

# MINUTES

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## Opioid Crisis Task Force

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MILLBURY, MASS

Date: **May 24, 2017**

Members Present: Amy Moore, Beth Weidman, Doreen Thornburg, Peter Hanlon, Valerie Comfort

Absent: Brian Ashmankas, Carrie Prest

Guests: Greg Myers, Superintendent; Cassie, Erin, and Kaitlin from Rhodes to Recovery

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Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Reviewed and signed minutes to prior meetings.

**Discussion:** Greg Myers will be visiting with us at 6:30pm -questions to ask Greg Myers:-

- Ask to explain fall assembly regarding drug and alcohol use for parents and students.
- Introduce our thoughts and plans to host a community event with focus on education of the brain and how addiction occurs and affects the brain.
- Max capacity for high school auditorium.
- Green Mountain Recovery-Football ball-sports injury, addicted to opioids-resulted in brain injury, not incapacitated – would be a great speaker – Cory's Cause.
- Name change ideas – ideas were listed on white board to revisit after our meeting with Mr. Myers.

Greg Myers

Current Assembly/Program

- Every fall, at beginning of school year, parents must attend assembly with students.
- Athletic Director coordinates this assembly and usually finds a speaker with a powerful message about making good decisions, includes information regarding steroids, drugs, alcohol, and date violence. If miss assembly, students can use the attendance at similar community events as their required attendance, or they are required to participate in a shorter similar meeting at the school.
- Looking to host an annual spring community event similar to the Chris Heron event
- Programing at Junior/Senior high in the past included a SADD Program – advisor retired and need a new advisor. Would like staff to have a background in SADD and rally the kids around a cause. Advisor does not need to be a teacher or work in the school – needs to be available after school and/or evenings and would need to have someone with a clinical or law enforcement background. He thought the School Safety Officer, Nicole Oliveri would be a good candidate. We suggested Dale Parento. Mr. Myers will follow up will Dale to inquire if she may be interested. We suggested having a co-advisor to share the load. Funding is in the budget.
- Last year was first year they implemented health and wellness for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Programs at the elementary and Shaw schools are intact and working well.
- Looking to make more connections with the high school students and the younger students. The younger students relate well and enjoy the presence of the older kids. Any presentations from the older students to the younger students are very positively received. Tutoring, project assistance, and reading are some of the ways the older students have been helping out.

- This year the seniors, dressed in cap and gown, are visiting the elementary and Shaw schools to thank teachers and sow the seeds that graduation/education is why they are in school and is what the younger students should be striving for.

Future Programs

- Working with Senator Moore’s office to plan an annual spring community awareness event. Thinks a panel presentation event would be beneficial. Task force would like to partner with the school and town-Doreen will connect with Senator Moore.
- Mr. Myers would like a speaker to be available to talk to all students at all levels during the day of the community event.
- Cassandra Smith at the Department of Health is a resource to assist with funding.
- Mr. Myers will determine capacity for the auditorium – Doreen to follow up.

Updates:

Amy: Dr. Sanchez is a great resource to speak at a community event- she is equally knowledgeable and effective speaker as Dr. Potee.

Rally to Recovery (associated with Learn to Cope) is August 12<sup>th</sup> – Amy has six passes. Motorcycle ride from Ware to Worcester ends at Institute Park. Dr. Potee is one of the speakers. Would we want to get involved and have a presence there, possibly having a table or booth.

Amy has been updating face book page regularly. Amy will ensure she signs information as the chair of the task force rather than where she is employed. Beth will be added as another administrator.

Clergy meeting was interesting and they are interested to work with us and help us.

Beth: Made necessary changes to flyers. We need to print copies to be handed out. Doreen will print some at work. Cassie will see if they can print some at the Rhodes to Recovery house.

Beth will contact Tish to get us on the agenda for the next Selectmen’s meeting to vote on our name change.

Doreen Worked on logo - a symbol of a pear with hands reaching for help. Beth suggested changing the hands to look like bites taken out of the pear. Committee liked and approved logo.

Peter Submitted his application to become a member of the task force. He will contact Jayne Davoilo (tomorrow) to determine if the Selectmen voted at their May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to approve his appointment. Welcome aboard, Peter!

Valerie will contact a friend in the design business to assist with graphic design of our logo. Will report back her findings.

Name Change Discussion

- Suggestions for name change:
- Addiction Assistance and Prevention Team
  - Addiction Prevention and Assistance Team
  - Community Prevention and Recovery Team
  - Hope and Help Alliance
  - Addiction Prevention and Assistance Alliance
  - Addiction Hope and Help Alliance

..... and the winner is.....**ADDICTION ASSISTANCE ALLIANCE**

Summer meeting schedule:

Next meeting is June 14<sup>th</sup> in Room A103 at 6pm at the high school

July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> – location of meeting to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Amy George


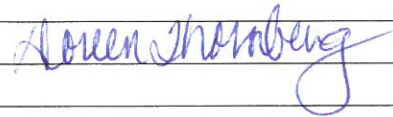
Beth Weidman

Brian Ashmankas

Doreen Thornburg

Carrie Prest

Peter Hanlon

  
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