

### **Police Department**

The Reading Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety and service to the citizens and business people within the community. The members of the Department are empowered to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Bylaws of the TOWN OF READING to ensure that the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods are maintained and that crime and the fear of crime are reduced. We emphasize and value integrity, honesty, impartiality and professionalism from our members in order to create an environment that values differences and fosters fairness and flexibility in our mission. We encourage citizen input and interaction that will assist us in developing sound partnerships between the community and police. Working together we can protect our future and enhance the quality of life for everyone within the town.

This report summarizes the participation, activities, sponsorships, enhancements, accomplishments, and other notable events of the Reading Police Department in Calendar year 2015.

#### **Personnel Changes:**

The following personnel changes and adjustments were experienced by the Police Department in calendar year 2015.

#### **January 2015**

- Dispatcher Jennifer Antczak was hired as a dispatcher and completed all training requirements at the dispatcher academy.

March 2015

- Timothy Barrett was hired as a Patrol Officer and began his training at the Reading Municipal Police Training Council Police Academy.

April 2015

- Dispatchers Alyssa Bryan and Cheryl Nahigian were hired as dispatchers and completed all training requirements at the dispatcher academy.

August 2015

- Patrol Officer Patrick Dawley was selected as a member of the NEMLEC Regional Response Team.

December 2015

- Chief James W. Cormier retired after 33 years of service to the department.
- Deputy Chief Mark D. Segalla was promoted to Chief of Police following the retirement of Chief. James W. Cormier.

Awards, Recognitions and Other Noteworthy Events:

April 2015

- Armorer Justin Martel was awarded Police Officer of the Year by the Reading-North Reading Chamber of Commerce.

May 2015

- The Board of Selectmen recognized National Police Memorial Week.

June 2015

- Lt. David Stamatis and Sergeant Christine Amendola were awarded the First Responder Recognition Award from the Municipal Police Training Committee for their first responder actions performed in life saving.

December 2015

- AAA Southern New England presented the Reading Police Department with two awards:  
1) The Gold Award of Excellence – recognizes achievements in traffic safety, 2) Ten consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality

Community Policing:

The Reading Police Department is here to serve the Town of Reading and we look forward to continuing our existing efforts and are always looking for more opportunities to work with you, our community, to address criminal activity, traffic and safety problems, quality of life, and community development issues in the Town. The Police Department strongly promotes the

philosophy of “working with the community”. The Department sponsors or participates in a number of community events and/or programs. The following are a number of those:

- The Police Department continues to be an active member the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA). Chief James Cormier and School Resource Officer Michael Muolo are members of the RCASA.
- The Police Department is represented on the Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) by Deputy Chief Segalla.
- Community Service Officer Collins presented safety and community talks to the residents at the Wingate at Reading.
- In May, Bike Patrol Officer Matthew Edson participated in the RMLD Bicycle Day and presented information on bicycle safety.
- In June, the Department participated in Friends and Family Day held at Birch Meadow.
- Department provided traffic assistance and safety for the Friends of Reading Recreation 5k road race in July and the Fall Street Fair 5k in September.
- Several officers participated and assisted schools with the annual Walk to School Day in October.
- In October, the Department in conjunction with its labor unions organized its annual Senior Ham and Bean Supper at the Senior Center.
- In December, the Department in conjunction with its labor unions organized the 35th annual Children’s Holiday Party at Austin Preparatory School. Again collaborating with the Free Masons (Reading Lodge) to offer the Child Identification Program (CHIP) providing over 50 identification kits.
- Throughout the year, the Department participated in the Governor’s Highway Safety Bureau’s “Click-it or Ticket” program. This program is an intensified traffic enforcement effort subsidized by a grant that targets specific traffic issues, such as seat belt use, or impaired operation.
- In September, the Department was awarded a grant to participate in the Governor’s Highway Safety Bureau’s Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Initiative (\$3000). In summary, 752 pedestrians were observed, 63 pedestrians were issued safety packets, and 12 pedestrians were issued warnings for not crossing at the crosswalk. More importantly, 24 drivers were issued citations for failing to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
- The Police Department collaborated with RCASA and was awarded grant funding that enables the Department to conduct alcohol compliance checks. The Detective Division has worked closely with the RCASA to be trained and implement alcohol compliance checks throughout the community.
- The Department’s Web Site - <http://www.readingma.gov/police-department>, Facebook and Twitter pages are very successful and offers a variety of information for the public.
- Safety Officer David V. Savio highlights of presentations, Reading Police Station tours, and traffic assistance:
  - Safety presentations conducted at Cobblestone Family Day Care, Little Treasures Pre-School, Joshua Eaton School, Wood End School, and for various Cub Scout packs.
  - Reading Police Station tours conducted for various Brownie Troops and Cub Scout Troops.

