

**City of Franklin
Mayor's Drug & Alcohol Abuse Task Force
Meeting Minutes**

June 23, 2011

6-8pm; Franklin Regional Hospital Conference Room A/B

Attendee	Sector Represented
Bill Grimm	Healthcare Professional (LRGH Healthcare Board)
Jason Vezina	Parent/Resident of Franklin
City Manager Elizabeth Dragon	City of Franklin
Mayor Ken Merrifield	City of Franklin
Joe Giunta	Fraternal Organization (State of NH Elks Association)
Liz Lawrence	Healthcare Professional (CCNTR – Public Health Network)
Lt. Stephanie Clough	Law Enforcement
Chief David Goldstein	Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse (Franklin Police Department)
Tyler Davis	Franklin HS Student
Chief R. Brad Smith	Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse (Franklin Fire Department)
Melissa Rizzo	Healthcare Professional (LRGH)
George Helwig	Public Housing (CATCH Housing)
Cary Gladstone	Youth Serving Organization (Casey Family Services)
Sue Smart	Fraternal Organization (State of NH Elks Association)
Lynn Haskell	Youth-Serving Organization (Merrimack County Youth Diversion)
Kathleen Russo	Franklin School Board Member & LDAC
Frank Farrell	Resident of Franklin
Traci Fowler	City of Franklin/DFC Coalition Project Coordinator

Agenda Items:

May Meeting Minutes

Minutes are posted on the City of Franklin website.

Guest Speaker

Chief Brad Smith of the Franklin Fire Department, offered a presentation and photo slide show to educate Task Force Members about what types of substance abuse situations the Franklin Fire Department has been recently dealing with, how they respond and deal with these situations, and the financial impact that this work has on the City.

Key Points from the Chief's presentation:

- Photo slideshow from a recent meth lab fire and raid – this was a 3 alarm fire with approximately 100 firefighters involved. The amount of labor for a situation like this is immense.
- Newer meth labs are different than what they have seen in the past. More household chemicals are being used.
- The Fire Dept. receives about 1,000 Emergency Response calls/year
- A few years back, the Dept. saw a lot of heroin use and overdose, now it seems that the trend has moved to methamphetamines, cocaine and Rx Drugs.
- Age range of drug overdoses range from later teens through mid-40s. It is a broad spectrum.

The group had a great discussion after the presentation, and talked about some of the larger environmental factors that contribute to Franklin's substance abuse situation. Housing, and more specifically, the issue of absentee landlords was brought up. In addition, our proximity to the "drug highway" – Rt. 93- was mentioned as a key environmental factor.

Youth Radio PSA/Youth Engagement

One main objective for our coalition is to develop an active Youth Council. We have made some great progress in developing relationships with students and HS staff, and have worked collaboratively on the following:

- ✓ Providing scholarships for four (4) Franklin High School students to attend NH Teen Institute's Summer Leadership Camp in July. In addition, Task Force Member and Franklin High School student, Tyler Davis, was accepted to be a Peer Counselor at this year's camp. NH Teen Institute brings high school students together from across the state for a week of experiential activities designed to help them explore their values, relationships and coping strategies, and connect with their own inner strength while connecting with other young people. Through this supportive environment and proven approaches, students learn to take positive, healthy risks to help them gain self-awareness, learn critical life skills, and acquire important insight and knowledge. www.nhteeninstitute.org
- ✓ We worked with this group of HS students to create and record a 30-second PSA that is currently being aired on local radio station, 94.1FM. The PSA's message is around underage drinking, reminding youth that "they have a choice NOT to drink"
- ✓ In collaboration with CCNTR's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Coalition, we were able to provide financial support for Franklin HS' Venture Out Summer Program. This program was at risk of not being able to run after a loss of grant funding in the spring of 2011. The Drug Task Force and HEAL both provided financial support for the program to continue for the Summer of 2011. This program serves approximately 65-70 Franklin high school youth, and provides an opportunity for these young people to get out of town and engage in positive physical activity in NH's most scenic locations: hiking, swimming, a day at the beach, etc. This is an opportunity for Franklin youth to develop self-esteem, create positive relationships with peers and adult mentors, and see some of the beautiful aspects of the state they live in.
 - Contract for 'Community Service Hours' – we are creating a contract between these youth and our two coalitions (Task Force and HEAL) to fulfill their required 40 community service hours. This will provide a meaningful way for students to become engaged in helping make their community a better place.
 - Opportunity for Task Force Members to attend Venture Out field trips this summer to develop relationships with youth, and start to generate some interest in a Youth Council. The following members expressed interested in participating in a field trip:
 - Traci Fowler
 - Liz Lawrence
 - Melissa Rizzo
 - Kathleen Russo
- ✓ In collaboration with Franklin HS, we will support a Teacher Advisor for the 2011-2012 school year. This advisor will receive a stipend for their time and commitment in helping to create and sustain an active Youth Council. Franklin HS received a small Safe & Drug Free Schools grant which is helping to match the DFC funds that were placed toward an advisor.

Ongoing Rx Take Back Program Update

Chief Goldstein reported that the Police Department is making great progress in establishing an ongoing take-back box. The DEA application has been submitted and awaiting approval and the Police Department's policies and procedures for operation and management of the box have been created. Franklin PD can incinerate the medications collected at no extra cost.

Target Date for opening: Late Summer/Early Fall 2011

TO DO:

Check with Brian Barry to see about building a metal box that can be put into the wall of the Police Department lobby. Chief will follow up on this.

Develop partnership with local pharmacist(s) so that they can officially identify pills collected for record-keeping purposes. A couple of members mentioned contacting local retired pharmacist Ron LaSarde (sp?)

Evaluation/Community Assessment Update

Task Force Members completed the 'Member Profile' – this is a form we'll use to collect information about our members and community partners, and will help us to build a working database of support. This will allow us to best communicate with stakeholders, and to identify what skills/talents people are able to contribute.

Community Assessment – this was mailed out through the SAU office to all parents of elementary and middle school students back in early May. We collected about 21 surveys at Community Day and raffled off two great prizes. A \$50 gift certificate for gas at Cumberland Farms, and also a \$50 gift certificate for local business, KC Phipps Jewelers. KC Phipps gift certificates were generously donated by proprietor John Kontoes.

We sent 'round two' of our Community Assessment out to parents through the Recreation Department. An additional 120 surveys were given out to parents of students' attending the Rec's Summer Camp. Any returned surveys will be collected in early July, and a 2nd raffle drawing will take place.

If we get 40 surveys back in total, we will consider it a success for this year, but will have to brainstorm some additional ways to secure a larger quantity of surveys in future years.

Parking Lot

Due to this rich discussion, we created a "parking lot" for topics that we wanted to keep on our radar, and come back to:

- ✓ Housing/Absentee Landlords
- ✓ Engaging the younger population in the Rx Drug Take Back – great opportunities for community service hours OR credit through the ELO Program at Franklin HS
- ✓ Gangs – movement into our area, and the connection to the drug problem
- ✓ Radio PSA for the Fall football season

JULY Meetings:

We are not meeting as a full group during July, rather, we will meet as smaller 'subcommittees', or work groups.

Meeting dates and times will be sent out to the group.

AUGUST Meeting:

August 18th, 5-7pm @ Franklin Regional Hospital **note the new time!*

Contact Traci Fowler with any questions/comments: tfowler@franklinnh.org

A meeting agenda will be emailed prior to the meeting!