

# MINUTES

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## Opioid Crisis Task Force

17 APR 13 PM 4:16

MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: December 21, 2016

Members Present: Doreen Thornburg; Brian Ashmankas; Beth Weidman; Amy George; Carrie Prest; Marie Graves; Anne Parkinson

Absent: Danielle Juairé; Robert Giannette

Meeting commenced at 6:07pm.

### Updates:

Resources-Beth reached out to Learn to Cope – they do not have a step by step resource guide. They referred her to the Franklin County Task Force who does not have one either. Franklin will mail Beth some of their current resources. Beth also contacted the DA Office – they will mail her some of the resources they have.

Prevention Programs- Doreen asked Greg Meyers to join our meeting – he was unable to attend tonight but answered all questions via email. Prevention programs currently consist of: 1.) Health and Wellness Curriculum in the Jr. High – which focuses on alcohol and drug use; 2.) interested in reestablishing the SADD program and have the funds in the budget for it; however, waiting to see if any teacher steps up to the advisor position; 3.) Strong Second Step program in the Shaw School; and 4.) Social Thinking program at Elmwood.

Narcan -Currently, Narcan is not in school budget, but will increase the school nurses' supplies budget to accommodate future costs and expense for Narcan.

Chief Desourcey also indicated he does not have Narcan in his budget but will need to add a line item in the budget for that in the future.

Demographics – Brian will obtain the demographics from the Sheriff's Office for our next meeting

### Discussion/Other Action Items:

Statement on Methodone Clinic - Task force will need to devise a statement regarding the Methadone Clinic in Millbury. Many people are asking and the task force should have a statement of response. Committee will work on crafting a statement and task force opinion with a positive approach to recovery. Acknowledge it is in our neighborhoods. Marie will send a copy of the five domains of messaging to assist the task force in crafting a statement. Statement content should include: open to a variety of treatment options; reduction in crime if have people in treatment rather than not in treatment. People not in recovery are ones creating the crimes. Focus on recovery and medicated assistance of recovery.

Education/Awareness Events: Entertain the possibility of having a speaker to education people on addiction and what actually is going on inside the brain that causes addiction behaviors. Dr. Ruth Potee YouTube video was very interesting and would be nice to bring her to Millbury to speak. Dr. Baxter at UMass Medical and Dr. Robert Roose from Providence Hospital would also be options for speakers and are really good speakers on topic. If we host any events it might be a good idea to survey the audience and have them complete an evaluation form: did it meet their expectations; are there any other topics of interest; etc.

**Events/Resources:**

- “The Anonymous People” documentary on Netflix. MOAR had declared 2017 the year of recovery. Worcester will put on a night of hope. There are 23 million people in recovery and each person has a story.
- New England Institute of Addiction Study (NEIAS) at Worcester State University – June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Certification program- scholarships and financial aid available.
- January 9<sup>th</sup> at Worcester Vocational Technical School – Panel for discussion Focus on Recovery
- ELCAT East Longmeadow You Tube video of Parent Forum
- What is your recovery story- Photo Voice-“The People of New York”; “I am Not Anonymous”
- *The Courage to Speak* book written by Ginger Katz

**Action Items**

- Work on case statement for the task force opinion of the Methadone Clinic
- Work on creating or obtaining a cause step-by-step approach as a resource.
- Work on Face Book page.

Next meeting dates are as follows:

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Room A103

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 6pm Room A103

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm Room A103

Doreen to submit agendas to town hall and meeting requests for space to the high school.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Amy George

Beth Weidman

Brian Ashmankas

Danielle Juare

Doreen Thornburg

Robert Giannette

Carrie Prest







