

MINUTES

Opioid Crisis Task Force

Date: **March 29, 2017**

Members Present: Amy Moore, Brian Ashmankas, Carrie Prest, Doreen Thornburg, Valerie Comfort, Marie Graves

Absent: Beth Weidman, Anne Parkinson

Special Guest: Nicole Oliveri, School District Resource Officer, Town of Millbury

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TOWN CLERK
17 APR 13 PM 4:16
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Meeting called to order at 6:10pm.

Introductions

“Officer Nickie” - 2 years as the Resource Officer in all three schools

- many drugs in the town
- much heroin in town -lots of overdoses(bad stuff on market laced with fentanyl) –pills are expensive, heroin is cheaper, readily available
- limited resources for drug work in town – not much police can do
- mall is high traffic world

Within the Schools

Nickie is the Resource Officer for the town of Millbury and works in all three schools. She works with the nurses and school psychologists, many students have IEP (Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans)

Challenges/situations for kids –many neglected kids

- some are heroin babies and have issues as a result
- some are crack babies and have issues as a result
- home lives are bad, dealing with tough living conditions./situations
- parents are in jail
- parents selling/doing drugs
- Millbury is home to many foster children – lots of problems/issues
- 8 families in town are homeless
- school isn't a priority for many parents
- some abuse issues/situations
- some kids have had significant trauma in their lives
- many kids have mental health issues
- some grades have more kids with issues than others/repeats in cycles

Elmwood – kids love her and love spending time with her, spending time with Officer Nickie is often a reward for positive behaviors. Building trust/relationships with kids/police-a good thing/positive mentors/people

Shaw School – attends lunches with kids, kids can win Woolie Cards or time with Officer Nickie – sometimes the kids just need some one-on-one attention with someone they can trust. Focus is building trust and relationships with kids.

Jr High/.High School -resource for students, works with students in health classes, has classes with presentations and discussions on drugs, healthy relationships, dating violence, drugs and alcohol- difficult to get

with students with class schedules/student heavy work loads and kids are under lot of pressure. Officer Nicki talks with students about drugs in health classes but has to be very careful – doesn't want to give kids any ideas Millbury Police Department has the Jr. Police Academy program for freshmen and sophomores – self-confidence and drug and alcohol education.

No longer has the D.A.R.E. program – state program –no evidence it was effective – can search the National Registry of Evidence Base Practices to find programs for kids for school presentations.

Observations :

- doesn't see or hear of anyone shooting heroin
- some chewing
- kids are drinking cough syrup-cheap and can easily be stolen-mimics heroin
- marijuana will be and is going to be a big problem
- weed and alcohol with kids in Jr.& Sr. high school
- doesn't hear much about pills
- no talk of cocaine
- sees and deals with some huffing situations
- no crystal meth – hooks people easily and quickly; one molly overdose
- kids don't care because parents don't care –product of environment
- some kids are just completely challenging
- Vapors an issue
- weed is big, kids are hiding alcohol use well
- kids selling lollipops laced with drugs
- some dealing of Ecstasy –looks like a vitamins
- concerned for edibles with legalization of marijuana
- attitudes of kids toward drugs –weed is no big deal, vapors are no big deal
- weed and alcohol using

Youth Health Survey

Results are confidential. Results are skewed depending how town agreed to participate – Millbury chose consequence questions rather than user questions. Some results shared are skewed.

- Opioid is not the #1 priority of district- students are not using, nor using heroin, PCP, or cocaine
- Prescription drugs is on the decline
- Alcohol usage stays the same over the years
- #1 priority of district is smokeless tobacco products and marijuana

Reasons kids use –been abused, bad home life, unacceptance, trauma, homeless, relationship issue
Not enough conversations about the impact of doing drugs and brain development and how addictive behaviors form

The high school has one assembly at the beginning of the school year drugs and alcohol. Nickie would like to do more of this. She is looking into a past graduate who was a drug addict, lost everything –kids, marriage, turned life around and now speaks at schools. Nickie thinks the raw factor is a great communicator.

Committee discussion ideas:

Host a program for parents and students about brain development-Dr. Potee – not enough discussions or opportunities to educate public and bring awareness to why/how addictive behaviors form.

Cory's Cause –got sports injury, got hooked on pills, led to heroin addiction, overdose, now lives with

severe brain damage and injury.

The Heroin Program – sent to superintendent’s office – 7th and 8th target market – educate while young

Social Host Liability – educating parents of the consequences with hosting parties, liabilities invite an attorney to explain and educate of parent’s liability with allowing underage partying.

Human Traffic(fueled by drugs)/Sexting – need to think about and include this as a potential problem/program..

Push to have a Learn to Cope site/meetings in Millbury –Amy will find out more information. Adcare hosts Learn to Cope meetings regularly.

Formulate a plan –what is the town’s plan when someone overdoes.

Work with school to start a student group-SADD or likewise

Recovering You – at an equestrian farm – self care program

Miscellaneous: police department does not have the resources to adequately address drugs in community

people are reading and sharing Opioid Crisis Task Force facebook posts

need to obtain new task force members -Danielle has not yet submitted resignation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Next meeting is April 12th.

Amy George

Beth Weidman

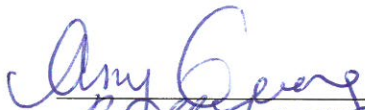
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