

MINUTES

Opioid Crisis Task Force

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MILLBURY, MASS

Date: **May 10, 2017**

Members Present: Beth Weidman, Brian Ashmankas, Carrie Prest, Doreen Thornburg, Peter Hanson

Absent: Amy Moore, Marie Graves

Special Guests: Cassie, Shannon, and Milan from Rhodes to Recovery House in Millbury

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Updates:

Doreen – Greg Myers will attend the May 24th meeting at 6:30pm – he only has 15 minutes to join us as he has a school committee meeting at 7pm.-will discuss the type of parent/student assemblies on drug and alcohol abuse that are held each year at the school. The possibility of hosting an event about brain education and how it is affected by addiction and possibly obtaining Dr. Potee as a speaker will also be discussed. Mr. Myers instructed me to contact the high school principal to inquire about prevention programs on the junior and senior high levels. What happened with SADD?

-Invited Dave Marceillo to May 24th meeting, waiting for confirmation.

-Victor Irr was contacted to obtain contacts for Girls and Boy Scout Troops for logo contest.

Beth – Beth contacted Jayne Davoilo, she instructed us to contact Tish Hayes at 508-865-4710 regarding posting information on the electronic sign board in the center of town and on the town website. We will need to comprise what we want posted on the board and site, she will forward the information to the media access people.

-Name change – will need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Town Manger. Homework for committee is to continue to brainstorm some ideas for a new name. The name should include reference to Alliance, Care, Assistance, Connection, etc.

Brian – Clergy Luncheon was well attended by representation from the Millbury and Sutton congregations. They are very much interested to help us get information and awareness to the public. How can they help us with prevention? How can they help us obtain resources? Five clergy attended, as did Amy and Brian. They were impressed with Amy's knowledge and resource information. They are concerned with the fact that they are not very knowledgeable on the subject or resources available to help those needing services. Brian encouraged them to break down the stigma and talk about addiction to their parishioners. They agreed to have the Student and Parent flyers available at their food and clothing pantries.

-Father Mulcahy will meet individually with Amy to determine and craft a plan of how we can work together.

-We will invite them to attend our meetings.

-We will invite a member of the clergy to join the task force.

All clergy indicated they know of families involved in situations with addiction.

-Ask them to incorporate addiction in their sermons as it is such a big issue.

-They indicated they would be happy to give their pulpit to others more versed and knowledgeable in the subject matter.

- Possibility of hosting an event with recovery addicts speaking to a group.
- Encouraged the clergy to reach out to the task force and tap the resources we have provided.
- Preparing packages for the churches similar to the ones we will prepare for the police department so they have some resources to give to parishioners.
- Brian will email clergy (cc Doreen) as a follow up and invite them to meetings, ask to join force, and a recap of their meeting and our discussion.
- Follow up on drop in location at Assumption Church.
- Our role is to provide resources, education, and awareness.

Rhodes to Recovery

Shannon – client for 3 months and on her second stay with Rhodes

Cassie- 1.5 months as a client

Milan – staff

Program 6 month residential program
 27 women live there and currently at capacity, wait list, must call/check frequently for availability
 Double rooms, some single rooms, depends on where you are at with treatment/seniority
 Based on a peer-lead social model
 Chain of assistance
 All support each other where they are at in treatment
 12 step meetings
 Must attend meetings, obtain a sponsor, follow rules
 Liaison between clients and staff
 Work to integrate back into community
 Group sessions
 Work on self-esteem, co-dependency, different tasks
 Properly manage medicines
 Motivate each other
 Some women are there stipulated by court
 SMOC runs the program and facility
 Approved parole house
 Cook own meals, shop and prepare meals, by schedule
 Administer own meds, overseen by staff
 No nurse on site
 18 years or older, average ages between 20-40 yrs old, some in 50's and 60's.
 Nickie is the program director
 Liz is the intake coordinator
 Staff is in recovery
 Individualized plan for each client, each situation is different

Suggestions from the guests: add adolescence resources/facilities to the Parent Brochure (Castle, Community Healthlink, MYR Motivating Youth in Recovery), Grace House (13-17 Residential program)

Cassie- When asked – what made you click to do something and seek treatment

– Cassie said her 3 year old daughter is what is motivating her to get well.




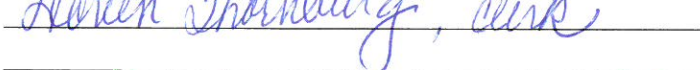
- She is tired of her behavior.
- She remarked it is hard to be a mother when in recovery. Recovery is a day by day, must make a conscious decision each day.
- Had the DARE program in school.
- Had a resource office in her school.
- doesn't think either of these made a difference in her acts of behavior.

Shannon – began using at age 12 (now 22)

- did not graduate
- looked down upon
- not drugs and alcohol – it was the way she was feeling inside that turned her to addiction behaviors
- saw people turn to drinking and drugs as a way to solve problems
- had assemblies and a resource officer in school
- she would spend time with others with the resource office and felt safe and not judged there
- not peer pressure – it was an ESCAPE thing why she chose to use

Thanked the ladies for attending, invited them to attend our meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Amy George	
Beth Weidman	
Brian Ashmankas	
Doreen Thornburg	
Carrie Prest	