

City of Franklin
Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force

Meeting Minutes

April 15th, 2010 6-8pm at Franklin Regional Hospital

Present: Chief Dave Goldstein (Franklin Police); Sheriff Scott Hilliard (Merrimack County); Bill Grimm (LRGHealthcare Board); Mayor Ken Merrifield (City of Franklin); Lynn Haskell (Merrimack County Juvenile Diversion); Jaime Powers (Phoenix House); Michael Loomis (CCNTR); Melissa Rizzo (Franklin Regional Hospital/LRGH); Joe Giunta (NH State Elks Association); Kathleen Girona (Franklin's Newfound Voice); Jennifer Pendarvis (Franklin High School ELO); John Kontoes (K.C. Phipps Jewelers); Katy Shea (Resident); Patricia Prescott (Franklin High School); Cindi Belle (Franklin High School); Trent Spinner (Concord Monitor)

Announcements/Updates

(Announcements of information and programs that are of interest to service members; special presentations by guest agencies or participants)

Recent Drug Arrests and Task Force Public Press Release

The Task force opened with Katy Shea leading discussion on whether we should submit an opinion piece responding to the recent drug arrests. It was agreed upon that we should and direct the piece to pointing out the fact that the Task Force began early last fall and would like to thank the police departments and agencies involved in the arrests and Franklin's Police involvement in the Task Force from the beginning. Katy volunteered to draft the article and circulate it for everyone's comments before it went to local media contacts by next week.

Bill Grimm authored an opinion article that went into Monday (4/12) Concord Monitor found in the following link. <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100412/OPINION/4120323>

Chief Goldstein gave the Task Force an update on the arrests and what transpired into how the lab was discovered. He also mentioned that there are more being investigated, so be prepared. The Chief mentioned that this is nothing new in New Hampshire and that there have been several meth lab disruptions and arrests as close as Plymouth in recent years. He also asked the Task Force if it would be ok for a former Meth user to come and speak to the group at the next meeting to give an understanding into what it is all about and his thoughts on its presence in Franklin. The Task Force agreed and the guest will speak to the group at the meeting in May.

The Task Force meeting also included Trent Spinner, a reporter with the Concord Monitor who announced that he would be writing an article on the Mayor's Task Force in Friday's paper. Read the story at: <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100416/NEWS01/4160363>

CCNTR Alcohol Abuse Prevention Team Update

Media Literacy – Jennifer Pendarvis gave an update on the work being done in the Franklin High School in relation to the senior health class. The class is working on a project to implement a alcohol media literacy

project with the help of Teen Challenge and Media Power Youth, students have created and produced their own messages into public service announcements. including the following key activities:

- Critically analyzing media messages
- Evaluating the source of information
- Discussing issues of bias and credibility
- Raising awareness about how media techniques influence people's beliefs, attitudes and behaviors
- Creating and producing one's own messages using different forms of media

Coalition Building – Mike Loomis discussed the focus groups he has done with both parents and youth so far and his interest in doing more. He also discussed that CCNTR has funds available to help coordinate printing of materials for public knowledge around the use of 2-1-1 as an anonymous party tip line, NH's Social Host Liability Law, and to hold community forums to present YRBS data or to discuss other substance use related topics.

The Phoenix House will have a fundraiser on May 15th at Pirates Cove.

There will be a Chem-Free meeting on May 6th at 5pm.

System Issues

(Discussion of system-wide barriers to service delivery – data gathering, problem identification, and potential solutions that may be recommended to partners for action)

Kathleen Girona asked the Task Force about a phone number or other resource residents could call to find out information about substance use prevention or treatment options. Currently, there is no contact line for the Task Force, but one may be developed in the future once resources can be organized for the line and staff to monitor it. A few options that are in existence currently are “NH 2-1-1” by dialing 211 from any phone or visiting www.211nh.org and “Partnership for a Drug Free NH” by calling 1-800-804-0909 or visit <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/ATOD/nhdrugfree.htm>. Bill Grimm and Melissa Rizzo said they would look into what resource LRGHealthcare has available for residents who are seeking information or guidance.

Planning & Vision

(Planning and vision presentation related to increased community awareness and participation in committee programming and development of programs for prevention or treatment.

DFC Grant Application and Work Plan

Katy and Mike gave an update on the application submitted by the City of Franklin for the Drug Free Communities Grant. If chosen, the City would be awarded \$125,000 for each of the next 5 years to fund a full time coordinator and other staff to work on environmental strategies to reduce use of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs not prescribed by a medical provider by youth. The City will know by August whether they have been awarded the grant. But many of the items in the work plan can begin immediately and does not require funds if volunteers and local officials are willing to work on these right now. It was agreed on by the Task Force that at the May meeting, the Task Force would divide into two groups. One will be focusing on youth and the DFC work plan and the other group will focus on building a work plan out of the adult strategic planning session back in February.

Franklin Youth Center Development

Many Task Force members have discussed the need for a youth drop-in center of some kind in the City. Many students in Mike Loomis's focus group also mentioned this. Melissa Rizzo discussed the use of the Twin Rivers Intergenerational Program (TRIP) as a potential site for a center, which has always been a site with the intention of hosting programs for youth to seniors. Many people refer to the TRIP center as a Senior Center, but this could serve as a site for youth focused programs too. Melissa will discuss this with the TRIP Center's board and discuss this at May's Task Force meeting.

The Next Meeting will be May 13th from 6-8pm at FRH

Meeting Adjourned at 8 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Loomis, CCNTR