



## Coalition Annual Report

For all coalition resources, learn more at [www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/readingcoalition](http://www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/readingcoalition)

### **ANNUAL REPORT (EXCERPT FROM READING POLICE REPORT FOR 2021)**

#### **Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support, formerly Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA):**

The Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support mobilizes community partners, residents and youth to build collaborative approaches and reduce youth substance abuse. Learn more at [www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/readingcoalition](http://www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/readingcoalition)

The Coalition falls under the Detective Division of the Police Department and works closely with police, town and school liaisons to carry out their work. The Coalition Director and Outreach Coordinator are the primary staff and work closely with a 24-member Advisory Board.

The Reading Coalition Advisory Board met monthly to:

- Exchange and share information that will enhance our community approach to substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion.
- Supply Reading Coalition staff with feedback on activities, projects and emerging initiatives.
- Spread the word about coalition resources and events

The coalition is guided by three major goals. Progress on each goal is tracked annually and in benchmark increments of five years.

**Goal 1:** Establish and strengthen collaboration among the Reading Coalition's partner organizations in support of the community's effort to prevent and reduce youth substance use

**Goal 2:** Reduce substance misuse among youth in Reading, MA

**Goal 3:** Promote mental health in Reading, MA

#### **Outlined are a number of activities the Reading Coalition was involved in for 2021:**

The Coalition looks forward to the inclusion of a new staff member in 2022. The Public Safety Clinician position was funded in 2021 with the support of town meeting. Following the announcement of funding, the Coalition Director worked with the Chief of Police, Town Manager and Human Resources to conduct research in peer communities, compile a job description, consult with department heads, grade the position and finalize the job posting. The job posting was released at the end of 12/2021.

Programs coordinated by the Coalition within the Police Department include the Crisis Intervention Steering Committee (CIT) Team Follow-Up Program, Interface Referral Service (operated by William James College),

Tip411/Anonymous Text a Tip Program (operated by Citizen Observer) and the Rx Round Up for medication collection.

The Rx Round Up program resumed in February of 2021. The Reading Coalition procured medication dissolving packets for residents to self-dispose of medications as well as promoted the state program. Through the MA Med Project, residents can easily request a free, pre-paid mail-back envelope sent directly to their home for safe and secure disposal of unwanted medications. Learn more at <https://med-project.org/locations/massachusetts/>

We secured a new grant through MED-Project Massachusetts to enhance our medication collection program. Towards the end of 2021, we installed a new medication collection kiosk. We received an updated DEA waiver, environmental approval from the state and permit approval from the US Dept. of Transportation. The kiosk accepts OTC, pet meds and all Rx. Signage is posted for those that come into the station. Data collection will be converted from tracking the number of pill bottles to weight per pickup. In 2022, we will begin using a new pick-up system through Stericycle/UPS. Learn more about Med Project at <https://med-project.org/locations/massachusetts/>.

The Reading Coalition Annual Meeting & Making the Difference Awards Ceremony was held on September 29, 2021. We celebrated our regional partners including Eliot Community Human Services, Mystic Valley HUB Team, MA Department of Mental Health and Melrose-Wakefield Inpatient Psychiatric Unit for their collaboration with the Coalition on the CIT Project.

We launched the Community Connections Series with RCTV featuring 12 local leaders that brought people together during the pandemic. Watch the interviews at <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/readingcoalition>

We aided the local School District including referral consultation, program coordination and guest presentations. Major initiatives included the Teen Mental Health First Aid Training for 11 grade students, RMHS Chemical Health Student Education Program, Health Education Classroom presentations, SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) for Grade 10 and staff collaboration on action teams and committees.

We joined with the City of Medford as the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition (Medford, Malden, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winchester) to procure the MassCall 3 grant.

New or updated resources developed in 2021 included the Substance Misuse Coalition Resource List, Mental Health Coalition Resource List and Helpful Services During the Pandemic Guide for Reading.

Social media posts by coalition staff reached 7,022 users on Facebook and yielded 25,674 Twitter impressions.

The Coalition continued use of the Apricot Cloud Based Software program, administered by Social Solutions, to track their coalition activities, meetings, and case management.

The Coalition continued use of the Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) system to join in the Middlesex County effort to track follow-ups for mental health and overdoses. CIMS is a software product developed by Kelley Research Associates to support countywide police led programs intending to document all overdose incidents within county jurisdictions and facilitate the transition of those experiencing drug overdoses to treatment. Coalition staff is responsible for data entry and follow-up for relevant cases.

**Coalition Output = 1929 individuals reached through outreach programming (in person and virtual)**

- 213 people were reached through our CIT Program by Coalition Staff.
  - 177 Crisis Intervention Team Initial Follow-ups provided by Outreach Coordinator related to Mental Health/Substance Use.
  - Staff also provided ongoing case management to 36 people to assist with additional support.
- 107 residents used the Interface Referral Service from December 2020 through November 2021 which confidentially matched Reading callers with licensed mental health providers from an extensive database. Each referral met the location, insurance and specialty needs of the caller.
- Coalition Resources presentation for Reading Clergy Council
- Coalition staff interviewed for the First Baptist Church Loneliness Series for parishioners.
- Coalition staff, SROs and Athletic Director hosted a Zoom to support RMHS Student Athletes and Club Leaders in the spring of 2021.
- Coalition staff and SROs presented “What Middle School Teens Need to Know about Drugs & Alcohol Presentation” for Coolidge Middle School students.
- Coalition staff hosted “What Parents of Tweens & Teens Need to Know About Drugs & Alcohol Presentation” for Doble LeBranti staff and families.
- Coalition staff conducted outreach at the Burbank YMCA Healthy Kids Day, Reading Fall Street Faire and the First Baptist Church Outdoor Music on the Lawn Event
- Coalition staff hosted two parent info sessions with Doc Wayne To Enhance Therapeutic Support for RPS families.
- Chemical Health Education Programming facilitated by the Outreach Coordinator and Health Educator for Reading Memorial High School served 7 students.
- Teen Mental Health First Aid 6-week Series delivered by Coalition staff for 219 eleventh graders at Reading Memorial High School.
- Supported the Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment Program for 10<sup>th</sup> graders at RMHS by having the Outreach Coordinator meet with each student to share resources on accessing support. By December of 2021, 123 students were reached.
- Maternal Substance Misuse Presentation for the Child Development Class at Reading Memorial High School was completed by the Coalition Director reaching 22 students.
- RPD Roll Call group presentations were conducted by the Outreach Coordinator in June and October to share resources and introduce staff to officers.
- The Massachusetts Library Association Conference workshop on Mental Health Promotion featured the Coalition Director and reached 58 adults.
- Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences Research presentations were facilitated by the Outreach Coordinator for the Advisory Board, Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition and Reading Public Schools staff.
- The Reading Youth Risk Behavior Survey Highlights were presented by the Coalition Director to the following groups:
  - Reading Public School District Leadership Team
  - Reading School Committee
  - Reading Board of Health
  - Reading Public Schools Professional Development Workshop
  - Coolidge Middle School PTO
  - Coolidge Middle School staff meeting
  - RMHS GSA Group

**Committees/Action Teams that involved coalition staff included:** Reading Coalition Advisory Board, Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition (Coordinators meetings, Pandemic projects and regional grant development), RPD Crisis Intervention Team Steering Committee, Medford Regional HUB Crisis Team, RPS Wellness Team and the RPS District Support Team.