

# Multi-City Collaboration for Drug Education: Update

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Sandra Lyon, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Palm Springs Unified School District



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## STATUS SUMMARY

This collaboration began in May 2018 with a request to cities for funding as a response to legalization of marijuana and high numbers of students suspended and expelled for marijuana use in the Palm Springs unified School District

The Cities of Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City and Palm Springs donated \$100,000 each

Purchased Sunny's Story and hired a substance abuse counselor

Education began this year:

Grades 4, 6 and 9

Will be fully implemented in 2019

Substance abuse counselor started in the late fall



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## PROGRESS

List achievements and progress since last status update was given.  
Highlight those things that made progress possible

### Suspension for 2017-18 for drug violations

- 410 students suspended for 48900(c): Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished or been under the influence of, any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.

### Suspensions for 2-18-19 for drug violations

- 336 students suspended violating Education Code 48900(c).
- Next year's data will let us know if this is an actual trend or just a change.



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## Teacher Testimonial:

I was asked to present Sunny's Story to my fourth graders. This curriculum lead to some very eye opening conversations with my students. I clearly had underestimated how much they knew about drug addiction.

Reading the text was a special time in my classroom. Even though the subject matter was difficult, my students found the book extremely engaging. They were so focused and attentive to the text and the activities that came after the reading. They did not want me to break the text up over a period of 2 days. They begged to keep reading as they want to see how the story played out.

Since Sunny's Story was told through the eyes of the dog, my students felt very comfortable reacting to the text. Animals are easy to feel empathy for. They were able to voice their concerns and worries. My students then could relate what Sunny was seeing to what they may have seen. I appreciated that after every lesson, the students were given a chance to draw and write about how they were feeling. Even if they didn't feel comfortable sharing in a whole group setting, they were able to express their thoughts on what they had just heard.

I had an extremely positive experience with this curriculum. It definitely made talking about something difficult much easier with my students. I was impressed with their maturity and insights on drugs. Without this curriculum, our conversations may have been more awkward. I hope to be able to use this curriculum next year with my students.

4th Grade Teacher



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## What students are saying about the new abuse prevention sessions:

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These sessions have helped me  
to stay away from drugs & to  
remain calm at serious moments  
such as arguments. staying calm  
& communicating the way I feel  
towards a problem is much more  
effective rather than blowing  
up & bursting your temper towards  
others.

I learned to use other  
coping skills instead of DRUGS!



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## What students are saying about the new abuse prevention sessions:

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The sessions helped me focus more and start new hobbies.  
The sessions also helped me with slowly stop smoking.  
The sessions were fun and helpful.



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## What students are saying about the new abuse prevention sessions:

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After attending this program for my substance abuse at school. I've learned ways to cope with my use of Cannabis and started a new way to keep my mind & body involved in different activities. I chose to continue after my 8 weeks for more support on my journey to a healthier life and keep up with myself and move forward without having or wanting to use again. ~~After~~ Throughout the course I've learned lots of new skill that I can practice later on in life. Overall I do look better.



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## COSTS for 2018-19

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<b>Budgeted:</b>	\$300,000
<b>Revenues:</b>	\$300,000 (when CC payment is received)
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$191,356.88
	Salary/benefits of therapist: \$ 65,366.51
	Curriculum Materials*: \$125,722.64
	Mileage: \$ 267.73
<b>Remaining:</b>	\$ 22,043.29
	*\$122,043.29



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# Reviews to date are positive

**Only fully implemented plan for less than half of the 2018-19 year**

**Eager to continue from beginning of year 2019-20**

- Curriculum delivered to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Students referred to substance abuse counseling based on suspensions
- Students self-refer as needed

**Ongoing evaluation of plan**

- Will continually work with counselors and principals at schools to ensure materials are covered and counseling is accessed; outcomes will be assessed at the end of the year

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# Proposed budget for 2019-20 and 2020-21

<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Salary/benefits of therapist*:	\$ 94,458.15
Curriculum Materials**:	\$ 20,000.000
Mileage:	\$ 500.00
<b>Total 2019-20:</b>	\$124,957. 15
<b>Total 2020-21:</b>	\$131,731.06

\*full year--will increase to \$99,231.06 in 20-21 with salary step advancement

\*\*ongoing use of materials/additional materials

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# Collaborative Support 2019-21

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## Contributions from 4 Cities

\$64,000 from Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs allows us to continue the same program for two years giving us enough data to assess impact

- If cities were able to provide more funding, we would hire an additional substance abuse counselor to best handle the case load.

## We also ask partner cities to consider

- Exploring how to leverage resources, particularly for adults in our community, to receive education on the impact of cannabis on developing brains, especially as it becomes more readily available in various forms
- Explore a regional public relations campaign on the effects of cannabis and other substances when consumed by youth in our community

