

# Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2012

5-6:30pm; Franklin Regional Hospital

Attendee	Sector Represented
Lt. Stephanie Clough	Local Agency with expertise in Substance Abuse
Robert Lucas	Franklin Resident; Civic Organization (Choose Franklin)
Joe Giunta	Fraternal Organization
Bob Lucas	Civic Organization
Ken Merrifield	Local Government
Wanda Beylea	Franklin VNA/Healthcare
Jane White	Franklin VNA/Healthcare
Dr. Chris Fitzmorris	LRGH Orthopedic Surgeon/Healthcare
Traci Fowler	Coalition Coordinator
Jason Vezina	Parent
Bill Grimm	Franklin Resident/LRGH Board of Trustees

**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**

#### **UPDATES on current initiatives/Upcoming Events**

Media Update—local press efforts; Spotlight on Task Force Members

Rx Medication Collection—coordination with VNA/Hospice

Sharps Disposal Coordination with LRGH

VA Take Back

Parent Education & Involvement

ATOD School Policies

Franklin Youth Initiative for the 2012/2013 School Year

Compliance Checks

Drug Paraphernalia—State Law & Enforcement Follow Up

City Crime Line

Year 2 Grant Celebration and Evaluation Review—January meeting \*\*Bring a friend/colleague!!

#### **Other Community Updates and Announcements**

Meeting Notes:

#### **UPDATES on current initiatives/Upcoming Events**

- **Media Update—local press efforts; Spotlight on Task Force Members:** We have been, and continue to contract with CADY, Inc. (Claire Moorhead) to assist with regular PR and media efforts. Claire and Traci work closely to make sure that we have monthly advertisements AND articles in local newspapers. So far, we are regularly posting in the HomeTown Voice, Three Rivers News (SAU news), Andover Beacon, Laconia Citizen, and Weirs Times. Bob Lucas is volunteering as our Media Checker, and is collected the ads and articles on a monthly basis.

This helps us to track our PR efforts and compile our media work in a 'Media Binder'. Beginning in January, we will be 'spotlighting' Task Force Members to showcase the membership of our coalition and encourage new community members to join. The Mayor mentioned that it would be great to start a Social Norms campaign at FHS – possibly connecting it with our other PR/Media efforts?.

- **Rx Medication Collection—coordination with VNA/Hospice:** The purpose of this agenda item is to begin communication between the Franklin VNA and the Franklin PD about medication disposal practices, particularly in the cases of hospice patients/families. The Task Force is concerned that medications are being flushed down the drain in cases of hospice families, and wondered if there is way to change that. Jane White and Wanda Beylea described the procedures for Hospice patients, which was very helpful. It is the VNA policy that medications HAVE TO be disposed of in the home (with family members present) after a hospice patient passes on. Hospice families sign an agreement stating this at the beginning of hospice service. For safety reasons, medication cannot be left in the home after a hospice patient passes. For clients in the Home Care Program, VNA commented that they will make sure to give information about the Franklin PD Medication Collection box. In addition, they took some rack cards to display in their office. Jane and Wanda also mentioned that the Central NH VNA/Hospice and the Concord VNA/Hospice also provide service to clients in Franklin, so we should also consider reaching out to those organizations to make sure they are aware of our medication disposal box.
- **Sharps Disposal Coordination with LRGH:** Melissa is the lead on this initiative, and will be able to speak with more detail at next month's meeting. However, at this point, the next Sharps Disposal is December 10th at FRH, from 3-5pm. For more information, contact the hospital. Traci commented that the issue we are facing with bringing a sharps disposal container to our National Medication Take Back Days seems to be COST. It is very expensive for the hospital to dispose of sharps. In addition, they face the challenge of having businesses, like tattoo shops, using the sharps disposal days. While they do not turn away the businesses, the sharps disposal is intended for personal, NOT business, use. This is an issue we are interested in learning more about, and will continue to talk about how we might be able to help. We are also waiting to hear back from Elizabeth/Municipal Services re: disposal of sharps. What are our City's local policies for sharps disposal? How/What can we communicate to the public about sharps disposal?
- **VA Take Back:** Bob Lucas discovered that the VA offers a mail-back program for veterans BUT anyone can participate (even if not a veteran). There are envelopes that can be obtained from the VA (for free if you are a veteran) or for \$3.99 at local pharmacies (if you are not a veteran). Folks can essentially mail unused or expired medications back (postage is paid). However, controlled substances CANNOT be mailed back! So, this is where local medication take-backs are so critical b/c we can take controlled substances (which are the medications that are of most concern to get "off the street").
- **o Parent Education & Involvement:** Parenting Classes "Surviving Your Adolescents" kick off next week on Nov. 13th Rob Groleau and Traci will be co-facilitating the series, and we are very excited to pilot this program, as it is meeting a need in our community. We have about 13 parents registered for the class.
- **ATOD School Policies:** Jason is the lead on this initiative. We are currently awaiting the final draft from the Governor's Prevention Task Force. Once we have that draft we will proceed as follows: 1) review the final draft at a TF Meeting – make edits/suggestions 2) present the idea to School Board Chair to get on a School Board agenda. We recognize that it will be very important to work with the school coaches and parents to make sure that this is not coming from "left field", but something that the school athletic community supports and see the value in.
- **Franklin Youth Initiative for the 2012/2013 School Year** The group worked on a week-long Red Ribbon Week celebration at the end of October, and we hope to have Jenn Sumner, FYI Advisor, attend the Dec. 13th meeting to give some more updates.

- **Compliance Checks:** Again, we need to coordinate with the Franklin PD to make sure that we can assist in the PR efforts once compliance checks are completed.
- **o Drug Paraphernalia—State Law & Enforcement Follow Up** We want to keep this issue alive, and although we did not have time to discuss at this meeting, we will keep it on our radar!!
- **o City Crime Line** We Although we did not have time to discuss at this meeting, we will keep this issue on our radar as well. Collaboration with the group is important. Bob Lucas is attending the Crime Line meetings on behalf of the Task Force.
- **Year 2 Grant Celebration and Evaluation Review—January meeting** \*\*Bring a friend/colleague!

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 13th at 5pm**

**Special Guest: Sgt. Rick Frost from the NH National Guard CounterDrug Task Force!**

*Questions? Please email: [tfowler@franklinnh.org](mailto:tfowler@franklinnh.org)*