



Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force
 Task Force Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, May 14, 2015
 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Bessie Rowell Community Center

| Present: | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| <i>Name:</i> | <i>Sector:</i> | <i>Name:</i> | <i>Sector:</i> |
| <i>Angela Lynch</i> | <i>Coalition Coordinator</i> | <i>Andrea McFall</i> | <i>Franklin Resident</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth Dragon</i> | <i>City Manager, City of Franklin</i> | <i>Traci Fowler</i> | <i>Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse: Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health</i> |
| <i>Melissa Lee</i> | <i>Healthcare: FRH</i> | <i>Tamara Feener</i> | <i>School Board, SAU 18</i> |
| <i>Chief Goldstein</i> | <i>State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse</i> | <i>Michelle Betts</i> | <i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: Northfield-Tilton Congregational Church</i> |
| <i>Mayor Ken Merrifield</i> | <i>City of Franklin</i> | <i>Werner D. Horn</i> | <i>NH State Representative</i> |
| <i>Taylor O'Connor</i> | <i>FRH Intern</i> | <i>Bill Doherty</i> | <i>Franklin Resident</i> |
| <i>Bill Grimm</i> | <i>Healthcare</i> | <i>Sara Tracy</i> | <i>Business Owner: DK Motel</i> |
| <i>Lucy Natkiel</i> | <i>Hill resident</i> | <i>S. B.</i> | <i>Community Member</i> |
| <i>Glen Feener</i> | <i>City Councilor</i> | <i>Jacqueline Dawe</i> | <i>Healthcare: FRH</i> |
| <i>Bob Lucas</i> | <i>Civic/Volunteer Group: Choose Franklin</i> | | |

Angela Lynch welcomed everyone to the meeting, everyone then engaged in brief introductions around the room.

Mayor's Minute

Ken took a moment to note that Community Day was a very positive, healthy event for the community. Lesson learned, however: Wear sunscreen!

This afternoon we had 8 arrests in a raid in Franklin, a case that had been going on for around 6 months, and there are likely more arrests to come. Building off of this, our coalition work and prevention is one leg on a stool. We are a part of a something larger, of a spectrum that each leg of the stool is needed and needs to work alongside each other to address, and lessen usage rates and things that often come with usage. And we need advocates for the treatment side. Especially

with the police, it often is not seen the hard work that we all are doing. But the work is absolutely worth it.

(Chief Goldstein) It began with concerned neighbors and anonymous complaints from the tip line and the website. Not yet sure how much product has been received and it is common that news of the first arrest spread quickly and that gives time for products to be flushed or otherwise disposed of. Luckily no one got hurt and everyone has gone peacefully. The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force is credited with helping pay for overtime.

Quick Legislative Update

Chief Goldstein shared some key points he's been watching in legislature, such as medical marijuana and marijuana decriminalization bills. He wrote a letter to the editor of the Citizen last week and noted that irrespective of where you stand on either side of the rhetoric, the one thing people have not realized is that by reducing the penalty to a violation we now, de-facto, will legalize marijuana for kids under 18 because we will no longer be able to take them to court if this bill goes through. He will continue to monitor and share information with the group.

Bob asked if anyone had heard anything/had any knowledge of when we would find out about the locations of the Alternative Treatment Centers in NH. Traci said that she heard that they would now be announcing this in mid-summer. The group also discussed the public health concerns of THC/marijuana being put into candies and baked into treats and looking child-friendly. Chief noted that this is also where we are seeing over-dosing and there have been deaths from these ingestible products.

The group discussed budget cuts to funding areas such as prevention and treatment.

