

April 2015



coalition news

Prevention news and information from the Tiverton Prevention Coalition

Building an E-Prevention Network in Tiverton...with help from our friends



Meetings sometimes get a bad rap, but Rebecca Elwell wants to attend many of them between April and October, and she will soon be sending e-mails to town organizations asking for invitations.

Rebecca plans to ask town organizations to help The Coalition expand its mailing list for *Coalition News*, the e-newsletter you are now reading. Currently, *Coalition News* arrives in your e-mail box 10 times a year because you have a child in one of Tiverton's public schools or because you asked to be added to our mailing list. The Coalition estimates that its e-newsletter is now reaching about 1,500 households out of the **6,600** households in Tiverton. It's an ambitious goal but The Coalition hopes to reach at least the 4,500 family households by 2016.

It's about education. "We want to propose a 'communications partnership' with town organizations," Rebecca said, "through which The Coalition can multiply the communication channels it now has to Tiverton families. We partner with the School Department to distribute our newsletter to all families with kids in school in Tiverton. We want to talk to other town organizations about becoming another channel to distribute the e-newsletter to their members. Of course, there are privacy issues to be honored, but we think it's an idea that's worth exploring. E-communications is probably the least expensive

way to keep the community informed about proven prevention strategies and programs, and the more of us who know; the better it is for Tiverton kids."

It's about sustainability. Communication partnerships with other town organizations will help to sustain prevention efforts in Tiverton after funding from federal grants ends. Without federal funds, The Coalition must find a way to maintain its communication with the community in a way that can be supported only by funds received from the state through the Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA).

"One of the mandates we have with our Drug-Free Communities Grant is to build a prevention infrastructure that can be sustained after grant funding ends," Rebecca said. "Partnering with other town organizations will enable us to keep publishing and distributing our e-newsletter, even on a very meager state prevention budget."

Why wait? Before Rebecca begins sending e-mails to town organizations in May, please feel free to extend an invitation to her to make a 15-minute presentation about building an E-Prevention Network in Tiverton. She's ready to schedule. Please contact Rebecca at (401) 835-5311 or Rebecca@tivertonprevention.org.



REBECCA'S notes

Prom season is just around the corner and Tiverton has a good reputation for accident-free prom nights over the years. It's also a time of the year to review some solid prevention tips that will keep Tiverton kids safe again this year.

I would recommend two excellent resources. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) offers [The Prom Tool Kit](#) that suggests what parents, teens, and schools can do to reduce the increased risk of harm that prom goes face.

The Rhode Island State Police published an electronic bulletin called [Prom Safety Tips: Advice for Parents and Teens](#). It offers valuable night driving tips and the social and legal responsibilities of hosting teen parties.

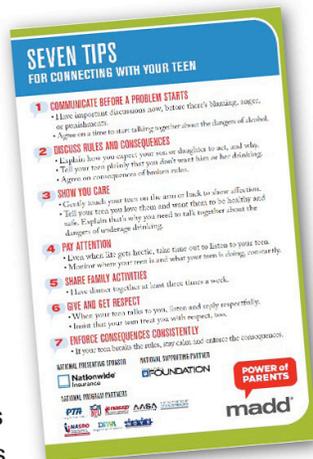
Let's all work to protect kids from harm again during this year's prom season. As Ben Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Talking with Teens

Connecting with your teens is one of the most important ways to protect them from the risk of harm, even though talking with teens sometimes seems to take the patience of a saint. Most likely, teens have had the same feelings about talking to parents!

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has free tip sheet that offers seven suggestions parents can use to connect with teens. They are a good mix of respecting every teen's growing need for independence and a parent's natural instinct to protect their kids (no matter how old they are!)

Take a look: [Seven Tips for Connecting with Your Teen](#).



Distraction Dot Gov



IT CAN WAIT

Texting, "snap chatting," FaceTime, and checking social media posts have become a "normal" part of a teen's daily routine. When they're driving, however, none of them are safe activities. Distracted driving can be deadly.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that young people are among the most likely to text and talk behind the wheel. Texting while driving is particularly dangerous because it requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver. Full attention is not on the road. Research has shown that using phones and other portable devices while driving increased the risk of getting into a crash by three times; yet 1 out of 5 young drivers think that texting makes no difference to their driving performance.

As summer approaches, maybe it's time for another family or workplace discussion about texting and distracted driving in general. USDOT has created an informative website on distracted driving, with different sections designed for parents, teens, educators, employers, and community groups. The website, which contains sobering short videos on the possible consequences of distracted driving combined with research and statistics, makes a strong case for: *Drive now. Text later.* Distracted driving along with many of the injuries and fatalities it causes is preventable. Check out [Distraction.gov](#).