



**Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force**  
 Task Force Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, September 10, 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>Jenn Sumner</i>	<i>SAU 18/Project AWARE</i>
<i>Elizabeth Dragon</i>	<i>City Manager, City of Franklin</i>	<i>Alan Grill</i>	<i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: Franklin United Methodist Church</i>
<i>Melissa Lee</i>	<i>Healthcare</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>Traci Fowler</i>	<i>Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse: Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health</i>
<i>Mayor Ken Merrifield</i>	<i>City of Franklin</i>	<i>Paul Blackford</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Marcia Feener</i>	<i>Franklin/CCNTR</i>	<i>Michelle Betts</i>	<i>Religious/Fraternal Organization: GTA Family Resource Center</i>
<i>Bill Grimm</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Barbara Olson</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>
<i>Kelley Gaspa</i>	<i>Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse: Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health</i>	<i>Daniel Plichta</i>	<i>Other Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse: Recovery, HOPE for NH Recovery</i>
<i>Brianna Brunelli</i>	<i>SAU 18</i>	<i>Marcia Feener</i>	<i>Franklin Resident, CCNTR</i>
<i>Bob Lucas</i>	<i>Franklin Resident</i>		

**Angela Lynch** welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. After brief introductions from everyone in the room she reviewed the meeting guidelines.

**Mayor's Minute**

Ken shared the good news that we've been awarded another 5-year federal Drug Free Communities (DFC) support program grant!

It will be a challenge moving forward as this will be the last possible 5 years of this grant so sustainability will be the key focus to keep our effort moving forward. There is also a small mentoring grant through the DFC program that Ken personal would like to see our coalition go

for so that we can better help communities surrounding us to form their own community efforts, thus increasing the effectiveness of our efforts. As we know, this issue knows no borders.

### **Grant Award Status Next Steps**

Elizabeth noted that the next formality is that the Franklin City Council will have a public hearing in October to accept these funds, as they are the fiscal agent for this grant. Our current grant ends at the end of September and we already have a budget and Action Plan to roll into for the next grant year, as was required in applying for the grant.

### **Volunteer Opportunities!**

- ✓ Upcoming volunteer opportunities include:
  - PSS Open House (Sept. 22, 5-6:30pm @ Paul Smith Elem.)
  - Rx Take Back Day (Sept. 26, 10-2pm @ CVS Franklin)
  - Lights On After School (Oct. 21, 4:30-6:30pm @ BRCC)
  - Comedy Fundraiser (Oct. 23, @ Franklin City Hall)
  - Odell Park in the Dark (Oct. 24, 4-5:30 pm @ Odell Park)
- ✓ Other Volunteer Opportunities:
  - Recruitment
  - At-Home material preparation projects (contact Angela for more information)

### **Following Up: Coalition Ambassador Workshops**

Melissa and Marcia discussed the recent Coalition Ambassador Workshop. This first workshop turned out to be a great opportunity to also discuss some areas for improvement as far as coalition messaging and materials go. The group discussed the need for clarifying jargon and needlessly long wording, reducing the reading level of printed materials and shortening some messages as well.

### **FAQ Document**

We are excited to unveil this new document. We have had the great opportunity recently to improve upon our efforts of explaining who we are as a coalition, what it is we do within our coalition, how we are funded, and why prevention is important. We have been getting these questions consistently as we have been getting numerous new faces at our coalition meetings and showing interest in our work when we are out at events or doing other activities, and this document is one resource to help us.

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be in all of our new member folders and will be used at future events and activities. This document will become a main source of information about our coalition for those looking to understand. We invite any feedback on this document as we can still make necessary edits!

Members responded that this document is worded simply and is laid out in a way that it is easier to read. Another member had heard another Mayor at a recent summit not know that our coalition was just prevention and that this is good to understand as we are a great resource. Bill noted that this document can be helpful to help others understand what we are doing and to gain more support.

A question was posed about what we do for metrics of success and telling others about how we measure our work and success. Melissa noted that we measure in various ways using different surveys (primarily through the annual Community Day Survey, the annual Coalition Survey and using the bi-annual state Youth Risk Behavior Survey-or YRBS- as well as other data sources like the permanent medication drop box inventory data). We also present findings as they happen and hold Lunch n' Learns just about every year on the YRBS or other evaluation efforts and presentations and data reports can be found on our website. Traci noted that we also do focus groups and one-on-one interviews throughout the year. We did a youth focus group this past spring. Focus groups give qualitative data; great information straight from a representation of the "source" and gives us better perspective.

All data ultimately comes back to us and how it impacts our work.

### **Coalition in Action! Tangible Tasks**

The group divided into two groups for some coalition work, reporting back as a whole at the end of the work session:

**Mission Statement group:** In light of our discussions and coalition members confusion as to our coalition's Mission Statement (what does it mean? Can it be simplified and more community friendly?), Our mission statement has been re-written and with the approval of this group, then our Leadership Committee which meets in the beginning of October, it will become our coalition's official Mission Statement: *"Engaging the communities of Franklin and Hill in working together to promote positive, alcohol and drug-free lifestyles for youth and families."*

The whole group liked this re-write and it will now be moved to the coalition's Leadership Committee for final approval.

**Medication Drop Box awareness:** Coalition members have found while doing recent community events and activities, that many community members are still not aware that Franklin has a permanent medication disposal box that is free to use, drop-offs are anonymous and it is accessible 24/7 at Franklin Police Department in their front lobby. So this group focused on Strategy 2.4c in our Action Plan: "Develop and implement a city-wide social marketing campaign concerning the dangers of misusing prescription drugs that have been legally prescribed to someone else," with a focus on increasing the awareness of our permanent medication drop box. This group worked on listing community locations and venues of getting the word out there about this community

resources, places that our rack cards can be placed and/or given out, and they divvied up many of the tasks among their group members and will report back at our next coalition meeting.

Another note to keep in mind: We are finding that people don't want to let go of their prescription medications because they cost a considerable amount of money.

### **Project AWARE update**

Jenn Sumner joined us and explained that while Project AWARE is technically in year 2 of their federal grant, they are really now getting up and running as last year was a lot more of the preparations and putting things in place to get some momentum running. She looks forward to partnering with our coalition on community work, as we recognize that our two subjects are both under the "Behavioral Health Umbrella" and very often co-occur. Project AWARE, in a very simplistic description, is doing work around mental health while our coalition works in the prevention of substance use among youth as well as misuse and abuse.

### **Other Updates**

- 1. Senior Safety Day, Saturday October 15th**
- 2. Youth Choir Teen Challenge, October 25th**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

*Submitted by Angela Lynch*