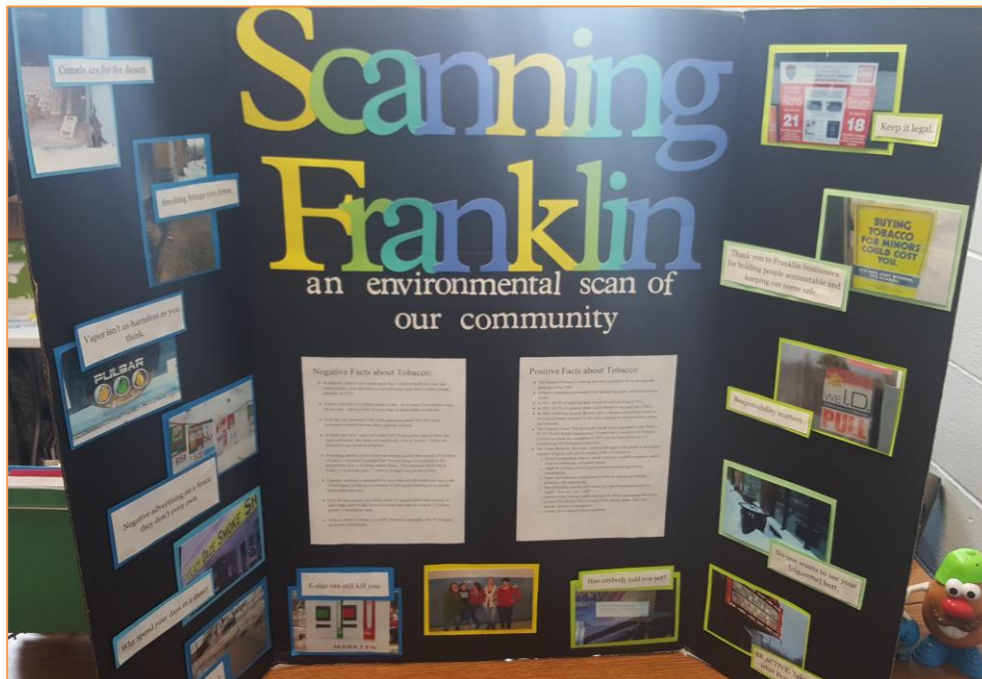
Representative Horn asked if the discussion was referring to the budget that was passed. To a yes, he then explained that the budget is predicated on revenues that the state takes in, so if the state finds the money for the funding then they would be happy to restore the funding to the programs but the critical piece is not a piece of legislation that they've decided not to pass but the critical point is there's only so many dollars in the bank and this house is a part a process to decided where those dollars get spent. In response, Traci explained the Alcohol Fund. The alcohol fund was passed into law years ago and in this fund, a percentage of the profit of alcohol in the state would then get given back to fund substance abuse disorder prevention and treatment which is literally millions of dollars. This fund has only been fully funded once. So the ask now, with lobbying, is to have this fund reinstated. Traci also described the large concerns about representatives and other people not understanding that this fund is out there and what it means. Currently this money goes toward the general fund. Werner asked why this hasn't been challenged in court. Scott responded that it has. Traci thanked Werner for coming to meetings in things such as community coalitions because this is how you really learn what is going on because there is no training for representatives, etc.

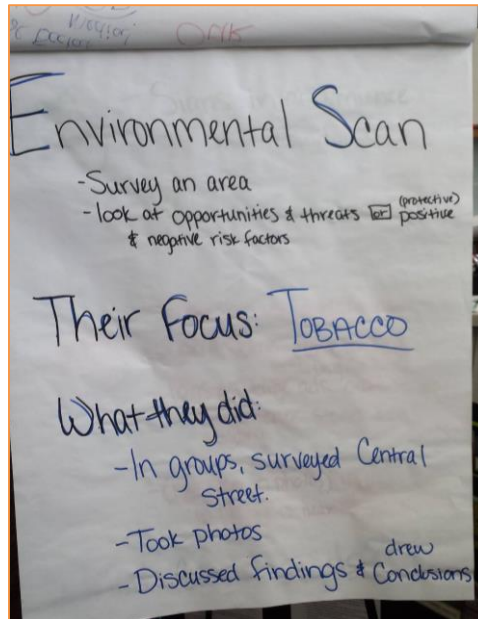
Environmental Scan Project Presentation

Thank you to Melissa Lee for taking notes while Angela presented!