- Safety literature was provided to all of the Elementary School Principals for key points in their weekly news bulletins. Topics included bicycle safety, snow safety, and stranger safety.
- Traffic assistance was provided for The Barrows School Fun Run, Joshua Eaton School Jaguar Jog, and the Downtown Trick or Treat, Fall Street Fair, Friends and Family Day, etc.
- 15 Work Orders were executed for new and replacement signage throughout the town.
- The Speed Alert Trailers were deployed to more than 50 Locations.

#### Patrol Division:

The Reading Police Patrol Division is the core of policing services in the Town of Reading. The Patrol Division falls under the command of Lieutenant David Stamatis during daytime operations and Lieutenant David Clark on nights. The Patrol Division is comprised of 2 Sergeants and 8 Patrol Officers during the day; and 6 Sergeants and 12 Patrol Officers on nights. It currently operates a marked fleet of 4 Ford Crown Victoria style and 3 Ford SUV style cruisers as well as 1 Ford Expedition and 1 Ford Explorer as Support Services vehicles. In addition to standard patrol vehicles, the Reading Police Department's Patrol Division also uses 4 pedal bikes and from time to time will augment patrol as well as unmarked units.

The Patrol Division is the most visible section of the police department, providing around the clock service to the citizens and visitors to Reading. They are the uniformed officers who provide the first line of defense for the public's safety. Each law enforcement patrol officer works to protect life and property, uphold the civil rights of individuals, preserve public peace, provide citizen assistance, enforce criminal and motor vehicle laws, and respond to emergency situations. These are dedicated and committed professionals who place their lives and well-being in jeopardy for the citizens of Reading on a daily basis.

The men and women of the Patrol Division are responsible for; enforcing state and municipal laws and regulations designed to protect life and property; maintain order in an assigned sector or beat; patrol the community to preserve the peace and to prevent crime; take criminal reports and interview witnesses and suspects; apprehend fugitives and criminals; collect evidence and give testimony in court; conduct investigations for all misdemeanor and many felony cases; direct traffic, issue traffic citations, investigate accidents, and make arrests; participate in crime prevention, public information, and safety programs. Patrol officers maintain closer contact with the public than any other section of the police department.

Most likely, the first person you will see when you are in need of the police will be a patrol officer. The men and women of the Reading Police Department's Patrol Division take great pride in serving the citizens of Reading. It is important to realize that in a split second, the most inconsequential and routine activity can develop into a potentially hazardous situation. Without question, the Patrol Division is the backbone of the police department. In 2015, the Patrol Division issued 4,152 moving violations, made 135 arrests and answered 20,400 calls for service throughout the Reading Community.

The Reading Police Department also maintains specialized units functioning within the Patrol Division. Two of these are the Mountain Bike Operations Team and the Rapid Response Team which are overseen by the Day Shift Division Commander.

The Mountain Bike Unit is comprised of 8 Officers who operate the 4 pedal bikes, which work on various shifts. These Officers are able to respond quickly to areas differently from the traditional response vehicle and also offers another level of Community Service by being in the public view on an additional plane.

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) tactical professionals are Patrol Officers who are part of Northeastern (Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council) NEMLEC activated into a team on a moment's notice. These Officers have further expertise designed to assist, access, and mitigate extremely volatile situations, making use of additional equipment and manpower. The Reading Police Department currently has three Patrol Officers that are part of NEMLEC RRT.

Each section of the Reading Police Department is designed to work separately and augment the other departments to achieve the collective goal of maintaining a safe community. This is achieved by regular operations of all and delivering customer service via daily interaction and community policing initiatives.

