

MINUTES

ADDICTION ASSISTANCE ALLIANCE

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Addiction Assistance Alliance is to provide education, resources, and guidance for substance use disorders supporting prevention and recovery for the residents of Millbury and surrounding towns.

Date: **October 18, 2017**

Members Present: Amy Moore, Beth Weidman, Carrie Prest, Doreen Thornburg, Myles Leo, Peter Hanson

Absent: Valerie Comfort

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

Kye Peltier, Board Member of the Council on Aging attended our meeting. The meeting began with introductions of committee members. Doreen reached out to Judy O'Connor in hopes of obtaining someone from the Council on Aging to join the Addiction Assistance Alliance. The Council on Aging was instrumental in getting the medicine take back kiosk at the police station. Kye will decide if she is interested in joining the Alliance.

Committee completed collating the resources packages. Beth will drop off 15 to the Sutton and Millbury Police Departments. Amy would like to drop off some to the Grafton Police department. Grafton Task Force is the Coalition for Health. Grafton is hosting an information night on October 25th and the movie "If Only" will be played.

Beth would like to provide hospital social workers/emergency rooms with local resources for any patients from our area (Sutton, Millbury, Grafton) admitted to emergency care.

Millbury is part of the Public Health Alliance and the MOPSI – we are eligible to obtain money from them for any evidence-based programs or events. The Addiction Assistance Alliance falls under their jurisdiction and support for us will be provided by them and not the town.

Updates on active search for additional committee members:

- Beth Left voice messages with Ray's True Value, the Elm Draught House, and Goretto's. Spoke with Chris at A&D and one of the pharmacists at CVS. Not sure if they will want to join the alliance or get involved. Karen at Cold Stone will not commit to the committee but is willing to help with projects.
- Doreen Council on Aging member Kye Peltier attended tonight's meeting. No contact with VFW or the Lions Club. YOU Inc. has closed the program at the McGrath School - no longer present in Millbury. Carrie knows John Poselli (Millbury resident who works at YOU Inc., and works in the mental health department) she will reach out to see if he is interested in joining. Doreen spoke with Tim Cluett- Tim is too busy to join but will ask some of his commission members. Doreen will follow up with Tim.
- Myles Did not have any luck with the faith based folks. Spoke with some of the Health Teachers in the schools. Spoke to Jeff Baxter at Spectrum, they are interested and will seek someone from the Millbury facility to join us.
- Peter Chronicle will advertise for us for free. Beth will draft a paragraph. Will connect with Richard Hamilton on Thursday,

Amy purchased some #2069 signs and will distribute to us at end of meeting. There were 2,069 overdose deaths in Massachusetts last year. These signs can be used to get the conversations going with people/businesses we are trying to engage. Amy will post the meaning of these signs on face book and committee can place these in different areas to get the awareness out there. Amy to look into us moving our meetings back to the town hall and have them televised to get the information and awareness out there. Also, there is no link on website to our face book page.

Events-Amy is a member of the Metro West Task Force.

-Algonquin High is showing "If Only" on November 9th. There is another event on recovery on November 9th in McPhearson Hall – Justin Clancy to perform.

-Cultivate Care Farms is having a 5K run – mother who lost son while he was in recovery. Cultivate Care Farms in West Boylston. Rescue animals who help rescue people. Animals can and are therapy and healing for many.

Myles would like us to start planning an event to garner interest in joining our alliance and to get awareness out there. Events usually take a few months to plan and coordinate.

- Event Ideas
- educational events
 - Adolescent brain development
 - Training Event – Dr. Castiel
 - Cultivate Care Farm – bring the farm to Millbury at the Chain of Lights (need to find out if need a permit to have animals)
 - Pair events with other meetings and/or other events happening
 - Promote information with signs
 - How to talk to kids about drugs
 - Advertise the drug take back kiosk at the police station
 - Embed the movie he has
 - Invite others to be at our booth or table at other events

Doreen will determine who owns land between Matt's and CD Whitney Agency. If the farm can come to Millbury this might be the best spot.

Kye suggested latch onto other events to get awareness out, the possibility of having an information table at Goretti's. Get Millbury statistics to show the needs in our town. (Data is often skewed-some people overdose in other towns than those towns where they live).

Myles reported some Millbury Stats:

- 16% of High Schoolers use prescription drugs
- 44% use marijuana
- 62% drink alcohol/33% currently
- Higher cigarette and vaping used in Millbury

Suggestions:

- find a family in town to share their story, make it relatable, make it hit home.
- Talk to Learn to Cope to find a Millbury/Southern Worcester County story
- Mothers are often addicted to child's addiction

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Amy George

Beth Weidman

Doreen Thornburg

Carrie Prest

Peter Hanson

