

Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force
Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 5, 2015
5:00pm – 7:00pm

Present:

Name:	Sector:	Name:	Sector:
Sara Tracy	Business: DK Motel	Ken Merrifield	Mayor, City of Franklin
Elizabeth Dragon	City Manager, City of Franklin	Joe Giunta	Religious/Fraternal Organization: Franklin Elks
Melissa Lee	Healthcare, FRH	Bill Grimm	Healthcare, LRGHealthcare
Chief Goldstein	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse	Traci Fowler	Other organization that addresses substance abuse: Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health
Jason Vezina	Parent	Andrea Costanzo	Franklin High School Teacher and FHS FYI Co-Advisor
Bob Lucas	Civic/Volunteer Group: Choose Franklin	Lauren Pearsall	Franklin High School Teacher and FHS FYI Co-Advisor
Angela Lynch	Coalition Coordinator		

Angela Lynch welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around a sign in sheet.

Youth Focus Group- The coalition held a youth focus group at Franklin High School on March 3rd. Traci facilitated the group while Angela took notes (see notes attached). Traci led the leadership group in a discussion about our findings and about some potential “next steps.”

Melissa noted that the Life of an Athlete plan following March is to gather school folks and community champions together. Elizabeth had the idea of having FYI advisors and kids to talk with the school board about the findings. Traci noted that with regard to the youth feeling like there are not real consequences for using at the school, we should look at the current policy and understand it and move forward from there. Traci also noted that there are changes with how it is dealt with and we need more of a restorative justice approach and resources.

Jason asked about the role of the SRO (Student Resource Officer) when finding drugs. Chief explained that the SRO tried to work with the school and they can't arrest their way out of everything. There are also feelings that the school doesn't tell them about a situation until after the fact. Elizabeth pointed out that this just strengthens the need to update the policy.

Bill questioned how we can make a real difference if the parents don't see it as a big harm or danger but just operate on getting kids out of trouble. Chief noted that it is not that we are telling them that they can't have a good time, it is the damage to the developing brain and dealing with the perception that it doesn't harm the brain, etc. Even/especially with regard to alcohol and marijuana. Melissa explained that there is no one fis. We need to work at

multiple levels. Policy is important, as is education and outreach to parents, etc. Bob agreed and added that the approach needs to be multi-faceted and comprehensive, using effective ways. Also that the policy needs to be really clear and well-communicated with parents, youth and staff/faculty. Traci also added that the worst kind of enforcement is variable; we need consistent. The Model School policy is more about creating culture that supports, not punishes.

Traci also explained that we found that kids are very stressed out and are trying to cope with their stressors. They are often hiding the reasons behind their substance use. We asked the youth if they intervene with their friends and they said that they don't. They don't know how to. And they don't necessarily feel that they can talk to adults, or that there is only one or two trusted adults in the school and those individuals are incredibly busy and hard to access. Jason agreed that the kids don't really know what to do and fear alienating themselves from their friends/peers by trying to do something. For many, the role models that they have in life come from the school. Sara added that for outside mental health counselling, there is a 6 week wait or more, even in emergency situations which isn't helping us find resources and help.

Traci went on to explain that at the focus group, regarding prescription medication misuse/abuse, that the youth reported that they are not seeing too much of this these days because it is too expensive though they do see some. The youth said that it is primarily alcohol and marijuana use they are seeing.

The team agreed that they'd like to look at the school's policy and compare to other schools and use the Model School Policy as a resource as well.

E-Cigarettes & Vape Pens at FHS- Andrea and Lauren joined the group to discuss a recent experience at Franklin High School that raises concern. At a Winter Carnival assembly a student was caught using a vape pen. There wasn't much in the way of response from Administrators as there is nothing in the policy and the vape pen was passed off to a friend and hidden before they could be reached, so they couldn't prove that there was anything other than water in the pen.

They supplied copies of the handbook that held the Alcohol and other drug policies and noted that students do sign that they read and understand the policies at the beginning of each year. The policy was too open to interpret and Lauren has been looking up vape and e-cig policies from other schools. They also pointed out that right now, the Alcohol and other drug (ATOD) policy is scattered throughout the handbook. The group feels that there is need to strengthen and create a comprehensive policy. After discussion, the group decided that the Model School Policy should be used to compare with ours and as a resource, and a proposal policy should be created. Then, when ready, to talk to the school board and coalition members will support this.

Coalition Survey Results- The group looked at the comments left in the Annual Coalition Survey responses and made a plan to talk about it at upcoming coalition meeting and use social media to show that we read these responses and take actionable steps to better our processes and work as a result.

Bow Wow Ball- Elizabeth described an idea for this fundraiser: to partner with Tilton as they are interested in this prospect and having this as a coalition building event as well. Bob added that he thought this was a great idea as there are no real borders in communities and it will continue our message and we can help a neighbor strengthen. Jason also added that with the youth, there are a lot of connections with Tilton and there are many who are friends with youth from neighboring communities. Sara noted that this would help build a larger event moving forward. The team agreed that this was something they are interested in trying to do.

Life of an Athlete- Melissa shared that there have been great collaborative conversations with the high school. Franklin will be a control site for LoA. Dan Sylvester (the Athletic Director) has gone to a few trainings on it. Tam Feener spread the word and gave out brochures at the School Board meeting.

K9 Fundraising- The FMS FYI group is helping to decorate some crates and collection materials to collect donations to Max. Sara has sent letters to most businesses in town, talked with the Credit Service Union and is looking into dog food donation from Osborne's. Also, Lion's Club members will be at the rabies clinic to take donations.

Jennie D. Blake PTO meeting- March 30th we have been invited to the Jennie D. Blake PTO meeting to give a brief presentation on what our coalition is all about and the resources we may provide, and how we may be able to help support their school environment.

Coalition Updates/Reports-

- **CADCA Forum Summary-** Sara and Angela attended the CADCA National Forum this past month. A snow storm yielded cancelled flights and they ended up missing about two days unfortunately. However, they were able to attend some very informative sessions and collect many free resources as well as an awareness of other potential resources for future initiatives.
- **Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI)-** The groups are working hard on projects. FHS is finalizing their Environmental Scan and creating a display with the photos and findings to aid in presentations.
- **Grant-** Finishing up the grant writing is currently a priority, as is getting ready for the Annual Celebration/Hungry Heart Screening coming up next week!
- **Community Day** is May 9th this year.
- **CIRD-** The second Thursday in April is the first evening of the Franklin for a Lifetime event. So, should we encourage coalition members to attend this event instead of our regularly scheduled coalition meetings? The team voted yes to this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Submitted by Angela Lynch