#### Detective Division:

The Detective Division is responsible for the follow-up investigations of all murders, homicides and unattended deaths; rapes; robberies, including armed and unarmed; breaking and entering of all types; aggravated assaults; larcenies, including certain types of check and credit card cases; auto thefts; and fires of suspicious origin which have had preliminary investigations conducted by the Patrol Section and cannot be further investigated by them. The Detective Division shall be assigned to handle the investigation of a case where the extension of their efforts exceeds the normal limitations of time and place in seeking to satisfactorily close the investigation of the crime.

The Detective Division pursues all reports received of narcotics violations within the community by initiating full investigations, which utilize all the various resources available from within the department, from other criminal justice agencies or informants. Detectives conduct a similar type of investigation upon receiving reports of potential criminal acts, which may be perpetrated within the community. Detectives will also be responsible, along with the patrol section, for the suppression of organized crime and vice within the community.

The Detective Division is the liaison of the Police Department with the Reading Public Schools, Austin Preparatory School as well as the Northeast Regional Vocational School in Wakefield.

Outlined are a number of activities the Detective Division was involved in for 2015.

- SRO continues to be involved with "Community Based Justice" which brings all interested parties together to discuss current student issues which are involved at some level with the court system.

- In January SRO Muolo and Detective Halloran became instructors of "Youth Mental Health First Aid". The course is designed to teach parents, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders. During the year, SRO Muolo and Detective Halloran have taught several classes to school staff. The plan is to now train them both in the adult mental health course in the coming year. They will also be teaching members of the police department in the future.
- Detectives process all liquor licenses applications and review all licenses as "manager on record" are changed at pouring establishments. Over the past several years as the town's business district has grown, the number of license applications, license transfers, and change in manager applications has increased substantially.
- Detectives conducted alcohol compliance checks of all licenses, completed a "Cops in Shops" education program, and surveillance patrols to monitor underage drinking violations throughout the year. In June, 23 liquor license locations were checked with zero violations for 'sale to a minor'. In September, Detectives observed three locations resulting in one criminal application for procuring alcohol for a minor and two juvenile criminal applications for minor in possession of alcohol.
- Detectives are responsible for maintenance and technical issues for the Department's Crossmatch fingerprint machine.
- This year, Detective Saunders was replaced as the "Evidence Officer" by Detective Halloran. As part of the process, a complete audit of the evidence room is conducted. We are also in the process of changing how evidence is packaged, logged, and categorized. Changes in the length of retention are also being reviewed. As part of the changeover, Detective Holmes and Detective Halloran attended "Property and Evidence Management for Law Enforcement Agencies" at Hanscom Air Force Base which was sponsored by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.
- In March Detective Halloran and Detective Fitzgerald graduated from "Basic Criminal Investigator Training Program" sponsored by NEMLEC. This course is a comprehensive, hands-on training program. The purpose of the program is to further develop important skills for detectives in managing investigations, managing and reconstruction crime scenes, writing and executing search warrants, completing thorough reports, and preparing cases for prosecution. As part of the program, they toured the Medical Examiner's Office and watched several autopsies. They also role-played interviews with suspects and witnesses with local college students playing various roles. Since 2007, 225

Detectives from 61 cities, towns, and sheriff's departments in Middlesex and Essex Counties have gone through this vital training.

