective action and celebration.

Vision Statement

Supporting a safe and healthy Walpole through prevention and education.

Description

Our mission is to reduce substance use and delay the onset of drug and alcohol consumption among Walpole youth. The coalition is active with lots of energetic people, but we always need and welcome new individuals – just like you!

2. Coalition & Structure

Coalition Structure & Roles

Walpole Prevention Coalition By-Laws - Article IV: Coalition Standards

Section 4.1: Membership

General Membership is open to anyone who supports our mission and who lives in Walpole or who works for an organization or agency serving Walpole. The coalition will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, political affiliation, religion, national origin, veteran, marital, or parental status or disability.

Section 4.2: The Coalition membership shall include, but is not limited to, at least of member from the following sectors:

- Parents
- Youth
- Business Leaders
- Healthcare
- Local Government
- Law Enforcement
- Media
- Civic Organizations
- Youth Serving Organizations
- Other Organizations Involved in Reducing Substance Use
- Religious Organizations
- Schools
- Council on Aging (COA)
- People with Lived Experience

Coalition Objectives

In order to understand the objectives of the Walpole Prevention Coalition, it is important to really know the Mission Statement (*Article II, Section 2.1* of the Coalition By-Laws), which as previously stated, is as follows, **“To prevent and reduce alcohol and other substance use among Walpole’s adolescent and young adult population through communication, collaboration, resource-sharing, problem-solving, collective action, and celebration”**.

Based on *Article II: Mission, Section 2.2* of the Walpole Prevention Coalition By-Laws, the Coalition will work to develop strategies which:

- Are evidence-based and data driven.
- Seek to engage every sector of the participating community.
- Include an assessment of needs and available services.
- Reflect the mission of the Coalition.
- Enable the coordination and collaboration of prevention and early intervention of substance misuse.
- Provide community resources as available to persons seeking treatment of substance use disorder.
- Promote behavioral health and support harm reduction.

Meetings (Article VII)

Section 7.1: General Coalition Meetings

Meetings of the General Coalition shall be monthly at a regularly scheduled time and date.

3. Substance Use & Prevention

Why Substance Use Prevention Matters

Substance use has profound and far-reaching impacts – not only on individuals, but also on families and entire communities. It contributes to serious health issues, social challenges, economic strain, and a host of other consequences that ripple through society.

Prevention helps:

- **Support Walpole youth** through promotion of healthy choices and the development of meaningful alternative activities.
- **Reduce substance use** by addressing risk factors for use before escalation.
- **Build stronger communities** through education and outreach.

Prevention Strategies

Walpole Prevention Coalition addresses substance use through several different types of prevention strategies, all of which aim to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors. These prevention strategies include:

- **Education & Awareness** – Providing facts on the risks of substance use through school curriculum and programming, special events, and media campaigns.
- **Community Engagement** – Walpole Prevention Coalition has fantastic partnerships with many entities, including schools, law enforcement, businesses, recreation, and mental health, substance use recovery, and faith-based organizations.
- **Policy & Advocacy** – Supporting and promoting laws and policies that prevent substance misuse.
- **Support Programs** – Promote resources and organizations that provide services for at-risk individuals and populations.

4. Getting Involved

Ways to Participate

There are many ways to participate in Walpole Prevention Coalition, and we welcome any time you can spend with us working on our mission and goals. Here are a few ways you can participate in Walpole Prevention Coalition:

- **Attend our monthly meetings** – Currently, Walpole Prevention Coalition meets monthly on the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm on Zoom.
- **Be an advocate** – This can be done in a variety of ways, including:
 - Sharing our work on social media, in school, in workplaces, and among other fellow residents.
 - Supporting policies that are aimed at preventing substance misuse and promoting wellbeing and health.
- **Volunteer** – This could include volunteering at events, engaging in community outreach, and more!
- **Partner with us** – Whether you are a small business owner, work in a local organization, or are an individual, collaboration is the key to expanding our impact and making a difference.

5. Resources

Resources

Please feel free to check out these resources to learn more about the Walpole Prevention Coalition and stay up-to-date on the latest happenings.

- **Walpole Prevention Coalition Website**
 - <https://www.walpolepreventioncoalition.com/>
- **Walpole Prevention Coalition Facebook**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/drugfreewalpole/>
- **Town of Walpole Website**
 - <https://www.walpole-ma.gov/walpole-prevention-coalition>

