

Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2012

5pm; Franklin Regional Hospital

Attendee	Sector Represented
Robert Lucas	Franklin resident; School Board
Melissa Rizzo	LRGH/Healthcare
Jason Vezina	Parent
Shannon Libby	FHS; FYI Teacher Advisor/School
Melissa Stone	Parent
Lynn Haskell	Merrimack Co. Juvenile Diversion
Joe Giunta	NH State Elks Association/Fraternal Org.
Sue Smart	NH State Emblem Club/Fraternal Org
Chief Goldstein	Franklin PD; Law Enforcement
Liz Lawrence	CCNTR/Healthcare
Tricia Lucas	New Futures/Other Org. Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse
Bill Grimm	LRGH Board of Trustees
Traci Fowler	Coalition Coordinator

Mission Statement: The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force's mission is to mobilize citizen involvement and multi-sector collaboration to foster a healthy community environment with norms, policies and practices that *work together* to promote the positive and drug and alcohol free development of all Franklin and Hill youth and families.

Agenda Items

Welcome, Introductions and Sign-in

Building our Capacity for ADVOCACY! Guest Speakers: Linda King and Tricia Lucas, from NH-based advocacy organization, New Futures, will present on the *new* 2012 NH Legislative Session. What are the bills we should keep an eye on? How can we influence legislative decisions? Linda and Tricia will talk about how we can participate in FREE advocacy training to best prepare for the coming year.

December Meeting Follow-Up: Next steps for local data collection. Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews will be taking place need to be scheduled in the next several weeks. Would you like to help??

Volunteer Sign-Up for upcoming events

Professional Development Opportunities—Are you interested?? The Task Force is paying!

FYI Update—what has our AWESOME youth council been up to lately? What's coming up?

Other Community Updates and Announcements

Meeting Notes:

Building our Capacity for ADVOCACY! It was great to have Tricia Lucas and Linda King present to our group. New Future's role is to help individuals realize their power to shape public policy and influence decision makers. Legislative Priorities for the 2012 Legislative Session include:

- HB 1521 – New Futures opposes this bill, as it would expand the distribution of spirits (liquor) to grocery and convenience stores.
- HB 1610 – New Futures opposes this bill, as it would lower the drinking age to 19 for military members.
- HB 1526 – New Futures opposes this bill, as it proposes to decriminalize up to ½ ounce of marijuana.
- SB 286 – New Futures supports this bill, as it creates a controlled drug prescription monitoring program.

It is EXTREMELY important for local citizens, especially youth and parents to get involved in advocacy at the state level. Elected officials are used to hearing from the paid lobbyists, but having “regular people” testify is very powerful.

The next Community Leadership Initiative, a 1-day Leadership Retreat, takes place on March 6, 2012 from 8:30am – 3:30pm, at the Common Man in Concord. A great lunch is provided! This is an important training for folks who are interested in learning more about the legislative process and how local citizens can be heard. A number of Task Force members expressed interest, and we will follow up with Linda to get them registered.

December Meeting Follow-Up: Katy Shea, our contracted evaluator with Community Health Institute (CHI) presented the draft Focus Group and Key Informant Interview questions to the group for review. We looked over the questions and discussed some logistics for getting in touch with key professionals in the community. Next steps will be to reach out to the people we identified to schedule the interviews. Traci will follow-up with parents and youth to get Focus Groups scheduled. We hope to have the interviews completed during late January/February.

Volunteer Sign-Up for upcoming events

Sign up sheets were passed around for the following activities/events:

- Community Wide Indoor Yard Sale to benefit Chem-Free
- Winter Carnival Community Supper / Resource Table for families

Professional Development Opportunities—There are some great upcoming trainings through NH Training Institute on Addictive Disorders (NHTIAD). Task Force Members are encouraged to attend, as the DFC Grant pays for training, and it is an excellent way for our coalition to build its capacity.

FYI Update—FYI youth are planning to help out at the Winter Carnival Community Supper, and after the New Future's presentation, Task Force Advisor Shannon Libby announced that the students would be very willing to testify at the State House. Shannon is going to explain the Legislative priorities to the kids to see if/which bills they are most interested in and will connect with Traci. In addition, Traci, Shannon and 3 FYI students will be attending the National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI) in January! We are all very excited about this opportunity, and will have the students present on their trip when they return.

Other Community Updates and Announcements

It was reiterated to show support for the community by participating in the Community Wide Yard Sale. The more, the merrier!

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 9th at 5pm

Questions? Please email: tfowler@franklinnh.org