

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

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2010 6-8pm at Franklin Regional Hospital

Present: Mayor Ken Merrifield (City of Franklin); Elizabeth Dragon (City Manager); Chief Dave Goldstein (Franklin Police); Lt. Clough (Franklin Police dept); Lynn Haskell (Merrimack County Juvenile Diversion); Melissa Rizzo (Franklin Regional Hospital/LRGH); Liz Lawrence (Caring Community Network of Twin Rivers); Jason Vezina (resident/parent); Richard Towne (Principal Franklin school district); Cindy Bell (Franklin school nurse); Joseph Giunta (Elks); Andrew Angler (Bristol resident); John Kontoes (Franklin Business owner); Danielle Baker (resident); Kathy Waldron (LRGH);

Presentation: The Laconia police department gave a presentation for all attendees of the use of the department's police dog. All task force members joined the police department on the lawn near the hospital to watch the trained police dog perform several tasks. The first demonstration was in regards to tracking skills and the dog's keen sense of smell. This is extremely helpful to the police department whether it is to search for drugs in a vehicle or elsewhere or to search for evidence or search for a missing person. The next demonstration was on how the dog will catch and hold a person of interest on the officer's command. This has helped the police department greatly in catching, stopping and/or detaining a person without use of more lethal methods.

Meeting: The group returned to the meeting room.

Elizabeth Dragon, Melissa Rizzo and Liz Lawrence reviewed the use of some available grant funds that CCNTR provided to the group. Refrigerator magnets with the 211 info and task force name were ordered, the idea of marketing materials if time allowed, and doing some additional police patrols both on bike and on foot were approved.

Elizabeth Dragon informed the group she has created a master contact list for the task members to help with communication via email. If anyone here tonight did not get her email reminders about this meeting please add your email to the list going around the room and you will be added to the contact list for future emails.

Elizabeth Dragon then discussed an email request from Alyssa Keegan from the Middle school guidance office in regards upcoming drug and alcohol prevention week. Several members of the group volunteered to offer some assistance directly individually.

Elizabeth Dragon then announced the award of the DFC grant to the task force and discussed the next steps necessary for the group. On October 4th the City council will hold a public hearing to determine whether or not to accept the grant. Members of the task force were urged to come to the public hearing and offer their comments. The City as fiscal agent must officially vote to accept the funds in order for them to expend the funds. If the city accepts the funds the next step will be to hire a fulltime coordinator for the grant. Elizabeth reviewed the coordinator position duties as outlined in the grant application and explained the relationship between the city as fiscal agent and the task force. Once the coordinator is hired he/she will help the task force continue to implement the work plan outlined in the grant. Elizabeth offered to email the grant which details the work plan and budget to anyone interested. Several people on the task force asked to receive a copy. There was more discussion on the grant and the next steps of the task force. Elizabeth asked that members of the school present this evening reach out to students at the school to generate interest in joining the task force or working with the task force in some

way. It is important that all 12 sectors of the community be involved and although we had a student representative that student has been real active to date.

The group was reminded that task force meetings are the second Thursday of each month at Franklin Regional hospital from 6 to 8pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

The Next Meeting will be October 14th from 6-8pm at FRH

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Dragon