- In January of 2014 the Detective Division activated the Reading Police Departments Facebook Page. We currently have 2,136 followers. In addition, the Division has been maintaining the Department's Twitter page. The Twitter page currently has 5,584 followers, up from 4,267 in 2014. Besides those that follow us directly, our messages get shared to thousands more on a regular basis. These pages allow the Department to get important public safety information out quickly including information on; road closures, special events, press releases, weather related concerns, Level 3 Sex Offender notifications, and safety tips. We have seen a significant increase in communication with citizens and other agencies contacting us through these sites.
- The Detective Division handles all court matters, including processing the court paperwork for all arrests, summons, hearings, restraining orders, citation appeals, and any other pertinent issues that deal with the court. The Division makes all officer notifications for court appearances, gives information on the status of on-going cases. In addition, the Division is responsible for all discovery requests by the Commonwealth and Defense, which requires a significant amount of time to compile. All juvenile cases that meet the standard for diversion are monitored to make sure all of the obligations set forth for the juvenile are met.
- Detectives processed over 200 anonymous tips via the Department's Text-a-Tip program.
- The SRO and Detective Division held numerous ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) trainings with all school personal, and conducted ALICE drills in each school in the district and Austin Prep. As this program has become more established in the school system, the schools are taking on more responsibility in conducting these exercises on their own.
- SRO participated in monthly RCASA Board of Directors meetings and quarterly special events.
- Detectives worked in conjunction with RCASA to collect and properly destroy prescription drugs through the "RX Round-up" program. This past year 5, 072 bottles were collected and destroyed.
- Members of the Detective Division attended many training programs in the areas of, cybercrime investigation, search warrant preparation, domestic violence, drug and narcotics investigatory techniques, legal updates, and prosecution.
- Detectives fingerprint residents for business purposes upon request.
- Major Crimes the Detective Division investigated this past year included Sexual Assaults/Rapes, B&E's, Larcenies, Sudden Deaths/Suicides/Overdoses, Child Enticement, Missing Person, Possession of Child Pornography, Narcotic Investigations,

multiple reports from DCF, Frauds, and Cyber-Crimes. In addition, the Detective Division reviews all patrol reports, and conducts investigations on numerous other types of crimes.

- The Detective Division registers and monitors all Level 2 and Level 3 Sex Offenders that live and/or work in Town. In addition, Detective's makes the required community wide notifications.
- The Detective Division reviews all new/renewal or change in manager applications for Alcohol Licenses or any modifications for existing licenses. In addition, numerous Class 2 Licenses (License to buy, sell, exchange or assemble second hand motor vehicles or parts), Livery Licenses, Precious Metal License, and Auctioneer's License which are submitted to the Town.
- Detectives processed 110 anonymous tips via the Department's Text-a-Tip program.
- In October, Lt. Det. Abate attended the IACP Conference in Chicago, IL.
- In November, with the impending retirement of Detective Iapicca approaching in January, Detective Fitzgerald was temporarily assigned to Police Prosecutor.
- One new Police Officer hire background was conducted this year (Timothy Barrett).
- Five new Dispatcher hire backgrounds were conducted this year.

Detective Criminal Investigations = 138

### **Public Safety Dispatch**

The Reading Public Safety Dispatchers deliver, through communications, a lifeline for the community, Police Officers, and Firefighters. Nine full time Dispatchers are under the direct supervision of Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery and under the command of the Day Shift Patrol Division Commander Lt. David Stamatis. Dispatchers provide support to the Officers, Firefighters, EMT's, Paramedics, and other ancillary personnel within the departments, as well as, outside agencies to augment emergent and non-emergent operations via radio, phone, and computer related activities. Dispatchers receive requests for information and services, triage based on available resources and disseminate accordingly. Dispatchers manage 911 and administrative calls, supply Emergency Medical pre-arrival instructions when necessary, and furnish customer service and information to the public, and provide valuable service to our community.

The Dispatch team had positive staffing changes that brought three new faces to the team, lifting the staffing level to nine. This brings the Town closer to the goal of having two professionals scheduled 24 hours a day. Each year, Dispatchers participate in various trainings to expand their knowledge and present a higher level of service.

Dispatchers issued 4,124 Community Access Stickers.

The Dispatch section is the face of Reading Public Safety and in most cases, they are the first, first-responders, and the initial interaction the public has with a Public Safety agency.

### Crossing Guards

The school crossing guards are part-time, civilian personnel. Currently there are nineteen permanently assigned crossing guards and eight spares. They fill in when a regular crossing guard is unable to cover his/her post. They are under the direct supervision, coordination, and control of Safety Officer David Savio. Each crossing guard plays an essential role in the safe commute of children to and from school. They also serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department and the community as well. These crossing guards have proven to be devoted to their duties and are a great asset to the Town of Reading.

### Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer is Ronald Burns and he works 13 hours per week and is on call for emergency situations. There were more than 300 calls for service received by the Animal Control Officer. There were 16 dog bites over the year resulting in injuries to humans. There were 14 dog to dog bites resulting in veterinary care. There were 20 bites over the year resulting from animal of unknown origin (15 dogs and 5 cats). There were 2 cat bites to humans reported. Those that tested negative for rabies were quarantined for 10 days. There were over 20 coyote sightings reported. Over 300 citations were issued to residents for failure to keep their dog on a leash, failure to license their dog, for biting and disturbing the peace. The majority of the calls were received from neighbors complaining about other dogs. There was one bat call which tested negative for rabies.

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to isolate and confine domestic animals suspected of being exposed to rabies. Acting according to state regulations and guidelines, Animal Control Officers must:

- Investigate reports of domestic animals exposed to rabies.
- Determine if the domestic animal has or may have been exposed to a rabid animal, and if the domestic animal has been properly vaccinated.
- Make an evaluation of the exposure of the vaccinated animal and prescribe the appropriate action according to state regulations.
- Obtain permission to euthanize exposed, unvaccinated animals from their owners or from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. ( MDFA)
- Carry out euthanasia permitted by the animal owner or MDFA.
- Collect the head of the euthanatized animal and deliver or send it to MDPH State Laboratory Institute, if the animal has bitten or otherwise exposed a human or domestic animal.
- Inspect residential kennels that house 4 or more dogs.
- Ensure that vaccinated domestic animals receive a booster vaccination if needed, and that the animal remains under appropriate strict confinement or isolation.
- Contact local officials when exposed domestic animals have exposed humans.

Although the Animal control Officer is not responsible for handling wildlife calls, he evaluates such calls and assists where possible. He provides contact numbers for the appropriate State or private agency to handle wildlife issues beyond the Town's control.

Parking Enforcement Officer

The Parking Enforcement Officer is Ronald Burns. He works 18 hours per week. The major responsibilities of the Parking Enforcement Officer are:

- Identify and cite motorists who violate Reading's parking regulations and reduce opportunities for violations to be committed through preventive patrols of all parking areas.
- Tally and inventory tickets daily.
- Identify parking problem areas within the town and forward this information to the Safety Officer.
- Perform related duties as required.

The following is the Department Roster, a statistical analysis of our enforcement efforts and a record of revenues generated by our department for calendar year 2015.

**READING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2015 ROSTER**

**CHIEF**

James W. Cormier

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

Mark D. Segalla

**LIEUTENANTS**

Lt. David M. Stamatis                      Lt. David J. Clark

**SERGEANTS**

Mark J. O'Brien  
Kevin M. Brown  
Patrick R. Silva

John J. McKenna  
Christine M. Amendola  
Corey P. Santasky

Christopher R. Picco  
Christopher E. Jones

**DETECTIVE DIVISION**

Lt. Det. Richard Abate

Detectives:

Michael D. Saunders  
Pasquale M. Iapicca  
Robert J. MacHugh Jr

Derek R. Holmes  
Michelle E. Halloran  
Michael P. Fitzgerald

School Resource Officer:

Michael A. Muolo

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Community Service Officer	Safety Officer	Armorer/Fleet Maintenance
James P. Collins	David V. Savio	Justin P. Martel

**PATROL OFFICERS**

Christopher J. Voegelin	Anthony F. Caturello	Matthew C. Edson	Joseph J. Belmonte
Michael R. Lee	Keith D. Hurley	Salvi A. Lavita	Sean M. Wilson
Ian A. Nelson	Kristen L. Stasiak	Erik W. Drauschke	Mark R. Mullen
Laura M. Bullis	Patrick A. Dawley	Michael S. Scouten	Matthew B. Vatcher
Matthew J. Orr	Kaylyn A. Gooley	Timothy L. Barrett	

Reading Police Department  
2015 Ancillary Personnel

**CLERKS**

Administrative Assistant Victoria Cummings    Administrative Secretary Joanne Power

**DISPATCHERS**

Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery

Christopher Finnegan	Debra Haynes	Ryan Mahoney	Joseph Pagnotta
Regina Saunders	Susan Tapley	Jennifer Antczak	Alyssa Bryan
Cheryl Nahigian			

