

# Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

5pm; Franklin Regional Hospital

Attendee	Sector Represented
Melissa Rizzo	LRGH/Healthcare
Bob Lucas	Franklin resident/Civic Organization
Melissa Stone	Parent
Sue Smart	Franklin Emblem Club/Fraternal Organization
Joe Giunta	State Elks Association/Fraternal Organization
Ken Merrifield	Mayor, Local Government
Sara Tracy	City Welfare
Elizabeth Dragon	City Manager, Local Government
Lynn Haskell	Merrimack Co. Juvenile Diversion Program
Jason Vezina	Parent
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**

#### **Quick Update on our work regarding:**

*\*Parent Education*

*\*School Alcohol and Drug Policies*

#### **Mobilizing for September's Candidate's Forum! *Bob Lucas presenting***

**Spots are open on both the City Council and the School Board Let's develop some specific prevention-related questions for the Candidate's Forum**

#### **Our 'Take-Aways' from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conference *Melissa Rizzo and Bob Lucas presenting***

**\*Community Mobilization - what is it and why is it so important to our efforts?**

**\*Conducting ONE:ONE interviews with targeted community sectors**

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

## Meeting Notes:

### **Quick Update on our work regarding:**

\*Parent Education: Planning for the Parent Education series is going really well. Traci and Rob Groleau are working regularly on this and are hoping for a good turnout. Currently, we are working on getting the program advertised through local papers and through sending out information via the High School and Middle School. Traci is updating the "Parenting Makes the Difference" brochure, which we plan to use as a way to spread the word about both the importance of parenting, AND the two parenting classes being offered this fall in Franklin. Copies of the brochure will be handed out to the Task Force once it is finalized and approved by the Parent Involvement Committee.

\*School Alcohol and Drug Policies: Dr. Ward agreed to watch the Student Drug Testing video, and said that she watched a good portion of it. Traci met with Dr. Ward and Principal Towne and had a good conversation about the Task Force's intentions in helping to improve ATOD Policies at the High School. Dr. Ward and Principal Towne agreed that the ATOD policies need to be improved and are very open to receiving copies of the state's ATOD School Policy template, once it is finalized. However, they do not feel that pursuing student drug testing is a good strategy at this time. Enforcement of the regular ATOD policies are an issue and they recognize that introducing something such as school drug testing needs to be done in small steps. A good first step will be updating the current ATOD policies. Dr. Ward said that this will be up to the School Board Policy Committee. We should get them a copy of the template policy once we have it.

Jason has received a copy of the DRAFT state ATOD school policy and we handed out copies to interested Task Force Members. We are awaiting a FINAL version..

HOWEVER, on a good 'making progress' note, we did discuss the plan to have the Task Force give a quick update about the Parenting Classes (trying to recruit) at the High School Open House, and Dr. Ward and Principal Towne also approved the idea of having the Task Force hand out home drug testing kits and resource packets for parents. This will be a good way to start getting parents used to the idea of drug testing **SO**, Traci, Lynn and Jason spent time planning for the Open House and making home drug testing resource packets. The High School Open House is tonight (starting at 6pm), so Traci, Lynn and Jason are leaving the Task Force meeting at 5:30. Wish them luck! The group is anxious to hear how it goes.

In addition, Traci will be facilitating a parent information session called "Marijuana and the Developing Brain" after the Middle School Open House. We will have samples of the home drug testing kits for parents to see, and some resource packets for parents to take if they want.

### **Mobilizing for September's Candidate's Forum! *Bob Lucas presenting***

**Spots are open on both the City Council and the School Board Let's develop some specific prevention-related questions for the Candidate's Forum**

Bob has been working with Choose Franklin (he is part of the Board) to create Candidate questions for the upcoming forum. He has created some great questions specific to substance abuse and encourages all of the

Task Force Members to attend the forum to listen to the candidate responses. This is a great first step in holding these elected positions accountable!

**Our 'Take-Aways' from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conference** *Melissa Rizzo and Bob Lucas presenting*

**\*Community Mobilization - what is it and why is it so important to our efforts?** (See handouts)

**\*Conducting ONE:ONE interviews with targeted community sectors** It is very important for the Task Force to continuously recruit new membership to build our capacity. One:One interviews is a way to engage new community members in a non-threatening way. Melissa and Bob walked through the One:One interview process, and handed out some sample questions. We will follow-up on this in the coming months, as it is a critical issue for our group – we need more active members!

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

- **Thursday, Sept. 13th**— Task Force Meeting AND Franklin High School Open House. Task Force volunteers will be handing out Resource Bags to parents at the Open House.
- **Wednesday Sept. 19th**— Franklin Middle School Open House 6-7pm. Immediately following the Open House, the Task Force is presenting a Parent Information Session on 'Marijuana and the Developing Brain'. Presentation runs from 7-8pm. *Snacks and Raffle Prizes!*
- **Monday, Sept. 24th, 6:30pm, Franklin City Hall**—CANDIDATE FORUM! City Council and School Board seats are open. We'll be asking some prevention specific questions to the candidates. Don't miss it!
- **Saturday, Sept. 29th, 10am—2pm**—National Drug Take Back Day!
- **Monday October 1st**—WELCOME to our THIRD Year as a DFC Grantee !!!

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

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