Unfortunately the Franklin High School students were unable to attend the meeting to present their project. Angela presented their project in their place. This project, simply put, is a survey of an area looking at opportunities and threats with regard to a specific topic. They chose to focus on tobacco use. They followed a Photo Voice-style project and focused their attention to the Central Street environment. The group underwent a solid planning stage and preparation stage. Katy Shea came to FHS to facilitate the planning process and to go over safety guidelines with the kids. The kids then scheduled days to walk Central Street, in pairs, and photograph examples of positive and negative influences of tobacco use and promotion toward youth.

The Project Display Board:

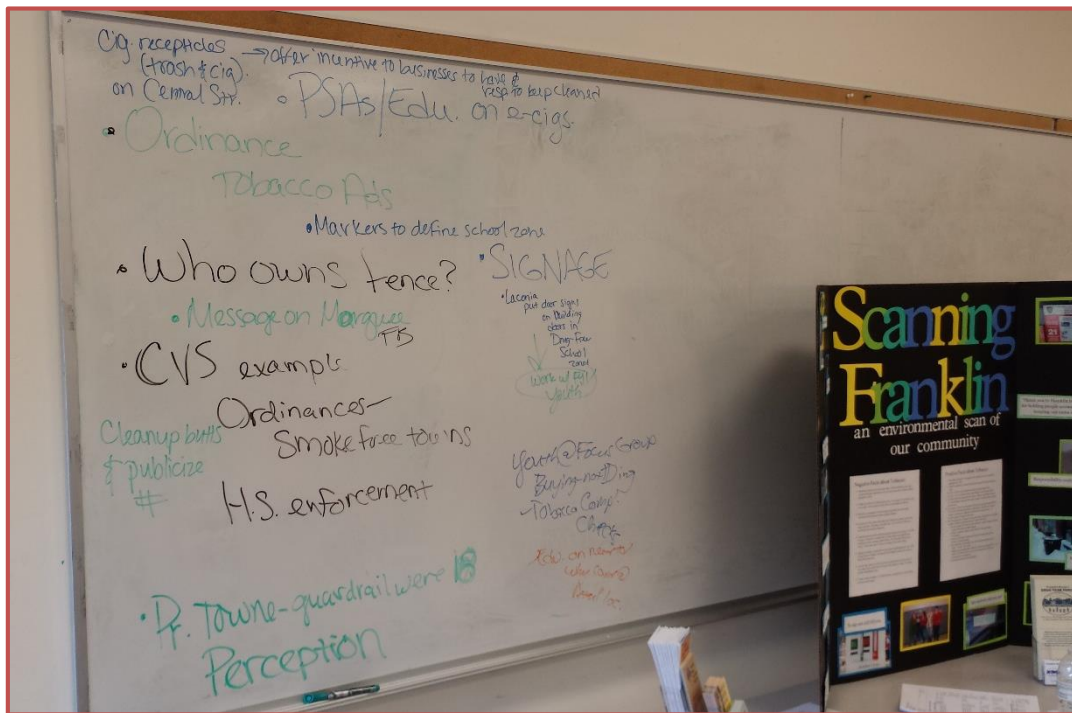
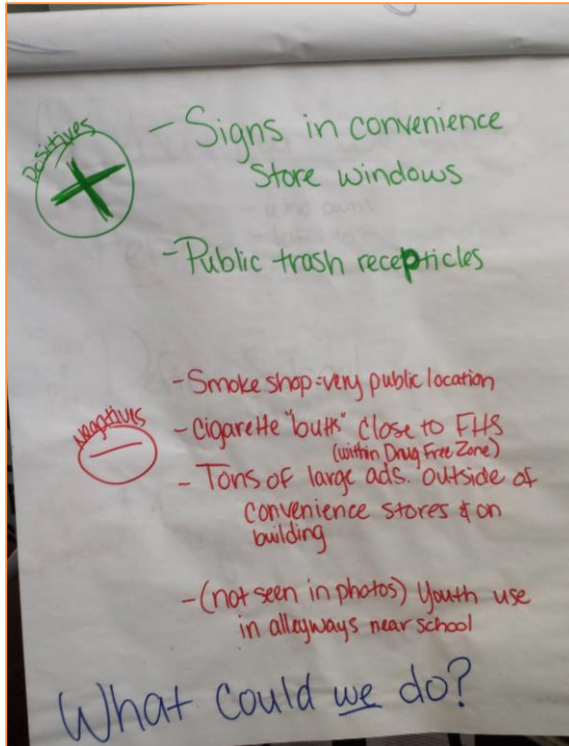