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER / PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Ronald Burns

**SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

(s=Spare)

Cindy Ascì	Mildred Barton	John Cain	Art Dickinson	Peg Faulkner
Bob Dewolfe	James Hubbard	Lucy Intonti	Tina Lantz	Marsha Leighton
Ann Lipchus	Joe Lopiccolo	Louann MacKinnon	Kris McNeil	Dick Prudente

Rosemary Violante	Barbara Wilson			Claude Miller (s)
George Snow (s)	Robert Matarazzo (s)	Lynn Upton (s)	Mike Upton (s)	Joe Veno (s)

**Service Statistics calendar year 2015:**

- Arrests 135
- Protective Custody 58
- Motor Vehicle Citations 4,152
- Parking Violations 1,947
- Detective Criminal Investigations 138
- Automobile Crashes Investigated 552

**Fees Collected calendar year 2015**

- License to Carry Permits \$ 2,850.00
- Firearm Identification Cards \$ 425.00
- Police Reports Copied \$ 3,956.50
- Parking Fines \$52,500.00
- Administrative Fees for details \$40,096.08
- Community Access Stickers \$78,400.00
- Parking Space Rentals \$58,380.00
- Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions \$42,252.50
- Community Room Rental fee \$ 710.00
- Motor Vehicle Lease Surcharge \$ 3,196.20

**Conclusion:**

To summarize our Mission Statement, we are empowered to enforce the laws of our land, but in order to do this appropriately and adequately we have to work with the community. Providing the community with the highest level of police service is a goal that will require dedication, hard work and a strong commitment to and from our community.

I want to thank the citizens of our community for their support and cooperation. Working with the community your police department will accomplish its mission.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark D. Segalla*

Mark D. Segalla  
Chief of Police

## Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse

### Overview

As a community convener, RCASA has several critical roles and functions. We leverage our position in the community by connecting programs, organizations, agencies and sectors to increase positive results for substance abuse prevention. We plan and promote community-wide and special events, community education, coalition trainings, youth leadership development, ongoing meetings, and advocacy. We promote inter-departmental resource sharing through the *Reading Chemical Health Education* and *Reading Police Diversion Programs*.

### Staff

The RCASA staff included two full time employees. The Director oversaw personnel, fiscal management, public relations, and coordinated coalition work, including planning, training, communication, data collection, dissemination, reporting, and evaluation. The Outreach Coordinator coordinated project services and activities, including communication and information dissemination. As a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, the Outreach Coordinator supported residents impacted by substance use disorders. A seasonal Youth Organizer, provided support to the coalition during the summer and winter of 2015. Staff participated in professional development opportunities to enhance our knowledge including the Active Parenting of Teens Program, 2015 MA Medical Society Public Health Leadership Forum, Heroin Education Action Task Force Conference, the and SAMHSA Webinars on substance abuse topics. The MA Board of Substance Abuse Counselors acknowledged the RCASA Director for receiving her Certification as a *Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist* and renewed licensure for the Outreach Coordinator as a Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor.

### Leadership

The 24-member Board of Directors met monthly to accomplish critical tasks including data gathering, outreach, and leadership development. Board representatives provided valuable status reports on initiatives. In September, the RCASA Nominating Committee conducted officer elections and reported roster changes at their Annual Meeting. James Cormier (Reading Police Chief, Founding Member, Parent) and Richard Abate (Reading Police Lieutenant, Founding Member, Parent) celebrated 9 years of board service.

Per our needs assessment of members, staff coordinated specific Board Education throughout the grant period. The RCASA Director facilitated interactive small groups working on sector-specific projects twice during the year. Special guest presentations and/or media shared with the board included:

- Understanding Vaping by Maureen Buzby, Regional Tobacco Control Coordinator
- Recovery High Referrals by Michelle Lipinski, Principal)
- The Continuum of Recovery by Rich Winant, Kelly House/ WBUR (NPR Affiliate)

Sherri VandenAkker, Reading resident, RCASA Board member, filmmaker was featured on the national talk show "The View" last winter to raise awareness about women suffering from alcoholism. View her appearance at <http://www.thebettefilm.com/>

### Collaboration

Staff worked on the *Multi-tiered System of Support Plan* to expand behavioral health support for all students in the public school district by participating in District Leadership Council meetings and providing expertise on substance abuse prevention. Reading Public Schools/RCASA hosted our first *Behavioral Health Providers Breakfast* in June at the High School Library for 25 healthcare, behavioral health, and mental health professionals to exchange information on the district's behavioral health needs.

