

**Franklin Mayor's  
DRUG TASK FORCE**



*Turning on the Power of Prevention  
in the Franklin-Hill Community*

## **Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force Coalition Meeting**

August 14, 2014

Bessie Rowell Community Center

**Attendees:** *Melissa Rizzo, Mayor Merrifield, City Manager Dragon, Angela Lynch, Jason Vezina, Sara Tracy, Sgt. Rick Frost, Chief Goldstein, Bob Lucas, Joe Giunta, Lynn Haskell, Andrea McFall, Rich Masters, Charlene Fulcher, Peter DalPra, Lucy Natkiel, Bob McKenney, Bill Grimm, Tamara Feener, Karen Darling, Marie Brackinridge, Scott Burns, and Donna Arias.*

**Welcome and Introductions:** Angela Lynch begins by thanking everyone for coming to our monthly coalition meeting! Introductions around the room.

**Mayor's Minute:** Mayor Ken Merrifield talks briefly about what we are seeing in the media about the substance known as "Spice" and the dangers of that substance. We are now seeing towns and cities looking for ways to combat this issue such as using ordinances. Franklin is glad to have taken a preventative step by passing an ordinance banning the substance within city limits early-on (in 2011).

**Life of an Athlete presentation:** Donna Arias went through the basics of the Life of an Athlete program, and gave some examples of other schools that have implemented this program. We found out that the new athletic director for the High School went to an NHIAA training this past week. Jason Vezina asks where Franklin High School is at with implementing this program. Elizabeth Dragon tells us that the new athletic director seems to be completely on board and is looking to fully implement the program for next year. Melissa adds insight on having gone to the Life of an Athlete training last August and how community coalitions such as the Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force are here to help support the implementation of programs such as Life of an Athlete in the schools. Jason Vezina asks whether there is a necessary timeframe that should be followed to start the implementation of Life of an Athlete. Donna Arias tells us that there is no specific timeframe to follow. Unless you plan to become a part of this year's evaluation process which would add more of a time restraint to begin implementation. She recommends starting sooner than later and to follow the "benchmarks" described in the presentation. She also explain that it depends on the school and community as to where they feel comfortable beginning their implementation. The program can be implemented in pieces, or all at once.

### **Coalition Updates:**

- **Elks Drug Quiz Show-** Joe Giunta talks to us about an Elks initiative called the Elks "Drug Quiz Show" which is a competition primarily for middle school-age students where they compete against other schools about drug facts and information. This program is geared toward teaching students a lot of information about the risks of drug use (they end up studying with a fairly large binder of information) and they make it fun by turning it into a competition. Many parents, peers, and school members come to support the students which, he explains, is an opportunity for them to learn new information about the subject as well. We watch a ten minute video about the Elks Drug Quiz Show. Joe is interested in bringing this to our community and asks that this be a topic of discussion at our next meeting.
- **FYI Update-** Melissa Rizzo gives us an update on the progress with the new FYI supervisors. We are excited to bring them aboard. We have given them our contracts to be signed and plan to get them back and signed on Monday at our Leadership Retreat and Monday afternoon the FYI advisors will join us for a training with the Dover Youth 2 Youth program.

- **NHMA Conference-** City Manager Elizabeth Dragon tells us the wonderful news that we have been invited to do a panel discussion at the New Hampshire Municipal Association Annual Conference this year (on November 12-13, 2014). Our panel will be: “A Municipality's Role in Creating Community Partnerships around Substance Abuse” and we plan to send in our application on Friday!
- **Hazardous Waste Collection Day Event-** We were able to get information about Sharps Disposal and the medication disposal information at the Hazardous Waste Collection day event that took place on Saturday, July 26. We were invited to drop off our handouts at the municipal offices so that they could be distributed that day along with the information and papers that people would already be receiving.
- **DFC Project Officer Site Visit-** Elizabeth tells everyone that on August 26<sup>th</sup> we will be getting a full day’s visit from our Drug Free Communities Project Officer, Cydne Kimbrough. We will be asking our Leadership team to meet with us for a small portion of that day and we are also trying to get some FYI students to join us for lunch on that day as well.
- **FACT 1-** Angela gave a brief overview of the FACT 1 performance that took place on July 31<sup>st</sup> and described how fun the event was and gave some highlights from the evaluation information that was received on that day: Our evaluations along with a small handout on how to talk to your children at a young age about the risks of substance use/abuse were given out with the performance’s programs. We used a raffle for a \$25 gift certificate to the Pizza Chef in West Franklin as an incentive to return completed surveys and we got a 15% return rate. Our event evaluations also surveyed awareness of the Franklin Mayor’s Drug Task Force and why we support FACT 1 as well as perception of parental influence and when parents can begin talking to their children about the risks of substance use/abuse.

**Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Lunch n’ Learn Workgroups:** Elizabeth explains that we have heard from many people who feel that they don’t have enough opportunities to have their ideas be heard, so these workgroups are designed to not only get everyone’s ideas but to also help our coalition work more efficiently. Sargent Frost adds that in order to help others, we also have to help ourselves. These activities and workgroups will help keep the coalition healthy as well as the activities. Due to time restraint, after Melissa Rizzo (with the aid of Sargent Rick Frost) gave a brief overview how and why we plan to split into three workgroups that focus on: Data/Evaluation, Media, Recruitment and Retention. She then gave a brief overview of an upcoming event: YRBS Lunch N’ Learn on October 10<sup>th</sup>. As one group we discussed ideas on how to promote our event (Media), how to recruit people and to keep people engaged at and for this event (Recruitment and Retention), and how we may want to evaluate this event or use this event as an opportunity for more data (Data/Evaluation).

**Final Notes:**

- We will be attending as many local school open houses as we can. Angela will be sending out a volunteer sign-up sheet via email. We discover that the high school open house is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Sara Tracy tells us that another TRIP Center talk will be on September 18<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be on how to express concern about someone’s substance use.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 7:05pm.