Environmental Scan Discussion: Action Items

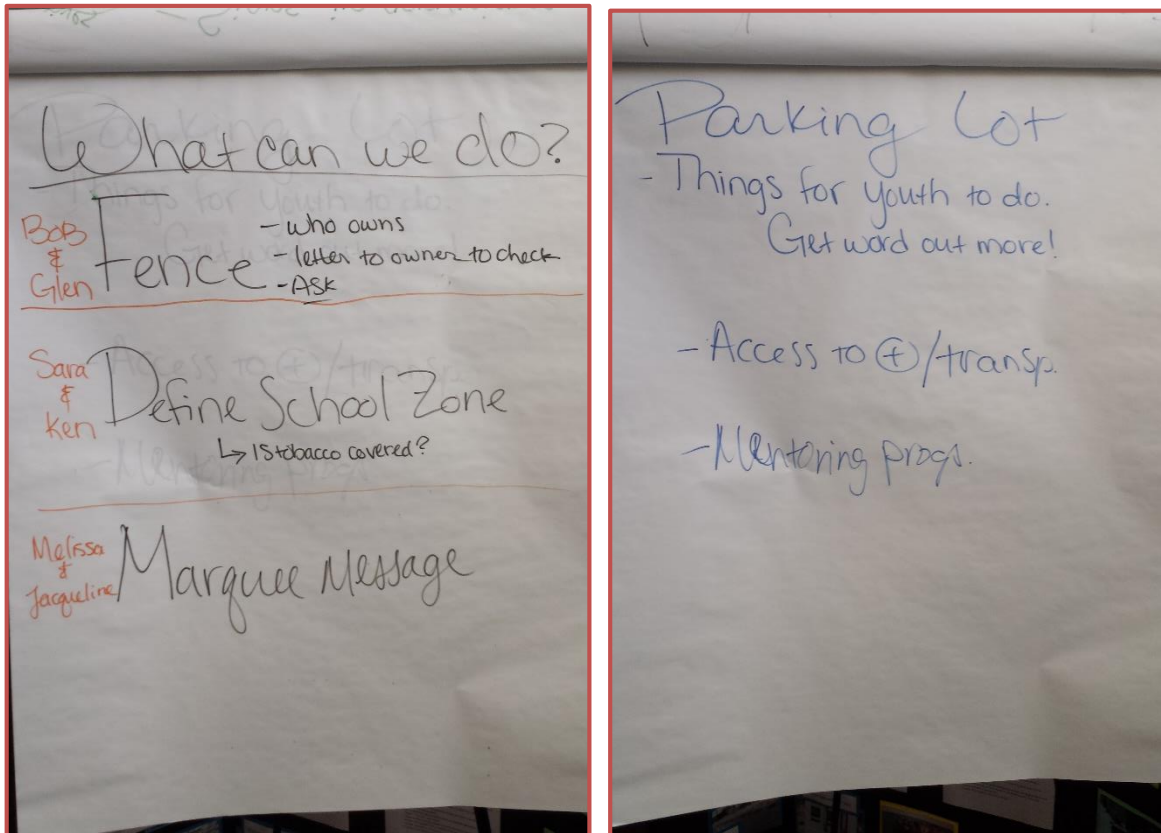
The group discussed the FYI student's findings from the Environmental Scan Project. They then brainstormed potential actionable items in response, to aid in creating positive change regarding the youth's focus area. Ideas included:

- An possible City ordinance that may limit tobacco ads placed outside
- Making sure the school zone is defined to best ability (signage)
- Having cigarette receptacles throughout Central Street to potentially aid in reducing cigarette waste on the sidewalks and street.
- Offer an incentive to businesses to have a receptacle available outside and to keep up responsibility for keeping that receptacle/area clean.
- Find out who owns the fence on the corner of Central and Prospect Street
- Put a message on the regal marquee & on Facebook
- Follow CVS's example
- Get definition of Drug Free School Zones and relation to tobacco use
- Look at other ordinances as examples, regarding smoke-free towns
- Do a cleanup of cigarette butts and a PR about it
- Work on perception of tobacco use risk/dangers
- Talk to Principal Towne about the guardrail by FHS
- Follow Laconia's lead, work with FYI to get signs on building doors within Drug-Free School Zones
- Tobacco Compliance Checks
- PSAs and education on e-cigarettes



Together, the group looked at a few action items that they felt were “low hanging fruits;” that could be accomplished in a reasonably short amount of time. The decided to focus on:

- Finding out who owns the fence on the corner of Central and Prospect Street, sending a letter to the owner of the fence and/or asking the owner to remove the tobacco advertisement signage.
- Get definition of our Drug Free School Zone and especially with relation to tobacco use
- Put a message on the regal marquee about cleaning up the streets



| <u>Volunteer Job:</u> | <u>Volunteer Name:</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Work on the fence: Who owns it, a letter to the owner, ask for sign removal | Bob Lucas |
| | Glen Feener |
| Define the School Zone for the group | Sara Tracy |
| | Ken Merrifield |
| Get a message on the Regal Marquee | Melissa Lee |
| | Jacqueline Dawe |

The group took a 5 minute break.

Action Plan

Angela provided everyone in the room with a current copy of the coalition's Action Plan. She explained the purpose and importance of this Action Plan, as it serves as a "road map" for the coalition to strategically work toward making positive community changes, especially focusing on environmental changes. She asked the group to review the document, and to try to pinpoint where they may be able to play a role or put us in connection with key players within the community who may be able to help in some way.

Other Updates/Comments

1. Community Day Report

Community Day was a big success. Huge thanks go to Leadership Committee member Sara Tracy for greatly assisting in the event coordination, finding booth and survey volunteers, and volunteering at the event during that entire day. Her assistance was incredibly valuable and greatly appreciated! We believe we have collected around 100 Community Day surveys. We will be interested to hear the feedback once our evaluator at the Community Health Institute is able to compile the data and feedback into a report for us.

The Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI) group at Franklin Middle School did a wonderful job doing a "Zombie Walk" to raise awareness of prescription drug abuse dangers and prevention methods (such as "lock it up or dispose of it" and "track it" and the location of our medication disposal box at FPD). The group had a lot of fun and we handed out over 200 informational pamphlets in the parade.

2. FACT

The FACT performances are coming up and the coalition's Leadership Committee has decided to again help support this community initiative that aims toward building empowerment and stronger skills in children that will translate into helping them to make healthy life choices in the future.

3. National Coalition Academy

Angela attended the first week of CADCA's National Coalition Academy during the first week of April. She is learning the in-depth process by which coalitions assess their communities, strategize and come up with their plans, evaluate their work and sustain all efforts so that the positive changes and hard work can continue even after DFC funding ends.

4. Study on Medical Marijuana and the Brain

Sara shared interesting information about funding secured by Patricia Cornwell (an advocate and best-selling author) for McLean's Hospital in Massachusetts to study the effects of medical marijuana on the brain. She asked for them to provide us with updates on this study as it progresses. People are calling it "the mind study." This study began the past October (2014). An excerpt from a recent press release is below:

"Thanks to a \$500,000 gift from international best-selling author and mental health advocate Patricia Cornwell, McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School researchers will launch a landmark new program that will more fully explore the potential impact of medical marijuana on cognition, brain structure and function. This first-of-its-kind program, known as the Marijuana Investigations for Neuroscientific Discovery (MIND) Program, will also gauge study participants' perceptions of their own quality of life as it relates to medical marijuana treatment." -
(<http://www.mcleanhospital.org/news/2014/10/06/mclean-hospital-and-harvard-medical-school-researchers-conduct-revolutionary-study>)

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Angela Lynch

Thank you to Melissa and Lucy for the cookies!!