Staff conducted outreach at events including Reading Fall St. Faire, Friends & Family Day, Future Freshman Night, and the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration (600 people reached).

RCASA honored RCASA Youth Crew leaders including Sophia Kalogeris, Meghan Whelan, Emily Breen, Jennie Dockser and Claire Bishop at this year's RMHS Awards Ceremony.

RCASA hosted their 9<sup>th</sup> *Annual Coalition Meeting* on 9/30/15 at Jordan's Furniture/Sunbrella IMAX Theatre for 425 participants. Youth volunteers and board members welcomed guests in the lobby. Guests viewed a 12-foot display of the coalition's vision/mission, goals & strategy, growth & development, initiatives & projects. The RCASA Info tables staffed by Board Leaders featured over 50 valuable free resources including SAMHSA literature, upcoming RCASA events and local resource directories. A second table featured an Al-Anon representative to address questions and engage in conversation.

The formal program included the Annual Report Highlights delivered by Erica McNamara, RCASA Director, 2015 Recovery Month Spotlight by MaryAnn Frangules, Mass Organization for Addiction & Recovery and the presentation of a short film. The **Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation** and **Millennium Health** created the film "**If Only**" to raise awareness among teens and adults about the opioid epidemic. Following the film, James Wahlberg spoke and eight addiction professionals answered audience questions. Click here to view local media coverage of the event. <http://reading.wickedlocal.com/article/20151007/NEWS/151006520/?Start=1>

Staff were actively engaged in the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition involving the communities of Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield continued their opioid prevention and intervention project. Reading benefits from the collaborative through access to data, capacity building and training. Staff participated in the United for Recovery Candlelight Vigil and Rally held in Wakefield). Staff and police representatives also participated in the *Eastern Middlesex DA's Opioid Task Force* (leveraged important connections to the three hospitals serving Reading).

RCASA was chosen to host the Regional World Café on Opioid Abuse for the second year in concert with State Senator Lewis to update residents and leaders on progress happening at the local, regional and state levels.

Substance abuse prevention efforts as outlined in our work plan included:

- I) **Alcohol Compliance:** RCASA provided support to officers to procure state grant funds through the MA Highway Safety Division. In January and June of 2015, the Reading Police

issued the Annual Public Notice for operations. In May, officers arranged their 'Cops in Shops' operation with four off premise establishments and reported enhanced collaboration with those businesses. Officers recruited underage operatives to conduct the compliance operation in June. No violations found at any of the 23 establishments checked. Following the operation, RCASA prepared "pass" letters signed by the Chief of Police and a press release was shared with local news. Officers conducted surveillance patrols in September. On September 18, officers observed three locations resulting in one criminal application for procuring alcohol for a minor and two juvenile criminal applications for minor in possession of alcohol. The last patrol in September, officers reported no illicit activity.

