

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

Coalition Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 9, 2015

5:15pm – 7:00pm

*Present: Robert Lucas, Jason Vezina, Alan Grill, Ken Merrifield, Shane Morton, David Goldstein, Traci Fowler, Sunny Ashburn, Scott Burns, Taylor O'Connor, Tamara Feener, Elizabeth Dragon, Glen Feener and Melissa Lee.*

**Melissa Lee** welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around a sign in sheet.

**Mayor's minute** The Mayor read from an article that appeared in the Union Leader on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The Mayor referenced the statistics reinforcing what the group has known for years-Heroine and other drugs are killing more than vehicle accidents. In NH there were 321 drug related deaths and of those 97 were caused by heroine. The Mayor relayed that the end of a meeting someone asked him why the task force isn't focused on heroine as one of the three substances of focus. He further read from the article a story relayed by a man named Eldridge. Eldridge discusses how he started drinking at age 12 and then moved on to marijuana and then prescription drugs before reaching heroine. The Mayor stated that he believes the point is by the time someone reaches heroine it might be too late and so it makes sense that the coalition would focus on drugs of choice at an earlier age for more effective prevention.

**Creating Meeting Guidelines-** Melissa described the task force grant focuses on two goals. The first goal is coalition building and building of partnerships. The second goal is on prevention and activities that support prevention. Creating meeting guidelines, as part of tonight's meeting, supports goal #1 building and maintaining a healthy coalition. Melissa listed some basic guidelines on the flip chart-RSVP, Arrive early-on time, come prepared, be courteous, keep electronics silent, keep comments brief, and be responsive to action items from previous meetings. Melissa then asked the group their thoughts on each guideline and whether more should be added or some should be deleted. Bob Lucas suggested added keeping conversations limited to one. He stated for those with hearing difficulties, it's hard to listen to more than one conversation. Tam Feener suggested that people making comments speak up and project their voice. The Mayor commented that often people lose focus after one hr. A discussion followed about the length of the meeting and consensus was reached that there is so much work for the group to do that shortening the meeting is probably not feasible. However, if we don't need the full two hrs to leave early instead of trying to keep everyone till 7pm. Tam Feener suggested that maybe putting speakers at the beginning of the meeting might be a good strategy. Tam also suggested that each item on the agenda should be timed to keep us on track. Melissa stated that the guidelines will be printed on the back of each agenda going forward and there will be a gentle reminder at the beginning of each meeting.

**Therapeutic Cannabis Alternative Treatment Centers (ATC) in NH-** Traci Fowler gave a power point presentation to update the group. Traci offered to forward the PowerPoint to Angela. A few highlights, the advisory council has not met since January. The advisory council was asked how they will evaluate outcomes. The advisory council didn't have an answer and those in the prevention world have offered to help develop some methods for evaluation. Children are eligible patients with parent approval. Each patient is eligible for 2 ounces every ten days (or approx 125-130 joints). Infused products will also be permitted. Designated caregivers will be permitted to access sites to assist up to 5 patients (9 patients if over a certain distance). 9 patients x 2 ounces=18 ounces of marijuana. In the prevention world our focus is on public health and child safety. Several questions were asked- Can patients see doctors in multiple regions in attempt to access the product in more than one region? What controls will be put in place for caregivers to ensure if they pick up 2 ounces that 2 ounces are actually delivered to the patient? Are there additional things the city should be thinking about in regards to ordinances? What type of education will provided to health care providers?

**FACT (Franklin Area Children's theater) sponsorship-** Melissa explained that again this year the task force is sponsoring one of the Fact programs. On July 30<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and 7pm we are looking for volunteers to help with a task force booth. Task force t-shirts are available for volunteers. Elizabeth Dragon will provide opening comments to the group at the 2-pm show and Mayor Merrifield will provide opening comments at the 7pm show.

**Ambassadors needed-** A handout was shared with the group regarding various volunteer opportunities. We are looking to create a list of ambassadors for the various events the task force sponsors or participate in throughout the year. The hope is to provide some training to these ambassadors so that when opportunity becomes available we would have a list of ambassadors to reach out to. Melissa suggested that anyone interested contact Angela Lynch, coordinator.

**Other Updates/comments from the group-** Angela is participating with our Franklin students at the Dover Y2Y summer camp program. Dover Y2Y is nationally recognized and this week is training for youth leaders and advisors. We were fortunate this year to send some Franklin students to this training. They have been working on prevention messaging and strategies to take back and implement in our FYI group.

NH Teen institute-this year the task force sponsored 5 high school students to participate in the Teen institute program. We are encouraging those students to attend a future task force meeting and provide feedback about the program.

Action plan updates- Glen Feener reported that he and chair of the school board took care of getting FYI meetings with the school board and city council. The students are the agenda for august. Glen also reported that after vacation he will be meeting with Chief Goldstein to work on the certificate of compliance program.

Tam Feener asked about Dollar General's sign (banner) advertising cheap tobacco just over the line in Tilton. Melissa explained the success we had approaching Shop Express in Franklin regarding their signage. The Tilton police officer present volunteered to follow up with dollar general.

Chief Goldstein reported that on Monday the governor signed the synthetic marijuana bill.

Alan Grill invited all attendees to join them for lunch 11:30-1pm at the Franklin united church each day.

Bob Lucas thanked Traci Fowler for her presentation.

Meeting adjourned just after 7:00pm

Submitted by Elizabeth Dragon