



Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force

Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 09, 2014

5:00pm – 7:00pm at Bessie Rowell Community Center

Present: Angela Lynch, Elizabeth Dragon, Melissa Rizzo, Chief Goldstein, Mayor Merrifield, Jason Vezina, Bill Grimm, Traci Fowler, LeAnne Fifield, Charlene Fulcher, Bob McKenney, Donna Liolis, Roy Roberts, Dr. Racicot, Prescott Towle, and Christy Liolis.

Angela Lynch welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked people to make sure they signed in and that everyone received an agenda and related materials.

Mayor's Minute: Mayor Merrifield discussed a study that shows the negative effects of long-term marijuana use. The debate over marijuana's legalization is a very hot topic. However it seems that many people do not understand the serious risks that come with frequent marijuana use, and the seemingly common perception about marijuana use is that it is natural and safe. There are many dangers to smoking marijuana, especially for youth with where their brain is at in development, and this fact shouldn't be ignored.

Prevention in the Workplace Presentation:

Chris Placy, from Substance Free Workplace, presented on working with business to promote profitability through prevention. He began by talking about the scope of the problem, the economic cost and the cost to business, and where the money is lost. He moved on to discuss prevention and early intervention, and how this makes a positive difference, and how businesses can become substance free (including services that Substance Free Workplace provide). Key topics covered with regard to helping businesses become substance free are: Having a written substance free workplace policy that is utilized and supported at all levels, having detailed procedures and necessary forms for proper documentation, drug testing, supervisor trainings, employee trainings and access to an employee assistance program (EAP). He also covered common misconceptions that businesses have when thinking about whether or not to make their business a substance free workplace, such as: their employees will disapprove, they'll have to fire all of their employees, they won't be able to find any employees, that drug testing violates employee rights or is too expensive, and that creating a substance free workplace is too time consuming. **To review his presentation, please see the attachment(s).**

September Recap:

Angela gave a quick recap of the activities that went on in September:

- On September 10th, we joined the **Franklin Middle School Open House** and had a table set up with lots of great information and we gave out our goody bags filled with more information and some fun pieces as well. After the open house, we convened in the Cafeteria where we were joined by a good group of open house participants (parents and children) to watch the "Alex's Story" video and to talk about preventing substance use and abuse.
- **At the Franklin High School Open House**, we played "Alex's Story" on loop in the cafeteria where open house participants would be able to watch and listen during their "break" time. It was a great evening and over 50 people watched the very informative and inspirational "Alex's Story" video!

- **TRIP Center Talk** with Peter DalPra, from the Phoenix House, as our primary presenter. He led the discussion about what you can do when you suspect someone has a substance abuse problem.
- **Rx Take Back Day** went well. We had a great Pill Bottle "Sandwich board" created by the Franklin High School FYI group! As a state, a total of 6761.9 pounds of medication was collected. Merrimack County collected a total weight of 616.4 pounds of medication, the Winnepesaukee Region collected a total of 829.8 pounds of medication, and Franklin/Tilton collected a total of 195.5 pounds of medication!
- The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force was recognized by receiving a **Health Champion Award!** The Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health (LRPPH) awarded the Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force with a Health Champion award at their Annual Meeting on September 25th. Mayor Ken Merrifield, Elizabeth Dragon and Angela Lynch were there to accept the award and celebrate the honor along with two other Health Champion award recipients, one of which was Franklin's own Watts Water Technology!

Member Profiles:

Angela briefly reminded those in the room that she is looking to get updated information from coalition members and to do this she encourages members to fill out a "Member Profile" and hand it in to her. This form gives a snapshot of what being a Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force (FMDTF) Member means to them (what they are interested in, and willing to do, to support FMDTF).

Member Updates:

Roy Roberts shared an upcoming event with the group: Work Wellness Seminar. This seminar is a Drug Free Workplace Seminar that is taking place on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in the Busiel Community Room at One Mill Plaza, Laconia. This seminar is sponsored by LRGHealthcare, Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, Martin, Lord, & Osman, P.A., Attorneys at Law, and the Belknap County Sheriff Department.

Upcoming event Planning:

Angela referred to the list of upcoming events, and noted that the events that we are still in need of volunteers for are marked in red: The Paul Smith Elementary School Open House on October 14th, the Lights on After School Harvest Carnival on October 15th, and the Odell Park after Dark event on October 25th are still in need of volunteers at this time.

For the last twenty minutes, Melissa Rizzo led the group into a discussion about an upcoming event: Odell Park after Dark on October 25th. Using the structure that has been recently implemented for use in our meetings to plan and strategize for events, and focusing on the upcoming Odell Park after Dark event, the group discussed strategies for advertising and use of Media, Recruitment and Retention strategies, as well as Data and Evaluation possibilities. Below is the outcome of our discussion:

Event/Activity Name: Odell Park after Dark		Event/Activity Date: October 25, 2014
MEDIA <i>How could we promote/advertise this activity? Where could we or should we advertise (social media, flyers, newsletters, newspapers, blogs, radio, etc.)? What information is should we include while promoting?</i>	RECRUITMENT & RETENTION <i>When and how do we engage new people into becoming involved as coalition members? How could we engage current members? How do we keep current members engaged (such as in meetings).</i>	DATA & EVALUATION <i>Is there an opportunity to collect any data? What opportunities are there to collect data? Could we or should we evaluate this event? How could we go about collecting data and/or evaluating this activity?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio ad • Post Flyers • Press Release • WNTK-radio station out of New London • Social Media • Use Regal Sign • Send info. home w/ kids at schools • Promote Franklin's assets for families • Signage • Coloring books • Newspaper Reporter @ event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have multiple booths/opportunities to engage participants • Use bracelets to get participant's attention (selling point to engage in a conversation) • Make sure area is well-lit • Compile a list of everything FMDTF has been a part of to show what we've done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask: Do people know about FMDTF? • Have data available at event • Have accomplishments available

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Angela Lynch