- II) **Prevention Education:** RCASA conducted *Student Leadership Training* for 63 Student Leaders at Reading Memorial High School. RCASA hosted the *2015 Regional Dialogue on Opioid Abuse* with State Senator Jason Lewis. Staff and School Resource Officer met with small groups of students to conduct *Opioid Prevention Workshops* (300 students total). RCASA engaged 45 parents in the second cycle of the *Active Parenting of Teens Online Program*. Staff conducted *Substance Abuse training* for all new officers & dispatchers (10 staff total). Staff prepared resource packets for officers to give to residents in need of support. During the Reading Public Schools *Blue Ribbon Conference*, 70 school personnel turned out for the RCASA Opioid Prevention workshop featuring the *Heroin Rising* video. Seventeen high school students completed the skill-based *Chemical Health Education Program* this year facilitated by RCASA. The Director presented in the High School's Child Development Course on *Substance Exposed Newborns* reaching 15 students. Staff used the CADY Ready, Set, Done Media Kit to guide media messaging throughout the year via Twitter and Facebook. We placed four large ads in the *Reading Recreation Fall Magazine*, which reached 19,000 households, largely parents of school age children.
- III) **Mental Health Promotion:** Under the Project Aware Grant awarded to the Reading Public Schools, the RCASA Director launched a training project. In 2015, the National Council on Behavioral Health credentialed nine town/school/police staff members as Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors. Overall, these instructors certified 424 school and town staff during the last calendar year.
- IV) **Data Collection:** 4900 bottles collected through our *Rx Round Up*. Four Lock-med boxes raffled off at events. RCASA administered the *Pride Faculty & Parent Surveys*. We developed the *2015 Reading Youth Risk Behavior Survey* with the Reading Public Schools, grades 6-12, and data release in October 2015. The data results indicated a decline in lifetime cigarette use of 20% since 2005; decline of recent cigarette use of 8% since 2005; and recent cigar use declined by 3% since 2005.

Reading has implemented a number of tobacco control policy and education initiatives through our local substance abuse coalition, Board of Health, and School Committee, which had reduced tobacco use. However, the influx and availability of vaping in just the last year has increased with 24% of high school students reporting lifetime use of e-vapor products. We are also concerned with the increased use of synthetic marijuana (8% of high school students reported lifetime use), opening of medical marijuana dispensaries in Massachusetts and a potential ballot question to legalize the use of recreational marijuana. The RCASA Board felt it was important to increase education on the dangers of marijuana and the growing availability of synthetics by inviting Dr. Kevin Hill to speak in Reading on his research and book in October of 2015.

We coordinated with regional tobacco control to have their staff conduct presentations for the RCASA Board, the School Committee and Boards of Selectman in 2015. We updated educational materials for health educators to include vaping; addressed policies related to vaping use, and made parents aware of the trends through disseminating information.

We launched a new Youth Leadership capacity-building strategy called “RCASA School Chapters”, modeled after the RCASA Youth Crew, to engage younger youth (12-14) in substance abuse prevention initiatives and to expand involvement of older teens. This process involved interviewing previous RCASA youth leaders through key informant interviews on program elements to include in chapter replication; receiving approvals from local principals; engaging district leaders in providing classroom space; and designing training materials. RCASA staff developed a Chapter Training Booklet, ordered Asset Development materials and put together School Chapter kits for each local school.

Per our needs assessment, we wanted to increase online training offerings for local parents. RCASA staff was trained in implementing Citrix GotoWebinar modules to expand online training. We developed our first webinar with a local college student called *Teen Athletes and Painkiller Addiction Webinar*. We chose this topic because our local athletic participation rate (97%) is higher than the state rate of 78%, expanding the risk pool of potential student athletes that may be injured and at higher risk. We plan to launch the webinar in 2016.

Finance

RCASA staff worked diligently with town, police and school staff to generate quality grant proposals for a number of public funding entities. RCASA, Police, and the Reading Public Schools were successful in securing five grants to support substance abuse prevention and mental health education. RCASA contributed to grant proposals for the Police (\$5,000 for Alcohol Compliance) and Schools (\$1.25 million for School Climate).

<b>SAMHSA Grants Supporting RCASA</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Renew</b>
Sober Truth On Underage Drinking Prevention Act	\$48,258	\$190,032	9/30/16	N
White House Office of National Drug Control Policy	\$125,000	\$625,000	9/30/16	Y
Advancing Wellness & Resilience in Education	\$50,0000	\$100,000	9/30/16	N

The Director compiled all required federal reports for funding. The town, school and police departments contributed \$160K in match resources for RCASA’s office/meeting space, supervision, and oversight.

Public Relations

Staff created newsletters, updated the website and social media to keep the community informed. Police posted RCASA news on their twitter reaching over 2,200 followers. Large posters, online invitations, flyers, and a program were developed for the Coalition Film Series, which reached 500 people. Staff sent Press Releases to three local news outlets. Local news shared coalition articles. RCASA also used YouTube to release four new videos. Staff connected with elders through two senior center events including their Annual Health Fair.